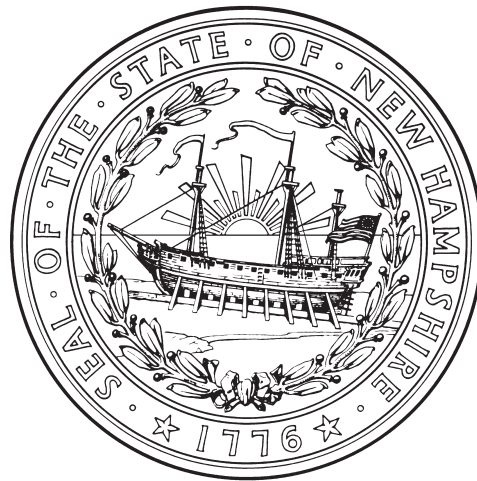


March 13, 2025
Nos. 6-7

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 – MARCH 6, 2025 SESSION
COMMENCEMENT – MARCH 13, 2025 SESSION**

SENATE JOURNAL 6 *(continued)*

March 6, 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.

First and Second Reading and Referral

HB 51, relative to hemp-derived cannabinoids and the definition of cannabis in therapeutic cannabis. (Judiciary)

HB 53, permitting qualifying patients and designated caregivers to cultivate cannabis for therapeutic use. (Judiciary)

HB 55, relative to the Selective Service Compliance Act. (Executive Departments and Administration)

HB 57, relative to a person's release from prison for the purpose of participating in certain post-secondary education programs in the community. (Judiciary)

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

HB 62-FN, relative to protection of persons from domestic violence and military protective orders. (Judiciary)

HB 63, relative to the use of nasal spray to treat anaphylaxis. (Health and Human Services)

HB 64, relative to extending hiring preferences for military members and their spouses to the state and private businesses, and establishing purchase preferences for disabled veterans and military spouses regarding state supply purchases. (Executive Departments and Administration)

HB 72, extending the commission to study telehealth services. (Health and Human Services)

HB 73, relative to harm reduction, substance misuse, and the governor's commission on alcohol and drug abuse prevention, treatment, and recovery. (Health and Human Services)

HB 75-FN, legalizing cannabis for persons 21 years of age or older. (Judiciary)

HB 76-FN, relative to tracking special education complaints. (Education)

HB 77-FN, prohibiting certain licensees from electronically recording or storing personal information obtained from an identification card. (Commerce)

HB 78, requiring a person to have a domicile in the district from which they serve as county commissioner. (Election Law and Municipal Affairs)

HB 80, allowing a public body member's presence at a meeting by electronic or other means of communication only if physical presence is unavoidable. (Judiciary)

HB 81, relative to consumption of beverages or liquor in areas not approved for service by the liquor commission. (Commerce)

HB 85-FN, relative to temporary licensure for student respiratory therapists. (Executive Departments and Administration)

HB 86-FN-LOCAL, increasing the cost of service for notice of civil forfeiture of unlicensed dogs to the rate for certified mail. (Election Law and Municipal Affairs)

HB 91, relative to the presence of a fire department at a fireworks display. (Election Law and Municipal Affairs)

HB 92, requiring recusal of members of zoning boards of adjustment and planning boards in certain circumstances. (Election Law and Municipal Affairs)

HB 94-FN, relative to coverage of circumcision under the state Medicaid plan. (Health and Human Services)

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

HB 99, relative to a waiver from property taxes for disabled veterans. (Election Law and Municipal Affairs)

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

HB 107, relative to political advertising printed in newspapers, periodicals, or billboards. (Election Law and Municipal Affairs)

HB 110, authorizing counties to establish revolving fund accounts. (Election Law and Municipal Affairs)

HB 120, relative to transferring statutory authority from the department of education to the department of military affairs and veterans services regarding educational support services. (Executive Departments and Administration)

HB 122-FN, relative to payment of claims arising out of actions or activities of the New Hampshire national guard. (Finance)

HB 126, relative to prescriptions for certain controlled drugs. (Health and Human Services)

HB 127-FN, extending the closing date of the OHRV trails on the Connecticut River Headwaters property from September 30 to Columbus Day. (Energy and Natural Resources)

HB 134, relative to the state building code. (Executive Departments and Administration)

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

HB 143, relative to the issuance of no trespass orders on municipal or school district property. (Judiciary)

HB 144-FN, relative to the practice of dental hygiene. (Executive Departments and Administration)

HB 150, enabling homestead operations to use commercial kitchen equipment in preparing food for sale. (Commerce)

HB 153-FN, establishing a committee to study adding statewide resources to assist with the investigation, training, prosecution, and prompt response of animal cruelty. (Energy and Natural Resources)

HB 156, relative to the duties of the advisory committee on state procurement. (Executive Departments and Administration)

HB 162-FN, relative to informed consent for law enforcement searches of houses or other property. (Judiciary)

HB 163, relative to state funds. (Ways and Means)

HB 177, relative to children in placement pursuant to an episode of treatment for which the department of health and human services has a financial responsibility. (Children and Family Law)

HB 178, relative to foster parent representation of foster children with disabilities. (Children and Family Law)

HB 179-FN, relative to hazardous waste accident fees. (Energy and Natural Resources)

HB 180, relative to critical incident stress management teams. (Executive Departments and Administration)

HB 184, establishing a committee to study changing school start times. (Education)

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. (Energy and Natural Resources)

HB 193, relative to the maximum number of credits per course eligible for the dual and concurrent enrollment program. (Education)

HB 196-FN, relative to annulling certain cannabis possession offenses. (Judiciary)

HB 204, relative to criteria for reporting child support delinquencies to federal agencies. (Children and Family Law)

HB 207-FN, relative to repealing the prohibition on the possession or sale of blackjacks, slung shots, and metallic knuckles except by or to minors. (Judiciary)

HB 208-FN, relative to certification requirements for school nurses. (Education)

HB 211-FN, relative to the use of air rifles for hunting game. (Energy and Natural Resources)

HB 213, relative to wage garnishment for child support. (Children and Family Law)

HB 222, repealing the requirement for a memorandum of understanding between a chartered public school and school district regarding how students with disabilities will receive special education services. (Education)

HB 223, relative to licensing requirements for health care facilities that operate within 15 miles of a critical access hospital. (Health and Human Services)

HB 225-FN, relative to the employment of military spouses in the event of involuntary deployment of service member. (Commerce)

HB 230-LOCAL, relative to the adoption of public health ordinances by municipalities. (Election Law and Municipal Affairs)

HB 236-FN, relative to the granting of retired status to certified public accountants. (Executive Departments and Administration)

HB 242, relative to brew pub licenses. (Commerce)

HB 243-FN, relative to the penalty for false reports of suspected abuse and neglect made to the division for children, youth, and families. (Children and Family Law)

HB 248, relative to notice and update requirements regarding state employee investigations. (Executive Departments and Administration)

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

HB 260-FN, creating a commemorative license plate celebrating the 250th anniversary of American Independence. (Transportation)

HB 261, relative to election audits. (Election Law and Municipal Affairs)

HB 265, requiring that a public body’s meeting minutes include start and end times of the meeting and the printed name and signature of the recording secretary (Election Law and Municipal Affairs)

HB 267, relative to animal chiropractors. (Executive Departments and Administration)

HB 269, relative to the date for correction of the voter checklist. (Election Law and Municipal Affairs)

HB 272, exempting certain agricultural practices from municipal noise regulation. (Energy and Natural Resources)

HB 279, establishing a committee to study recipe and process approval for homestead foods. (Commerce)

HB 291-FN, relative to the penalty for incorrect application of fertilizers. (Judiciary)

HB 294, relative to the processing of absentee ballots. (Election Law and Municipal Affairs)

HB 301, relative to cultivation locations for alternative treatment centers. (Judiciary)

HB 304, relative to labeling requirements for food produced in homestead kitchens. (Commerce)

HB 309-FN, relative to making electronic rent payments optional. (Commerce)

HB 320-FN, relative to enforcement of marital property settlements. (Children and Family Law)

HB 327-FN, relative to filing for office and witnessing affidavits. (Election Law and Municipal Affairs)

HB 328-FN, establishing a charitable gaming oversight commission. (Ways and Means)

HB 337, relative to the reporting requirements of the judicial council. (Judiciary)

HB 340-FN, relative to electioneering by public employees. (Election Law and Municipal Affairs)

HB 355, relative to the membership of the solid waste working group. (Energy and Natural Resources)

HB 370, reestablishing the commission to study the delivery of behavioral crisis services to individuals with mental illness with an impairment primarily due to intellectual disability. (Health and Human Services)

HB 371, relative to the definition of occasional food service establishment. (Commerce)

HB 376, specifying that library user information exempted from disclosure in the right-to-know law includes information regarding library cards and library membership status. (Judiciary)

HB 381-FN, exempting firearms and firearm accessories manufactured for in-state use only from the National Firearm Act. (Judiciary)

HB 390-FN, relative to adding retired fire apparatus (fire trucks) to antique vehicle exemptions. (Transportation)

HB 393-FN, prohibiting mooring of boats without a permit. (Transportation)

HB 394, relative to the powers and duties of cooperative school district budget committees and the role of cooperative school district board member representatives on such committees. (Education)

HB 404, relative to information on the hike safe card. (Energy and Natural Resources)

HB 421-FN, relative to notice of tax exempt-status filing procedures by town officials or offices. (Election Law and Municipal Affairs)

HB 426, relative to property tax exemptions for charitable organizations for the prior tax year. (Election Law and Municipal Affairs)

HB 435, relative to the definition of professional engineer. (Executive Departments and Administration)

HB 440, relative to educator licensing. (Education)

HB 464, prohibiting certain candidates for political office from participating in counting ballots. (Election Law and Municipal Affairs)

HB 468-FN, establishing the crime of and penalties for unlawful use of unmanned aircraft systems. (Judiciary)

HB 469, relative to membership of the public deposit investment pool advisory committee. (Executive Departments and Administration)

HB 478, establishing a foster care oversight subcommittee within the oversight commission on children's services. (Children and Family Law)

HB 480, relative to restoration of competency to stand trial for criminal defendants. (Judiciary)

HB 484, relative to reallocation or repurposing of career and technical education classroom space by local school districts. (Education)

HB 485, authorizing persons who win the state lottery to remain anonymous. (Judiciary)

HB 486-FN, relative to grandparents' visitation rights. (Children and Family Law)

HB 504, relative to the state energy policy. (Energy and Natural Resources)

HB 508-FN, relative to decreasing assessment rates for entities providing VoIP and IP-enabled services, as well as certain local exchange carriers and their affiliates. (Energy and Natural Resources)

HB 513, allowing the department of transportation to execute a right-of-way use agreement, subject to Federal Highway Administration approval, for snowmobile operation along Interstate 89 in the town of Sutton, from NH Route 114, traveling south for one mile. (Transportation)

HB 532, relative to alternative dispute resolution and individualized education plan team meeting facilitation. (Education)

HB 571, including Constitution Day in patriotic exercises required of public schools. (Education)

HB 577, relative to modifying the definition of ADUs. (Commerce)

HB 591-FN, expanding hours for keno gaming on weekends. (Ways and Means)

HB 598, establishing a committee to study data sources of all entities operated by all branches of government that are or are potentially made available to the public, identify the data formats of those sources, and recommend legislation to standardize types and formats of data output from all or select governmental entities. (Executive Departments and Administration)

HB 617, relative to the homestead right. (Ways and Means)

HB 626, directing the secretary of state to implement a vulnerability disclosure program for certain election systems. (Election Law and Municipal Affairs)

HB 627, relative to permitting the public utilities commission to approve new providers for the Lifeline program. (Energy and Natural Resources)

HB 634, repealing the New Hampshire council on autism spectrum disorders. (Executive Departments and Administration)

HB 647-FN, relative to the fee for a newborn lifetime hunting and fishing license. (Ways and Means)

HB 649-FN, removing the requirement for physical safety inspections and on-board diagnostic tests for passenger vehicles and eliminating funding for the motor vehicle air pollution abatement fund. (Commerce)

HB 663, allowing the division of historic resources to expend moose plate funds to administer and fund grants. (Transportation)

HB 682, relative to the office of offshore wind industry, the offshore and port development commission, and the office of energy innovation. (Energy and Natural Resources)

HB 685, permitting in all residentially zoned areas by right the construction of manufactured housing. (Commerce)

HB 697-FN, relative to witness fees in criminal cases. (Judiciary)

HB 745, naming a bridge in the city of Keene after Charles Redfern. (Transportation)

HB 771-FN, relative to funding for open enrollment schools. (Education Finance)

HB 777, codifying the law enforcement accreditation commission. (Executive Departments and Administration)

HB 778-FN, authorizing the director of the police standards and training council to detail law enforcement training specialists employed by the council for law enforcement and crowd control services. (Judiciary)

March 6, 2025

2025-0804-EBA

09/05

Enrolled Bill Amendment to HB 399

The Committee on Enrolled Bills to which was referred HB 399

AN ACT establishing a commission to study the New Hampshire zoning enabling act and relative to the effective date of the C-PACER program.

Having considered the same, report the same with the following amendment, and the recommendation that the bill as amended ought to pass.

FOR THE COMMITTEE

Explanation to Enrolled Bill Amendment to HB 399

This enrolled bill amendment makes grammatical corrections to the bill and moves the statutory placement of the commission.

Enrolled Bill Amendment to HB 399

Amend section 1 of the bill by replacing lines 3-6 with the following:

23 the following new subdivision:

Commission to Study the Historical Evolution of the

New Hampshire Zoning Enabling Act

674:23-a Commission Established. There is established a commission to study the historical

Amend RSA 674:16-b, V, as inserted by section 1 of the bill, by replacing line 1 with the following:

V. The commission shall make an interim report of its findings and any recommendations for

Amend section 3 of the bill by replacing line 1 with the following:

3 Repeal. RSA 674:23-a, relative to the commission to study the historical evolution of New Hampshire's zoning
Senator Avarad moved adoption of the Enrolled Bill Amendment. Adopted in recess.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON ENROLLED BILLS

The committee on Enrolled Bills has examined and found correctly Enrolled the following entitled House and/or Senate Bills:

HB 399, establishing a commission to study the New Hampshire zoning enabling act and relative to the effective date of the C-PACER program.

Senator Avarad moved adoption of the Report of Committee on Enrolled Bills. Adopted in recess.

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 7

March 13, 2025

The Senate reconvened at 1:00 p.m., a quorum being present.

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

Good afternoon, Madam President. Good afternoon, Senators. Good afternoon, guests. If your faith allows, let's pray together. Lord, we come before you today with gratitude for these men and women who have dedicated their time and effort to serve the people of New Hampshire. We ask for your blessing upon their work, their deliberations, their commitment to the common good. As they consider the many bills before them, grant them the wisdom to discern what's truly important that will help our state not just to function but to thrive. May they approach a decision with clarity, seek what is right and just for the people they represent. In committee discussions, help them to listen not just to the loudest voices but to the voice of reason. May they be guided by truth, integrity and a deep sense of responsibility. Let their debates be marked with respect and their judgments be shaped by wisdom that comes from you. Lord, we ask that each Senator be filled with a spirit of partnership, working together to solve the challenges before them. May they seek the welfare of all, leading with humility, compassion and a steadfast commitment. We place this session in your hands, trusting in your guidance and grace. In your mighty name we pray. Amen.

Senator Innis led the Pledge of Allegiance.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

(The Chair recognized Senator Innis and Senator Pearl.)

SENATOR INNIS: All right, good afternoon. In front of you, you have some lovely Girl Scout cookies, and I think Sheena, where is she, is partly responsible for that. Maybe these young ladies, a couple of Girl Scouts who are with us, they're from Boscawen in my district and their troop is located in Loudon in Senator Pearl's district. And it's our honor and pleasure to present these two young women to you today. And they have achieved the bronze award, which is the highest award at the junior level in the Girl Scouts. And we have a document here for each of them, a resolution, and I will read it to you. A New Hampshire Senate resolution, be it known, that the New Hampshire Senate extends its congratulations, in this case, to Charlotte Erickson in recognition of achieving the bronze award, the highest award at the junior level in Girl Scout Troop 60180 in Loudon. And be it further known that the New Hampshire Senate extends its best wishes for continued success. All right, so congratulations.

SENATOR PEARL: Well, thank you, Senator Innis. Thank you, guys. It's great to have you here, and I love to see the commitment. I was a Boy Scout myself, and I just appreciate the commitment it takes to do what you do. So, the New Hampshire Senate, be it known that the New Hampshire Senate extends its congratulations to Hailey Camley in recognition of achieving the bronze award, the highest award at the junior level, Girl Scout Troop 60180 in Loudon. And be it further known that the New Hampshire Senate extends its best wishes for continued success. It's a real honor to have these great girls in the town of Loudon, and I look forward to the future you're all gonna have. Congratulations to both of you. Very well done.

I also have one other very special guest here with me today. And it happens to be a very special day for her. So if my wife would like to come up, I would love to have Heather. Come on, Heather. So today happens to

be Heather's birthday. It's her actual birthday. And I thought, boy, if we're meeting here on her birthday, it would only be appropriate to recognize that. And perhaps maybe we could all sing her happy birthday. What do you think?

(The Chair recognized Senator Watters.)

SENATOR WATTERS: Thank you, Madam President and colleagues. Please join me in welcoming Brendan Madden, who is founder and chairman of Service Dogs New Hampshire and his father, David Madden. And welcome.

FN REPORT FOR MARCH 13, 2025

AMENDED FN REPORT FOR MARCH 13, 2025

W/F	Bill	Title	R/C	Committee	Full Name
Waive	SB 66	relative to third-party veterans' claims assistance and protection.	Consent	COM	Commerce
Finance	SB 80	consolidating licensing, auditing, and enforcement responsibilities for wholesale and retail e-cigarettes sales under the liquor commission.	Consent	COM	Commerce
Finance	SB 86	relative to the housing finance authority's affordable housing guarantee program.	Consent	COM	Commerce
Waive	SB 88	prohibiting state government entities from including specified terms related to labor organization agreements in construction related contracts and grants.	Consent	COM	Commerce
Waive	SB 177	relative to requiring New Hampshire employers with over 25 employees use the E-Verify system.	Consent	COM	Commerce
Finance	SB 279	establishing the housing champion business loan program and making appropriations to the department of business and economic affairs and the business finance authority.	Consent	COM	Commerce
Waive	SB 33	relative to the regulation of public school materials.	Consent	EDU	Education
Finance	SB 101	authorizing parents to enroll their children in any public school in the state.	Consent	EDU	Education
Finance	SB 204	relative to the responsibility of local school districts to provide meals to students during school hours, reimbursing schools for meals provided to students at no cost, and making an appropriation therefor.	Consent	EDU	Education
Waive	SB 206	requiring public schools to adopt policies to limit the use of cell phones by students.	Consent	EDU	Education
Waive	SB 209	requiring schools to engage an owner's project manager for construction of school building aid projects at the time of application.	Consent	EDU	Education
Finance	SB 292	authorizing a warrant for the funding of state special education aid.	Consent	EF	Education Finance
Waive	SB 294	relative to lab fees for career and technical education courses.	Consent	EF	Education Finance
Waive	SB 103	relative to the number of polling stations that are available for certain towns.	Consent	ELMA	Election Law and Municipal Affairs

Finance	SB 228	relative to the limitations on community customer generators.	Consent	ENR	Energy and Natural Resources
Waive	SB 179	to administratively attach the state council on housing stability to the department of health and human services.	Consent	EDA	Executive Departments and Administration
Waive	SB 298	relative to sober living house certification and operational standards.	Consent	EDA	Executive Departments and Administration
Waive	SB 302	requiring background checks for solid waste facility owners.	Consent	EDA	Executive Departments and Administration
Finance	SB 125	relative to clinical eligibility criteria for nursing facility and home and community based care.	Consent	HHS	Health and Human Services
Finance	SB 127	relative to the office of the public guardian and making appropriations to the department of health and human services.	Consent	HHS	Health and Human Services
Finance	SB 135	relative to rate setting parity for Medicaid state plan case management services.	Consent	HHS	Health and Human Services
Finance	SB 136	establishing an uncompensated care assessment, fund, and committee within the department of insurance.	Consent	HHS	Health and Human Services
Finance	SB 243	relative to the child care scholarship program.	Consent	HHS	Health and Human Services
Finance	SB 244	relative to expanding access to primary health care services, increasing the number of direct health care providers, increasing Medicaid reimbursement rates, and making an appropriation therefor.	Consent	HHS	Health and Human Services
Waive	SB 245	prohibiting surprise ambulance billing and regulating ground ambulance reimbursement.	Consent	HHS	Health and Human Services
Waive	SB 49	establishing the crime of and penalties for unlawful use of unmanned aircraft systems.	Consent	JUD	Judiciary
Waive	SB 148	prohibiting those convicted of murder from financially profiting from the death of the victim.	Consent	JUD	Judiciary
Finance	SB 300	criminalizing the creation of child intimate visual representations.	Consent	JUD	Judiciary
Finance	SB 153	relative to the issuance of permits for the alteration of driveways exiting onto public ways.	Consent	TRANS	Transportation
Waive	SB 157	relative to inspection and registration of certain fleet vehicles and necessary amendments and administrative rules regarding the state implementation plan.	Consent	TRANS	Transportation

Waive	SB 79	enabling the use of self-pour automated systems by liquor commission licensees.	Regular	COM	Commerce
Waive	SB 84	relative to zoning procedures concerning residential housing.	Regular	COM	Commerce
Waive	SB 162	relative to restrictions on acquisition of ownership, controlling, and occupancy interests in real property by certain foreign principals on or around certain military installations, and criminal penalties and civil forfeiture procedures for illegal acquisition.	Regular	COM	Commerce
Waive	SB 164	relative to homeowners and prohibiting certain types of service agreements.	Regular	COM	Commerce
Finance	SB 176	relative to the state minimum hourly rate.	Regular	COM	Commerce
Finance	SB 97	relative to intra-district public school transfers.	Regular	EDU	Education
Finance	SB 203	relative to administration of the education freedom accounts program.	Regular	EDU	Education
Finance	SB 205	requiring schools to offer free or reduced cost breakfast and lunch to children who meet federal income eligibility guidelines.	Regular	EDU	Education
Finance	SB 207	requiring the department of education to administer the education freedom account program.	Regular	EDU	Education
Waive	SB 208	requiring local school boards and public libraries to adopt curation policies.	Regular	EDU	Education
Finance	SB 293	relative to using enrollment in Medicaid as a measure of eligibility for school lunches.	Regular	EF	Education Finance
Finance	SB 295	expanding the number of students eligible for education freedom accounts.	Regular	EF	Education Finance
Waive	SB 213	relative to absentee voting.	Regular	ELMA	Election Law and Municipal Affairs
Waive	SB 130	relative to insurance reimbursement for ambulance services.	Regular	HHS	Health and Human Services
Finance	SB 249	relative to the uncompensated care and Medicaid fund.	Regular	HHS	Health and Human Services
Finance	SB 144	authorizing the state to report mental health data for firearms background check purposes and providing for processes for confiscation of firearms following certain mental health-related court proceedings and for relief from mental health-related firearms disabilities.	Regular	JUD	Judiciary
Waive	SB 151	relative to accessible parking permit verification and fraud prevention.	Regular	TRANS	Transportation
Finance	SB 83	establishing an elderly, disabled, blind, and deaf property tax exemption reimbursement fund, authorizing video lottery terminals, renaming the lottery commission, and creating a voluntary statewide self-exclusion database.	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 on the Consent and Regular Calendars to be acted upon by the Senate on March 13, 2025, and his recommendations are listed on this 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.

CONSENT CALENDAR REPORTS REMOVED

EDUCATION

SB 33-FN, by Senator McGough

EDUCATION FINANCE

SB 296, by Senator Murphy

ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

SB 236, by Senator Watters

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION

SB 198, by Senator Watters

JUDICIARY

SB 263, by Senator Carson

TRANSPORTATION

SB 157-FN, by Senator Ricciardi

WAYS AND MEANS

SB 291, by Senator Abbas

SPECIAL ORDER

Without objection, the following bill is Special Ordered to beginning of the Regular Calendar. Adopted.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION

SB 198, declaring the third week in September to be New Hampshire service dog week.

SPECIAL ORDER

Without objection, the following bills are Special Ordered to March 20, 2025. Adopted.

COMMERCE

SB 84-FN, relative to zoning procedures concerning residential housing.

JUDICIARY

SB 263, criminalizing and creating a private right of action for the facilitation, encouragement, offer, solicitation, or recommendation of certain acts or actions through a responsive generative communication to a child.

SPECIAL ORDER

Without objection, the following bill is Special Ordered to Thursday, March 27, 2025. Adopted.

WAYS AND MEANS

SB 291, relative to the religious use of land property tax exemption.

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.

COMMERCE

SB 66-FN, relative to third-party veterans' claims assistance and protection.

Re-refer to Committee, Vote 6-0. Senator Ricciardi for the committee.

This bill would have prohibited the receipt of compensation for referring individuals to veterans' benefits advisors, mandated written agreements for paid advisory services, required specific disclosures, and set penalties for violations. The intent was to enact consumer protections for veterans, while also ensuring they had options for assistance. Based on concerns raised by stakeholders, the Committee believed this bill needed additional work.

SB 80-FN, consolidating licensing, auditing, and enforcement responsibilities for wholesale and retail e-cigarettes sales under the liquor commission.

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

To avoid duplicative investigations, this bill would consolidate licensing, auditing, and enforcement responsibilities for wholesale and retail e-cigarettes sales under the Liquor Commission. If enacted, liquor enforcement would be able to ensure distributors are paying their taxes. The Committee Amendment clarified that auditing would remain under the Department of Revenue, while licensing and enforcement authority would be given to the Liquor Commission.

Senate Commerce
March 4, 2025
2025-0734s
07/09

Amendment to SB 80-FN

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 Notice to Liquor Commission. Amend RSA 78:23 to read as follows:

78:23 Notice to Liquor Commission. The commissioner shall provide notice to the liquor commission of ***a violation of this chapter by*** a retailer, ~~[whose license has been suspended or revoked by the commission]~~ ***wholesaler, or manufacturer that results in an assessment, penalty, seizure, suspension or revocation.***

Amend RSA 178:19-a, VIII as inserted by section 6 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

VIII. Each retailer shall keep complete and accurate records of all tobacco products bought and sold in this state. Complete records shall be safely preserved for 3 years to ensure permanency and accessibility for inspection by the liquor commission.

Amend RSA 178:19-e, I as inserted by section 7 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

I. No tobacco products manufacturer shall engage in the business of selling or distributing tobacco products, including e-cigarettes, in this state, unless it is registered with the secretary of state, it has obtained a tobacco tax certificate from the department of revenue administration, and it is licensed as a tobacco products manufacturer in this state, as applicable.

Amend RSA 178:19-e, IV as inserted by section 7 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

IV. Each manufacturer shall keep complete and accurate records of all tobacco products manufactured, produced, imported, distributed, bought, and sold in this state. Complete records shall be safely preserved for 3 years to ensure permanency and accessibility for inspection by the liquor commission.

Amend RSA 178:19-f, I as inserted by section 7 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

I. No tobacco products wholesaler shall engage in the business of selling or distributing tobacco products, including e-cigarettes, in this state, unless it is registered with the secretary of state, it has obtained a tobacco tax certificate from the department of revenue administration, and it is licensed as a tobacco products wholesaler in this state, as applicable.

Amend section 7 of the bill by inserting after RSA 178:19-g the following new section:

178:19-h Notice to Department of Revenue Administration. The commissioner shall provide notice to the department of revenue administration of a violation of RSA 178:19-a, 178:19-b, 178:19-c, 178:19-e, or 178:19-f by a retailer, wholesaler, or manufacturer that results in an assessment, penalty, seizure, suspension or revocation.

Amend the bill by replacing all after section 9 with the following:

10 New Paragraph; Suspension or Revocation. Amend RSA 179:57 by inserting after paragraph I-a the following new paragraph:

I-b. License suspension for a violation of RSA 78:26 shall be as provided in RSA 78:26, VII.

11 Tobacco Tax; Licenses and Tobacco Tax Certificates Required. Amend RSA 78:6 - 78:9 to read as follows:

78:6 Licenses *and Tobacco Tax Certificates* Required.

I. No manufacturer or wholesaler shall engage in the business of selling or distributing tobacco products in this state, unless registered with the secretary of state, [and] licensed as a manufacturer or wholesaler in this state *under RSA 178 and holding a tobacco tax certificate issued under this chapter*, as applicable.

II. No retailer or sampler shall engage in the business of selling or distributing tobacco products in this state, unless licensed to sell or distribute tobacco products under RSA 178.

III. A wholesaler shall have a separate license *and tobacco tax certificate* for each location.

IV. The fees for [licenses and license] *tobacco tax certificates and tobacco tax certificate* renewals shall be:

(a) \$100 for a manufacturer's [license] *tobacco tax certificate*; and

(b) \$250 for a wholesaler's [license] *tobacco tax certificate*.

V. Each license *and tobacco tax certificate* shall be prominently displayed in the premises described in it.

VI. Licenses *and tobacco tax certificates* shall not be transferable.

VII. Any wholesaler or manufacturer that ceases business operations requiring a license *or tobacco tax certificate* under this chapter during the license *or certificate* period shall inform the department in writing and relinquish its license *to the liquor commission and its tobacco tax certificate* to the department within 30 days after ceasing business operations.

VIII. Each manufacturer, wholesaler, sampler, and retailer shall keep complete and accurate records of all tobacco stamps purchased and all tobacco products manufactured, produced, imported, distributed, bought, and sold in this state. Complete records shall be safely preserved for 3 years to insure permanency and accessibility for inspection by the commissioner.

IX. Any person who sells, offers for sale, or possesses with intent to sell in this state any tobacco products without the appropriate license *and tobacco tax certificate*, as provided in this section or RSA 178, shall be subject to criminal penalties as provided in RSA 21-J:39.

X. Notwithstanding RSA 21-J:14, information regarding [licenses] *tobacco tax certificates* issued pursuant to this section, *licenses issued pursuant to* RSA 178 [as it pertains to licenses for the retail sale of tobacco products], and RSA 126-K[:] shall be public records.

78:7 Tobacco Product Sales Between Licensees *and Certificate Holders*.

I. No manufacturer or wholesaler shall sell tobacco products in this state to any manufacturer, wholesaler, retailer, or sampler that does not possess an appropriate [license] *tobacco tax certificate* issued by the commissioner [or] *and license issued* by the liquor commission under RSA 178.

II. A manufacturer shall sell tobacco products, without indicia of tax paid under RSA 78:10 or RSA 78:14, as applicable, only to a wholesaler licensed by this state.

III. A wholesaler shall purchase tobacco products, without indicia of tax paid under RSA 78:10 or RSA 78:14, as applicable, only from a manufacturer or wholesaler licensed by this state *under RSA 178 and holding a tobacco tax certificate issued under this chapter*.

IV. A wholesaler shall sell tobacco products to a retailer or sampler in this state only if it provides indicia of tax paid under RSA 78:10 or RSA 78:14, as applicable, to the purchaser *under RSA 178 and holding a tobacco tax certificate issued under this chapter*.

V. No retailer or sampler shall purchase tobacco products without indicia of tax paid under RSA 78:10 or RSA 78:14, as applicable. A retailer shall not sell tobacco products without indicia of tax paid under RSA 78:10 or RSA 78:14, as applicable.

VI. A retailer shall neither purchase tobacco products from nor sell tobacco products to another retailer, unless the purchase or sale is a one-time transfer of the seller's entire tobacco product inventory and the

seller discontinues the tobacco line of business. The selling retailer shall return its license to the liquor commission and shall file an inventory of the tobacco products transferred, along with indicia of tax paid, with the department, within 30 days of the transfer of the tobacco products.

VII. Any person who violates a provision of this section may be subject to tobacco products seizure and license suspension or revocation under this chapter, and criminal penalties under RSA 21-J:39.

78:8 [License] **Tobacco Tax Certificate** Application and Renewal.

I. Manufacturers and wholesalers intending to engage in the business of selling or distributing tobacco products in this state shall apply to the department providing the applicable fee as provided in RSA 78:6, IV, and all information required by the commissioner through rules adopted under RSA 541-A.

II. [Licenses] **Tobacco tax certificates** shall expire on June 30 in each even-numbered year.

III. Manufacturers and wholesalers in good standing with the department may renew their [licenses] **tobacco tax certificates** upon application and payment of the applicable fees. A manufacturer or wholesaler is not in good standing with the department if the manufacturer or wholesaler is delinquent in its payment of applicable fees, fines, or penalties resulting from violations of this chapter, delinquent in its payment of any taxes, penalties, or interest due under any tax administered by the department, or delinquent in its payment of applicable fees, fines, or penalties resulting from violation of RSA 126-K.

78:9 Denial of [License] **Tobacco Tax Certificate** Application.

I. The commissioner may deny a manufacturer's or wholesaler's application for a [license] **tobacco tax certificate**, for any of the following reasons:

- (a) The applicant's [license] **tobacco tax certificate** was revoked by the commissioner under RSA 78:20.
- (b) The commissioner believes that the application is filed by a person as a subterfuge for the real person in interest whose [license] **tobacco tax certificate** was revoked by the commissioner under RSA 78:20.
- (c) The applicant, or a person or entity that owns or has a right to control any interest in the applicant, is not in good standing with the department as described in RSA 78:8, III.
- (d) The applicant, or a person or entity that owns or has a right to control any interest in the applicant, has been convicted of a crime provided for in this chapter, or in any other state for a crime related to tobacco tax, within a 2-year period prior to the date on which the application is filed.
- (e) The applicant, or a person or entity that owns or has a right to control any interest in the applicant, has been convicted of a crime involving theft or fraud in this state or any other state, within a 2-year period prior to the date on which the application is filed.
- (f) The commissioner, pursuant to rules adopted under RSA 541-A, determines that the applicant, or a person or entity that owns or has a right to control any interest in the applicant, is not financially responsible or otherwise not a suitable person to manufacture, or purchase or sell tobacco products at wholesale, in this state.

II. The commissioner shall notify the applicant of the denial in writing.

III. An applicant aggrieved by the denial of a license may petition for redetermination or reconsideration within 60 days after the commissioner issues the notice of denial in accordance with the procedures provided in RSA 21-J:28-b.

12 Indicia of Tax Paid-Cigarettes; Stamps. Amend RSA 78:10, V to read as follows:

V. A wholesaler or vending machine operator licensed under RSA 178 **and holding a tobacco tax certificate** may possess, with an intent to sell, cigarettes or little cigars bearing a foreign state's tax stamp or indicia only if the licensee is currently and legitimately doing business in that state.

13 Indicia of Tax Paid - Other Tobacco Products. Amend RSA 78:14, III to read as follows:

III. Indicia of tax paid includes, but is not limited to, all invoices from all wholesalers purchased from within the preceding 24 months. At a minimum, invoices shall contain the names and addresses of the seller and the purchaser, the license **and tobacco tax certificate** numbers of the seller and purchaser, the date of purchase of the product, the type and brand of each product, the quantity of each product, the purchase price of each product, and an affirmative statement from the wholesaler that all taxes on the product have been paid.

14 Enforcement; Documentation Required. Amend RSA 78:15, IV-VII to read as follows:

IV. Wholesalers, retailers, and samplers shall maintain their statements and records at the places of business identified in their [licensees] **tobacco tax certificates** for a period of 12 months from the date of manufacture, purchase, acquisition, or sale, whichever is later.

V. The records required of wholesalers shall include a written statement containing:

- (a) The name and address of both the seller and the purchaser;
- (b) The date of delivery;
- (c) The quantity of tobacco products;
- (d) The trade name and brand of the tobacco products;
- (e) The price paid for each brand of tobacco products purchased; and
- (f) Any other records or statements as the commissioner may reasonably require.

VI. Every manufacturer and wholesaler shall deliver with each sale or distribution of tobacco products a written statement, and retain a duplicate, containing:

- (a) The name or trade name and address of both the seller and the purchaser;
- (b) The date of delivery;
- (c) The quantity of tobacco products; and

(d) The trade name or brand of the tobacco products, correctly itemizing the prices paid for each brand of tobacco products purchased.

VII. No [licensee] **tobacco tax certificate holder** shall issue or accept any written statement that the [licensee] **certificate holder** knows to contain any statement that falsely indicates the name of the customer, the type of merchandise, the prices, discounts, or the terms of sale. Nor shall any [licensee] **certificate holder** insert, in any invoice given or accepted, any statement that makes the invoice a false record of the transaction it represents. Nor shall any [licensee] **certificate holder** give or accept any invoice that withholds statements so that the invoice does not truly reflect the transaction it represents.

15 Enforcement; Suspension; Revocation; Penalties; Reinstatement. Amend RSA 78:19 - 78:22 to read as follows:

78:19 Administrative Hearings on [License] **Tobacco Tax Certificate** Suspension or Revocation and Seizure and Forfeiture of Contraband Tobacco Products.

I. Within 10 days after a seizure of tobacco products under RSA 78:18, the commissioner shall schedule and notice a hearing at which the owner shall have an opportunity to show cause as to why the seizure was inappropriate.

II. To suspend or revoke a [license] **tobacco tax certificate** under RSA 78:20, the commissioner shall provide the [licensee] **certificate holder** with notice and a hearing at which the [licensee] **certificate holder** shall have an opportunity to show cause as to why the suspension or revocation is inappropriate.

III. The commissioner shall issue a final order in writing following a hearing under paragraph I or II.

IV. Within 30 days of the notice of a final order by the commissioner, the [licensee] **certificate holder**, owner, or other person, as applicable may appeal the final order by written application to the board of tax and land appeals. The board of tax and land appeals shall hear the appeal de novo.

78:20 Suspension or Revocation of [License] **Tobacco Tax Certificate**.

I. The commissioner, after notice and hearing under RSA 78:19, may suspend for a period of time not to exceed 90 days, or revoke any [license] **tobacco tax certificate** issued under this chapter or ~~[RSA 178 as it relates to licensure for the retail sale or sampling of tobacco products,]~~ or uphold the denial of a [license] **tobacco tax certificate** for any one of the following reasons:

(a) The [licensee] **certificate holder** fails to file any return or report required by this chapter.

(b) The [licensee] **certificate holder** files a return, report, or affidavit required by this chapter, which is false.

(c) The [licensee] **certificate holder** fails to collect, truthfully account for, or pay over any tax due under this chapter.

(d) The [licensee] **certificate holder**, or a person or entity that owns or has a right to control any interest in the [licensee] **certificate holder**, has been convicted of, or has admitted to sufficient facts to support a finding of guilt of, any violation under this chapter, any violation under federal law where the conduct underlying the conviction or admission relates to tobacco products, or any violation of law involving dishonesty or fraud, within a 5-year period in the case of a misdemeanor or within a 10-year period in the case of a felony.

(e) Tobacco products without indicia of tax paid have been seized from the licensee's business premises and held by the department as contraband on one or more occasions during a 5-year period.

(f) The [licensee] **certificate holder** has refused to permit, hindered, or obstructed an examination, investigation, or search authorized under RSA 78:16.

(g) The [licensee] **certificate holder**, or a person or entity that owns or has a right to control any interest in the [licensee] **certificate holder**, is not a suitable person for licensure in New Hampshire, as determined by the commissioner pursuant to rules adopted under RSA 541-A.

(h) The certificate holder has had a license issued under RSA 178 suspended or revoked.

II. [License] **Tobacco tax certificate** suspension for a violation of RSA 78:26 shall be as provided in RSA 78:26, VII.

78:21 Administrative Penalties.

I. Administrative penalties for violation of RSA 78:26 shall be in accordance with RSA 78:26, VII.

II. In addition to, or in lieu of, a period of [license] **tobacco tax certificate** suspension, the commissioner may assess an administrative fine against any wholesaler who satisfies RSA 78:2, III, who has sold tobacco product without indicia of tax paid, or against any retailer who has purchased tobacco products without indicia of tax paid, as follows:

(a) First offense-\$500.

(b) Second offense-\$1,500.

(c) Third offense-\$5,000.

78:22 Reinstatement After Revocation. The commissioner may reinstate a revoked [license] **tobacco tax certificate** if he or she is satisfied that the former [licensee] **certificate holder** will comply with the provisions of this chapter.

16 New Paragraph; Importation of Certain Tobacco Products Prohibited; Federal Requirements; Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products; Placement of Labels; Penalty; Definition of License. Amend RSA 78:26 by inserting after paragraph IX the following new paragraph:

X. In this section, "license" means a license issued under RSA 178 and the tobacco tax certificate issued under this chapter.

17 Tobacco Tax; Rulemaking; Tobacco Tax Certificates. Amend RSA 78:27 to read as follows:

78:27 Rulemaking.

The commissioner shall adopt rules under RSA 541-A relative to the following:

I. The use, purchase, and purpose of tobacco stamps.

II. [License] **Tobacco tax certificate** application processes.

III. Documentation required to be maintained by [licensees] **tobacco tax certificate holders**.

IV. Application of credits and refunds for taxes paid on other tobacco products.

V. Roll-your-own tobacco.

VI. Refund process for stamps on outdated, damaged, or unsaleable cigarettes.

VII. Documentation and filing requirements for [licensees] **tobacco tax certificate holders** with regard to the Master Settlement Agreement.

VIII. [Licenses] ***Tobacco tax certificates***, forms, reports, and returns.

IX. Hearings procedures.

X. Any other matter necessary to the proper administration and enforcement of this chapter.

18 Effective Date. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.

2025-0734s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill consolidates licensing, auditing, and enforcement responsibilities for wholesale and retail e-cigarettes sales under the liquor commission. The bill also provides for tobacco tax certificates to be issued by the department of revenue administration and licenses issued by the liquor commission.

SB 86-FN, relative to the housing finance authority's affordable housing guarantee program.
Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 5-0. Senator Reardon for the committee.

This bill would establish an affordable housing guarantee program within the Housing Finance Authority to promote affordable housing for low- and moderate-income individuals. By reducing the financial risk to lenders, greater investment in housing projects would be encouraged. Over the past 25 years, the Authority has had no defaults while running the federal program. The Committee Amendment clarified the amount of loans that could be capped at one time, and it would sunset the program on July 1, 2030.

Senate Commerce
March 4, 2025
2025-0728s
07/05

Amendment to SB 86-FN

Amend RSA 204-C:95, II(a) as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

(a) Register with the secretary of state as a private, nonprofit or for-profit entity, or be a municipal housing authority or the housing finance authority.

Amend RSA 204-C:96 as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

204-C:96 Guarantee. Upon application from a lender, in such form as the authority may require, the authority may issue, or commit itself to issue to the lender or its assigns, a certificate of guarantee equal to 80 percent of the principal due on the loan. In no instance shall any loan principal guaranteed under this section exceed \$30,000,000 per lender per fiscal year. The aggregate amount of loans guaranteed under this section shall not exceed \$300,000,000 at any time.

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

2 Prospective Repeal; 2030. RSA 204-C:93 through 204-C:98, relative to the affordable housing guaranteed loan program, is repealed.

3 Effective Date.

I. Section 2 of this act shall take effect on July 1, 2030.

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

SB 88-FN, prohibiting state government entities from including specified terms related to labor organization agreements in construction related contracts and grants.

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

This bill would have prohibited state entities from including specified terms related to labor organization agreements in construction related contracts and grants. It is undeniable the benefits the construction industry brings to the state. For every \$1 spent on construction, \$1.5 is reinvested into the community. Given there has never been a state funded public labor agreement, and all contractors including non-union ones are invited to submit bids on public works projects, the Committee believed this bill needed additional work.

SB 177-FN, relative to requiring New Hampshire employers with over 25 employees use the E-Verify system.
Inexpedient to Legislature, Vote 5-0. Senator Ricciardi for the committee.

This bill would have required New Hampshire employers with over 25 employees to use the E-Verify system, and it would have provided for an investigations process through the Department of Labor. While the E-Verify system is free, it could pose an onerous administrative burden on small businesses. Businesses are already required to fill out and retain I-9 forms, and the Department already has the ability to audit employers to ensure they are complying. Businesses could be susceptible to security risks by transitioning to the E-Verify system, and there would be no guarantee it would stop individuals from engaging in wrongdoing or preventing them from using others documentation.

SB 279-FN, establishing the housing champion business loan program and making appropriations to the department of business and economic affairs and the business finance authority.
Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0. Senator Innis for the committee.

This bill would allow housing champion communities to participate in a business loan program administered by the Business Finance Authority. Through this program, the Authority could provide low interest loans to businesses inside cities and towns that are designated as Housing Champions. In addition, this bill would make an appropriation to the Department of Business and Economic Affairs for deposit into the Housing Champion Designation and Grant Program Fund. So far, the program has awarded funds to 18 communities to help offset the cost of sewer and water infrastructure projects.

EDUCATION

SB 101-FN, authorizing parents to enroll their children in any public school in the state.
Re-refer to Committee, Vote 5-0. Senator Sullivan for the committee.

SB101-FN is a universal school choice bill which allows New Hampshire students to attend any public school in the state. It requires the average cost per pupil at the resident district school to be allocated to whichever school a student transfers to, requiring the parents/guardian of that student to pay the difference if the average cost per pupil is higher at the school the student is transferring to. The committee established that more research should be done before a decision on the bill is made.

SB 204-FN-A, relative to the responsibility of local school districts to provide meals to students during school hours, reimbursing schools for meals provided to students at no cost, and making an appropriation therefor.
Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0. Senator Prentiss for the committee.

SB 204-FN-A requires local school districts to provide breakfast and lunch at no cost to students from households with incomes at or below 200% of the federal poverty level through an opt-in program. The bill appropriates funds to reimburse schools for a portion of the costs and to assist districts in implementing an online application system for free or reduced-price meals.

SB 206-FN, requiring public schools to adopt policies to limit the use of cell phones by students.
Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 5-0. Senator Abbas for the committee.

SB 206-FN requires public school districts to adopt policies prohibiting student cell phone use during the school day, with exceptions for medical, disability, or language proficiency needs. The policy must be developed in collaboration with educators and parents and reviewed annually. The amendment clarifies that school boards must define a policy for student device use rather than banning it outright and requires the policy to outline administrative involvement if rules are not enforced or followed.

Senate Education
March 5, 2025
2025-0742s
07/05

Amendment to SB 206-FN

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 New Paragraph; Cell Phone Use Policy. Amend RSA 189:1-a by inserting after paragraph IV the following new paragraph:

V. School boards shall develop and adopt a policy governing student cell phone use in schools. Such policy shall define a policy for personal device use by students during the school day and be implemented school-wide, with approved exceptions determined by student medical, disability, or language proficiency need. Such policy shall be developed in collaboration with school district teachers and parents and shall be reviewed and updated annually. School district policies shall not prohibit students with disabilities from using a device to support their learning as identified by their individualized education program (IEP), plan

developed under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C 794, or when required to support emergent multilingual students with appropriate language access programs and services pursuant to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The policy shall include a description of the administration's involvement should policies not be enforced in the classroom or disregarded by students.

SB 209-FN, requiring schools to engage an owner's project manager for construction of school building aid projects at the time of application.

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

SB 209-FN requires school districts and chartered public schools applying for school building aid to engage an owner's project manager at the time of application for construction or reconstruction projects over \$1 million. The bill ensures project oversight from the start of the application process, though the requirement may be waived by the commissioner if deemed unnecessary.

EDUCATION FINANCE

SB 292-FN-A, authorizing a warrant for the funding of state special education aid.

Ought to Pass, Vote 4-0. Senator Murphy for the committee.

Senate Bill 292-FN-A authorizes a warrant for the funding of state special education programs. This bill ensures that the state's special education programs have adequate funding so that they may provide their services.

SB 294-FN, relative to lab fees for career and technical education courses.

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

Senate bill 294 amends RSA 188-E:1-A to include plans for the provision of *lab fees* for students from sending schools who wish to attend career and technical education programs.

ELECTION LAW AND MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

SB 44, relative to hand counts of ballots in elections.

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

The original bill requires a hand recount upon the request of 100 registered voters in one city, town, or municipality using electronic ballot counting machines. The committee heard concerns that requiring a hand count by a municipality could affect the integrity of ballots and interfere with the preparation of ballots for the next election. The committee amendment addresses these concerns by allowing a voter who wishes to have their ballot counted by hand to request that it be hand counted when the voter presents their ballot to the moderator. For these reasons, the committee recommends Ought to Pass with Amendment.

Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs

March 4, 2025

2025-0730s

08/09

Amendment to SB 44

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 New Section; Hand Count. Amend RSA 659 by inserting after section 23-a the following new section:

659:23-b Machine Count; Hand Count. In precincts where an electronic ballot counting device is used, a voter may request that his or her ballot be counted by hand at the time the voter presents his or her ballot to the moderator. The moderator shall deposit the ballot in the compartment on the side of the electronic ballot counting device.

2025-0730s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill allows a voter voting in a precinct with electronic ballot counting devices to request that his or her vote be counted by hand.

SB 103-FN-L, relative to the number of polling stations that are available for certain towns.

Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 4-1. Senator Rochefort for the committee.

SB 103-FN requires towns and cities to have at least one polling place per every 20,000 registered voters unless the town or city has received approval from the secretary of state for fewer locations. The commit-

tee amendment lowers the polling location requirement per the number of registered voters from 20,000 to 15,000 to alleviate long lines at the polls and make the voting process less cumbersome for voters. The committee recommends Ought to Pass with Amendment.

Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs

March 5, 2025

2025-0741s

08/08

Amendment to SB 103-FN-LOCAL

Amend RSA 658:11-a as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

658:11-a Additional Polling Places; Presidential Elections.

I. For general elections in which the office of president of the United States is decided, a town or city shall have a minimum of one polling place for every 15,000 registered voters appearing on the checklist as of January 1 of the year of the election, unless a plan to accommodate more than 15,000 registered voters with one location has been submitted to and jointly approved by the secretary of state and the attorney general. The plan shall specifically address the following issues that could potentially cause a delay to voters:

- (a) Traffic flow to and from the polling place;
- (b) The presence of police officers or third party contractors to assist with traffic flow;
- (c) The number of parking spaces adjacent to the polling place available to voters;
- (d) The number of poll books and staff members available to assist with checking in voters;
- (e) The presence of electronic poll books;
- (f) The number of ballot counting machines;
- (g) The number of stations and staff members available for same-day registrants; and
- (h) Any other criteria specified by the secretary of state and the attorney general.

II. The secretary of state and attorney general may request additional information when considering whether to approve a submitted plan, and such approval may be conditioned upon specific measures that must be met by the town or city on election day.

2025-0741s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill:

I. Requires towns and cities to have at least one polling place per every 15,000 registered voters unless the town or city has received approval from the secretary of state and attorney general for fewer locations.

II. Allows the secretary of state and attorney general to create conditions for towns and cities to follow if they seek to utilize one polling place for more than 15,000 voters.

SB 215, requiring an unorganized town or unincorporated place to elect town officers for the purpose of conducting elections.

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

SB 215 would require an unorganized town or unincorporated place of a specific size to elect town officers for the purpose of conducting elections. The committee heard from Secretary of State Scanlan that there are unincorporated locations in New Hampshire that have not organized to conduct elections but have instead chosen to align themselves with a nearby town. Secretary Scanlan explained that this can create issues when the aligned town is redistricted to a different district and the unincorporated location can no longer align itself with that town. For these reasons, the committee recommends Ought to Pass.

SB 218, relative to absentee ballot outer envelopes.

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

This bill removes the requirement that absentee ballots be placed in outer envelopes unless they are mailed to town or city clerks. It also allows clerks to open outer envelopes, allowing applicants time to

cure defects. The committee believes enacting this bill would, during a preprocessing session, allow for ease of processing and increase transparency throughout the absentee voting process. For these reasons, the committee believes SB 218 Ought to Pass.

SB 221, relative to the verification of the checklist.

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

This bill changes checklist verification from every 10 years to every 5 years. The committee amendment more closely resembles a bill that passed the Senate last year by changing the 10-year requirement to every 4 years, looking back 6 years, which would cover two presidential elections and dozens of municipal and state elections. For this reason, the committee recommends SB 221 Ought to Pass with Amendment.

Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs

March 4, 2025

2025-0719s

08/11

Amendment to SB 221

Amend RSA 654:39 as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

654:39 Verification Every ~~[10]~~ **4** Years.

I. In addition to any verification carried out~~[under the provisions of RSA 654:38]~~, the supervisors shall verify the checklist in ~~[1981]~~ **2026** and once every ~~[10]~~ 4 years thereafter.

II. Between April 1 and August 1 ~~[of 1981 and thereafter in each year ending with a one]~~ ***in the year following the Presidential election***, the supervisors shall post notice of their sessions in 2 appropriate places one of which shall be the town or city's Internet website, if such exists, and published at least twice in a newspaper of general circulation and hold sufficient sessions for verification of the checklist as in their opinion will enable all eligible voters in said town or ward to appear before them and register or reregister as the case may be. Whenever a person is reregistered, his or her party designation, if any, on the checklist undergoing revision shall not be changed except as provided in RSA 654:34.

III. Beginning June 1 of such year, the supervisors shall review the checklist and shall strike therefrom the names of all persons who have not registered or reregistered under paragraphs I and IV; provided, that there shall not be stricken from said checklist the name of any person duly qualified to vote unless such person, not less than 30 days prior to such action, shall have been sent notice by the supervisors at his last known address of his failure to reregister stating the procedure to be followed in order to reregister and have his name retained on said checklist nor unless such person shall have been given a reasonable opportunity to follow said procedure.

IV. For the purpose of this section, a person shall be deemed reregistered and need not appear before the supervisors if:

(a) The person voted in any election within the ~~[4]~~ **6** years immediately preceding a ~~[10]~~ **4**-year verification; or

(b) The person has been added to the checklist ~~[since the last state general election]~~ ***during the 6 years immediately preceding a 4-year verification.***

V. Upon completion of verification of the checklist, but in no event later than September 1, the supervisors shall file with the secretary of state the following certificate: We, the supervisors of the checklist (or registrars of voters) of the town (or ward _____) of _____, do hereby certify that we have verified the checklist of registered voters in the town (or ward _____ of the city) of _____, pursuant to the provisions of RSA 654:39.

VI. In verifying the checklist in accordance with this section, the provisions of RSA 654:38, IV and V shall apply.

2025-0719s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill changes the verification of the checklist from every 10 years to every 4 years in the year following a Presidential election.

ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

SB 228-FN, relative to the limitations on community customer generators.

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

SB 228 modifies the scope and capacity limits of community solar projects. It allows customer-generators to join group net metering after using their on-site generation and raises the capacity limit for individual low-to-moderate income solar projects to 3 MW and up to 18MW for all projects. The amendment caps compensation at total group electricity costs to prevent excessive payments and adds nonprofit education institutions and special districts or entities, including public housing, as eligible municipal hosts.

Senate Energy and Natural Resources

March 4, 2025

2025-0718s

06/09

Amendment to SB 228-FN

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 Net Energy Metering. Amend RSA 362-A:9, XIV(a) to read as follows:

XIV.(a) A customer-generator may elect to become a group host for the purpose of reducing or otherwise controlling the energy costs of a group of customers ~~[who are not customer-generators, except that a political subdivision, as defined in RSA 362-A:1-a, II-c, or the owner of a facility described in RSA 362-A:9, XX, that is a customer-generator, may participate as a group member]~~. ***A customer-generator may participate as a group member if it has not elected to become a group host. A customer-generator who is also a group member shall be eligible to offset total electric utility bill charges on an annual basis only after its on-site generation.*** The group of customers shall be located within the service territory of the same electric distribution utility as the host. The host shall provide a list of the group members to the commission and the electric distribution utility and shall certify that all members of the group have executed an agreement with the host regarding the utilization of kilowatt hours produced by the eligible facility and that the total historic annual load of the group members together with the host exceeds the projected annual output of the host's facility. The department shall verify that these group requirements have been met and shall register the group host. The department shall establish the process for registering hosts, including periodic re-registration, and the process by which changes in membership are allowed and administered. Net metering tariffs under this section shall not be made available to a customer-generator group host until such host is registered by the department.

Amend the bill by replacing section 3 with the following:

3 Net Energy Metering. Amend RSA 362-A:9, XIV(c)(2) to read as follows:

(2) On or before July 1, 2022, the department shall report on the costs and benefits of such an addition and the development of the market for low-moderate income community solar projects, and provide a recommendation on whether the addition shall be increased or decreased. The department shall report on the costs and benefits of low-moderate income community solar projects, as defined in RSA 362-F:2, X-a on or before June 1, 2020. The department shall authorize at least 2 new low-moderate income community solar projects, as defined in RSA 362-F:2, X-a, each year in each utility's service territory beginning January 1, 2020. On an annual basis, for all group host systems except for residential systems with an interconnected capacity under 15 kilowatts, the electric distribution utility shall calculate a payment adjustment if the host's surplus ***compensation for*** generation for which it was paid is greater than the group's total electricity ~~[usage]~~ ***costs*** during the same time period. ***Compensation under the net metering tariffs shall not exceed the total costs of the group members.*** ~~[The adjustment shall be such that the resulting compensation to the host for the amount that exceeded the group's total usage shall be at the utility's avoided cost or its default service rate in accordance with subparagraph V(b) or paragraph VI or alternative tariffs that may be applicable pursuant to paragraph XVI].~~ The utility shall pay or bill the host accordingly.

Amend the bill by replacing sections 7 and 8 with the following:

7 Net Energy Metering. Amend RSA 362-A:9, XIV(e) to read as follows:

XIV.(e) The department of energy, by rule or order, shall develop a process by which community solar developers can apply for designation as a community solar project for new solar arrays. Such projects designate their production for the benefit of households on the list required in subparagraph (d). Such projects will qualify

for the low-moderate income solar addition as established in subparagraph (c) and shall specify the amount of on-bill credit they can offer to low-moderate income households. Annually, the number of projects designated as low-moderate income community solar shall not exceed a total nameplate capacity rating of [6] **18** megawatts in the aggregate. If more than [6] **18** megawatts of projects apply for designation, the department of energy shall select the projects that offer the largest on-bill credit and that demonstrates project readiness.

8 Definitions. Amend RSA 362-A:1-a, II-c to read as follows:

II-c. "Municipal 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 one or more customers who are political subdivisions, provided that all customers are located within the same utility franchise service territory. A municipal host may be owned by either a public or private entity. For this definition, "political subdivision" means the state of New Hampshire or any city, town, county, school district, chartered public school, village district, school administrative unit, ~~[or any district or entity created for a special purpose administered or funded by any of the above-named governmental units]~~ **nonprofit educational institutions, or any district or entity created for a special purpose administered or funded by any of the above-mentioned governmental units; such districts or entities include public housing authorities.**

Amend the bill by deleting section 4 and renumbering the original sections 5 through 9 to read as 4 through 8, respectively.

SB 231, relative to road frontage requirements and setbacks for wetlands.

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

SB 231 is intended to improve housing density by limiting road frontage requirements and setbacks for wetlands to no more than 50 feet. These changes ensure consistency with existing shoreland protection laws under RSA 483-B:9 and maintain compliance with environmental standards under RSA 489:2. By reducing restrictive zoning barriers, this bill intends to facilitate residential development while preserving environmental protections, supporting housing availability. However, the Senate Energy voted to rerefer the bill, stating that the language needs further refinement before it can be advanced.

SB 232, clarifying certain net metering terms and conditions.

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

SB 323 clarifies net metering rules to ensure renewable energy generators in ISO-New England markets can retain their market participant status while qualifying for net metering. It directs the Public Utilities Commission to periodically review alternative net metering tariffs to balance benefits and costs between customer-generators and ratepayers. The bill also prevents retroactive changes to net metering eligibility, protecting existing participants from new tariff adjustments.

Senate Energy and Natural Resources

March 4, 2025

2025-0717s

06/05

Amendment to SB 232

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

3 Net Energy Metering. Amend RSA 362-A:9, III to read as follows:

III. Metering shall be done in accordance with normal metering practices. A single net meter that shows the customer's net energy usage by measuring both the inflow and outflow of electricity internally shall be the extent of metering that is required at facilities with a total peak generating capacity of not more than 100 kilowatts. A ~~[bi-directional]~~ **bidirectional** metering system that records the total amount of electricity that flows in each direction from the customer premises, either instantaneously or over intervals of an hour or less, shall be required at facilities with a total peak generating capacity of more than 100 kilowatts. **The bidirectional system may consist of one or more meters, as long as it can be used to appropriately meter and bill in compliance with utility tariffs and rules.** Customer-generators shall not be required to pay for the installation of net meters, but shall pay for the installation of, **or procure at their own cost if approved by the interconnecting utility,** all ~~[bi-directional]~~ **bidirectional** metering systems as outlined in utility interconnection tariffs or rules.

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

SB 235, enabling funds from the Pitman-Robertson Act to be spent by the fish and game department on threatened and endangered species in New Hampshire.

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

SB 235 allows the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department to use Pitman-Robertson Act funds to protect threatened and endangered species. Previously, these funds could only be used for species that had been legally hunted, fished, or trapped in the past five years. Removing this restriction helps strengthen wildlife conservation, protect biodiversity, and improve environmental efforts across the state.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION

SB 179-FN, to administratively attach the state council on housing stability to the department of health and human services.

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

SB 179-FN provides that the New Hampshire Council on Housing Stability shall be administratively attached to the Department of Health and Human Services. The amendment revises the members and duties of the Council and repeals the requirement that the Housing Finance Authority submit a biennial housing plan.

Senate Executive Departments and Administration

March 5, 2025

2025-0771s

05/09

Amendment to SB 179-FN

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

AN ACT relative to the state council on housing stability.

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

2 State Council on Housing Stability; Membership. RSA 4-H:2, I(i) is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

(i) Two landlords, appointed by the governor.

3 New Subparagraph; State Council on Housing Stability; Duties. Amend RSA 4-H:3, I by inserting after subparagraph (h) the following new subparagraph:

(i) Compile information regarding United States Housing and Urban Development (HUD) programs administered by state and local government agencies and assist the agencies in the preparation of federally required plans and related performance reports. The council shall present such plans to the governor for approval and transmission to HUD.

4 State Council on Housing Stability. Amend RSA 4-H:3, II to read as follows:

II. The state council on housing stability shall be jointly facilitated by the department of health and human services, the department of business and economic affairs, ***the New Hampshire housing finance authority***, and the New Hampshire community development finance authority. The first meeting of the council shall be called by the legislative member appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives pursuant to RSA 4-H:2, I(t) within 45 days of the effective date of this section.

II-a. The council may create workgroups to advise members on its duties and compliance with federal laws and policies related to housing.

5 Repeal. RSA 204-C:47, relative to the biennial housing plan prepared by the housing finance authority, is repealed.

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

2025-0771s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill provides that the council on housing stability shall be attached to the department of health and human services. The bill also revises members and duties of the council, and repeals the requirement that the housing finance authority submit a biennial housing plan.

SB 183, relative to membership of the Pease development authority board of directors.
Re-refer to Committee, Vote 4-0. Senator Altschiller for the committee.

SB 183 changes the membership of the Pease Development Authority Board of Directors to give representation to the towns of Hampton and Rye. Due to the number of stakeholders who emerged throughout the committee process, the Committee felt this bill needs more time for discussion.

SB 184, recognizing the second Thursday in October as children's environmental health day.
Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0. Senator Gannon for the committee.

SB 184 establishes the second Thursday in October as Children's Environmental Health Day. Children's Environmental Health Day is a nationwide movement to encourage collective efforts to enhance awareness and understanding of children's environmental health issues. For the past few years the governor has, upon request, issued an annual proclamation. This bill removes the need for future proclamations.

SB 186, relative to a portrait in the likeness of Senator Jeb Bradley at the state house.
Ought to Pass, Vote 4-0. Senator Pearl for the committee.

SB 186 authorizes the Joint Legislative Historical Committee to accept a gift of a portrait of Senator Jeb Bradley. The commission to create the portrait is fully privately funded. The portrait would recognize Senator Bradley's years of legislative service to the State of New Hampshire.

SB 195, relative to reporting requirements for the New Hampshire advisory council on career and technical education.
Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 4-0. Senator Altschiller for the committee.

SB 195 changes the required content of the annual report issued by the Advisory Council on Career and Technical Education. The amendment changes the composition and duties of the Council. One of the new duties of the Council would be to establish annual metrics on the number of students who complete career and technical education, the number of dual enrollments, and the number of industry recognized credentials awarded.

Senate Executive Departments and Administration
March 5, 2025
2025-0777s
02/05

Amendment to SB 195

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

AN ACT relative to the composition and duties of the New Hampshire advisory council on career and technical education.

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 Advisory Council on Career and Technical Education. RSA 188-E:10-b is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

188-E:10-b Advisory Council on Career and Technical Education.

I. There is established an advisory council on career and technical education (CTE). Notwithstanding RSA 14:49, the members of the council shall be as follows:

- (a) One member of the senate, appointed by the president of the senate.
- (b) Two members of the house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives.
- (c) The state director of career and technical education.
- (d) The commissioner of the department of business and economic affairs, or designee.
- (e) The chancellor of the community college system, or designee.

(f) Three CTE directors, one member of a school board, and one SAU administrator, appointed by their professional associations.

(g) A representative of the Business and Industry Association of New Hampshire, appointed by the association.

(h) A representative of New Hampshire Businesses for Social Responsibility, appointed by the organization.

(i) Five representatives of skilled trades or businesses related to CTE programs, nominated by their trade associations or industry representatives and appointed by the governor.

(j) A high school counselor from a sending school district, appointed by the president of the New Hampshire School Counselor Association.

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

III. Members of the advisory council appointed under subparagraphs I(f)-(j) shall serve for terms of 3 years and may be reappointed for 2 additional terms. Terms shall be staggered across all membership, ensuring stability for the council.

IV. The council shall study career and technical education, and make recommendations for legislation, rulemaking, policies, procedures and the administration of CTE on a statewide basis to include:

(a) Access and delivery of CTE programs on an annual basis with a focus on finding systemic and statewide solutions;

(b) The recruitment and retention of skilled CTE teachers;

(c) An annual study of business and industry needs; to include labor market data, industry trends and long term forecasting of industry outlook.

(d) Innovative and new partnerships and collaborative projects between industry, CTE centers, and CCSNH;

(e) Proposing opportunities for needed technical assistance, legislation or administrative rules that are student centered and enhance access;

(f) Supporting the renovation committee's recommendations on the new renovation policies and procedures;

(g) Establishing annual metrics/goals on the following:

(1) The number of students who complete CTE;

(2) The number of dual enrollments, concurrent enrollments, extended learning opportunities, and work based learning enrollments; and

(3) The number of industry recognized credentials awarded.

V. The members of the advisory council shall elect a chairperson from among the members. The chair shall serve for no more than 2 years and membership will establish annual expectations of the council, meeting norms, and agendas at the first annual meeting. Meetings of the advisory council shall occur at least every other month and if necessary with greater frequency as determined by the council. Seven members of the council shall constitute a quorum.

VI.(a) The advisory council shall file an annual report of its findings and any recommendations for proposed legislation with the speaker of the house of representatives, the president of the senate, the chairperson of the senate education and workforce development committee, the chairperson of the house education committee, the house clerk, the senate clerk, the governor, and the state library on or before November 1.

(b) The annual report shall include the progress of the department of education, career and technical education centers, and the community college system of New Hampshire toward establishing a structure for work-based learning credentials and the recommendations and topics of study required pursuant to paragraph IV.

2025-0777s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill changes the composition and duties of the advisory council on career and technical education.

SB 298-FN, relative to sober living house certification and operational standards.

Re-refer to Committee, Vote 4-0. Senator Reardon for the committee.

SB 298-FN requires sober living houses to be certified by the New Hampshire Coalition of Recovery Residents, to verify resident eligibility, and to retain a paid house manager. This bill provides enforcement authority to the municipality in which the house is located and to the Department of Health and Human Services. The Committee heard testimony from stakeholders and sober living house operators that bad actors have been abusing sober living housing, but that this bill needs more work to avoid unintended consequences.

SB 302-FN, requiring background checks for solid waste facility owners.
Ought to Pass, Vote 4-0. Senator Pearl for the committee.

SB 302-FN requires background checks for solid waste facility owners including partners and managers. This bill was drafted in collaboration with the Department of Environmental Services (DES). The bill fine tuned previous efforts to change the background check process to comply with Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) requirements.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

SB 125-FN, relative to clinical eligibility criteria for nursing facility and home and community based care.
Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 5-0. Senator Avard for the committee.

This bill updates clinical eligibility criteria for nursing facility and home and community based care; adds mobility to the activities of daily living; corrects the federal reference for the definition of “skilled professional medical personnel”; requires information from the applicant’s primary care physician be considered; clarifies the medical eligibility determination is the responsibility of “skilled professional medical personnel”; and gives the Department of Health and Human Services staff authority to obtain medical information for the eligibility decision making process. The intent of this legislation is to address the ongoing issue of individuals losing eligibility for their care services and suffering as a result.

Senate Health and Human Services
March 5, 2025
2025-0784s
05/09

Amendment to SB 125-FN

Amend RSA 151-E:3, V as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

V. No applicant who is being assessed for annual redetermination shall be denied eligibility under this section without the individual’s primary care physician, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner’s agreement that the applicant no longer meets the level of care identified in paragraph I.

SB 127-FN-A, relative to the office of the public guardian and making appropriations to the department of health and human services.

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

As amended, this bill authorizes hospitals seeking to assist older adults or adults with a disability with discharge from a hospital setting to a less restrictive setting to seek to have a guardian or conservator appointed by the probate court, and makes an appropriation to the Department of Health and Human Services to fund guardianship slots. This bill supports the critical work done to care for vulnerable individuals and addresses pressure on the healthcare system by ensuring these individuals are in a setting to receive the appropriate level of care.

Senate Health and Human Services
March 5, 2025
2025-0772s
09/08

Amendment to SB 127-FN-A

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

AN ACT relative to public guardianship and the office of the public guardian and making appropriations to the department of health and human services.

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

1 New Section; Long-Term Care; Guardianship Contracted Services. Amend RSA 151-E by inserting after section 27 the following new section:

151-E:28 Guardianship Contracted Services.

I. When all other resources are exhausted, hospitals seeking to assist older adults or adults with a disability as defined in RSA 151-E:24 with discharge from a hospital setting to a less restrictive setting may seek to have a guardian or conservator appointed by the probate court, pursuant to RSA 464-A, for any older adult or adult with a disability who:

- (a) Requires an alternative decision maker to assist with discharge;
- (b) Is deemed incapacitated by a court of competent jurisdiction; and
- (c) Cannot secure guardianship services through any other alternative.

II. The department shall contract with office of the public guardian to provide publicly funded guardianship slots for individuals in need of guardianship pursuant to paragraph I.

III. Hospitals seeking to assist adults with discharge shall apply to the department for access to the publicly funded guardianship slots.

IV. Availability of publicly funded guardianship slots shall be subject to the availability of funding.

2 Appropriations; Department of Health and Human Services.

I. The sum of \$550,000 for the biennium ending June 30, 2027 is hereby appropriated to the department of health and human services. Said appropriation shall be used for 50 slots to provide publicly funded guardianship for individuals as set forth in RSA 151-E:28. The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said sum out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

II. The sum of \$3,884,000 for the biennium ending June 30, 2027 is hereby appropriated to the department of health and human services. Said appropriation shall be used by the department to create new contract guardian slots and adjusting rates for individuals served under RSA 171-A, RSA 161-F:52, and RSA 135-C. The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said sum out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect September 30, 2025.

2025-0772s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill authorizes hospitals seeking to assist older adults or adults with a disability with discharge from a hospital setting to a less restrictive setting to seek to have a guardian or conservator appointed by the probate court, and makes appropriations to the department of health and human services to fund guardianship slots.

SB 135-FN, relative to rate setting parity for Medicaid state plan case management services.
Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0. Senator Avard for the committee.

This bill directs the Department of Health and Human Services to annually establish rates for Medicaid State Plan case management services to create rate parity for such services within the program. The language of this bill is currently required by both state and federal regulations. The intent of this legislation is to clarify any misunderstandings and ensure compliance with rate setting parity.

SB 136-FN, establishing an uncompensated care assessment, fund, and committee within the department of insurance.

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

This bill establishes an uncompensated health care fund to be administered by the Department of Insurance and assessed by a surcharge on commercial insurers, reinsurers, and trusts overseeing self-insured plans. A proposed change clarifying the bill's intent to target uncompensated care in mental health care has been considered, and the Committee believes it would be best to revisit this effort in the future and work with stakeholders in the meantime to ensure this bill is ready to go.

SB 243-FN, relative to the child care scholarship program.

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

This bill requires the Commissioner of the Department of Health and Human Services to adopt administrative rules regarding payments for child care providers, the child care scholarship presumptive eligibility

pilot program, and the child care scholarship application process study. This bill will address the child care shortage by making the child care scholarship program more accessible for parents and providers across the state, ensuring that parents can go back into employment and that child care providers are not facing unnecessary financial strain.

Senate Health and Human Services

March 5, 2025

2025-0787s

11/11

Amendment to SB 243-FN

Amend RSA 167:83, II(t)(5) as inserted by section 2 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

(5) The department may suspend this pilot program, with notice to providers and prospective applicants, if an active waitlist is maintained pursuant to N.H. Admin. Code section He-C 6910.11, and the department shall reinstate the pilot program if such a waitlist ends during the duration of the pilot program.

(6) On or before May 1, 2028, the department shall provide a detailed report of the presumptive eligibility pilot program to the house health and human services oversight committee and senate health and human services committee of the general court. The report shall include the following information:

(A) Information regarding family and provider interest and utilization of the program during the pilot period;

(B) Information regarding the costs and benefits of the program as implemented, and any suggestions for improvements;

(C) Funding levels necessary to sustain the program going forward; and

(D) Any other relevant information regarding the program.

Amend RSA 167:83, II(u) as inserted by section 2 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

(u) Child care scholarship application processes study. Such rules shall direct the department, by November 1, 2026, to evaluate information regarding challenges in the application process and make a plan for the implementation of improvements such as a fast-track application or other appropriate measures, to ensure that child care scholarship applicants do not face unnecessary burdens in the eligibility determination process and are not directed to submit information or documents that are not necessary for determination of child care scholarship program eligibility, except when an applicant has expressly opted to be considered for other assistance programs.

SB 244-FN-A, relative to expanding access to primary health care services, increasing the number of direct health care providers, increasing Medicaid reimbursement rates, and making an appropriation therefor. Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 5-0. Senator Long for the committee.

As amended, this bill expands access to primary health care services by directing the Department of Health and Human Services to amend its contract with the Bi-State Primary Care Association's Recruitment Center in order to expand health care workforce recruitment and retention efforts and increases funding for such programs. The bill also makes an appropriation to the Department of Health and Human Services to increase Medicaid reimbursement rates for opioid treatment providers. This will take an important step forward in addressing the shortages in New Hampshire's health care workforce, ensuring access to care for patients across the state.

Senate Health and Human Services

March 5, 2025

2025-0776s

05/09

Amendment to SB 244-FN-A

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

AN ACT relative to expanding access to primary health care services, increasing the size of the health care workforce, and making appropriations therefor.

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

3 Department of Health and Human Services; Division of Public Health Services; Public-Private Health Care Workforce Recruitment and Retention Hub; Infrastructure Contracts.

I. The department of health and human services, division of public health services, rural health and primary care section shall amend its current contract with Bi-State Primary Care Association's Recruitment Center to require the Recruitment Center to strengthen the infrastructure needed to sustain and transform community-based primary care services through the creation of a Public-Private Health Care Workforce Recruitment and Retention Hub that promotes collaboration across the continuum of care. Bi-State Primary Care Association shall administer the Public-Private Health Care Workforce Recruitment and Retention Hub and manage the sub-recipient contracts, and leverage federal, state, and private funding, and seek new funding opportunities when appropriate.

II. Bi-State Primary Care Association shall design the sub-recipient contracts to facilitate health care workforce development, recruitment, retention, support nursing preceptor and mentoring programs, provide training and technical assistance, and loan repayment opportunities. Bi-State Primary Care Association shall:

(a) Expand and implement its national outreach and marketing campaign designed to recruit qualified clinicians to New Hampshire;

(b) Collaborate with an area health education center for the purpose of creating and expanding graduate level nursing mentoring and precepting programs. The area health education center shall provide the necessary support to graduate level nursing preceptors and the health care organizations that act as training sites;

(c) Collaborate with an area health education center for the purpose of supporting the New Hampshire Needs Caregivers Program. This program shall promote, recruit, and fund training of up to 500 individuals interested in a career in health care as a licensed nursing assistant. The New Hampshire Needs Caregivers Program shall create scholarship opportunities to cover the cost of tuition for licensed nursing assistant training up to \$2,600; supportive services; and assist individuals in finding courses and employment;

(d) Expand student loan repayment opportunities for clinicians with bachelors' degrees employed by non-profit health care organizations in exchange for the agreement to work for the non-profit health care organization for 24 months for part-time employees to 36 months for full-time employees; and

(e) Collaborate with a family medicine residency program in rural New Hampshire at a teaching health center program to support the training of family medicine residents in the north country. The teaching health center program shall be accredited or eligible for accreditation by a nationally recognized accreditation agency.

4 Department of Health and Human Services; Rural Health and Primary Care Section; Appropriations.

I. Appropriation; Public-Private Health Care Workforce Recruitment and Retention Hub. The sum of \$580,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026 and the sum of \$580,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027 are hereby appropriated to the department of health and human services, division of public health services, rural health and primary care section for the purpose set forth in paragraph I of section 3 of this act. The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said sums out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

II. Appropriation; Workforce Recruitment, Advertising, and Marketing. The sum of \$250,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026 and \$250,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027 are hereby appropriated to the department of health and human services, division of public health services, rural health and primary care section for the purpose described in paragraph II(a) of section 3 of this act. The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said sums out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

III. Appropriation; Bi-State Primary Care Association Sub-Recipient Contract with an Area Health Education Center; Graduate Nursing Student Preceptors and Financial Support for Host Organizations. The sum of \$300,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026 and the sum of \$300,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027 are hereby appropriated to the department of health and human services, division of public health services, rural health and primary care section for the purpose set forth in paragraph II(b) of section 3 of this act. The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said sums out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

IV. Appropriation; Bi-State Primary Care Association sub-recipient contract with an area health education center; New Hampshire Needs Caregivers. The sum of \$500,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026 and the sum of \$750,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027 are hereby appropriated to the department

of health and human services, division of public health services, rural health and primary care section for the purpose set forth in paragraph II(c) of section 3 of this act. The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said sums out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

V. Appropriation; Bi-State Primary Care Association sub-recipient contracts; Public-Private Health Care Workforce Recruitment and Retention Hub Loan Repayment Programs. The sum of \$300,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026 and the sum of \$300,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027 are hereby appropriated to the department of health and human services, division of public health services, rural health and primary care section for the purpose set forth in paragraph II(d) of section 3 of this act. The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said sums out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

VI. Appropriation; Bi-State Primary Care Association sub-recipient contract with a rural residency training at a teaching health center program. The sum of \$500,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026 and the sum of \$500,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027 are hereby appropriated to the department of health and human services, division of public health services, rural health and primary care section for the purposes set forth in paragraph II(e) of section 3 of this act. The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said sum out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

VII. Appropriation; Early Childhood and Family Mental Health Credential. The sum of \$203,500 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026 and the sum of \$203,500 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027 are hereby appropriated to the department of health and human services, bureau of children's behavioral health for the purpose set forth in RSA 167:3-1, IV(a)(2). The bureau shall use the funding to support the training of up to 60 clinicians per year of the biennium. The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said sums out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

VIII. Appropriation; Primary Care Workforce Program. The sum of \$115,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026 and the sum of \$115,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027 are hereby appropriated to the department of health and human services, division of public health services, rural health and primary care section, for an administrator I position for the purpose of administering paragraph I of section 3 of this act. The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said sums out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

5 Department of Health and Human Services; Medicaid Rates Paid to Opioid Treatment Providers; Appropriation.

There is hereby appropriated to the department of health and human services the sum of \$2,000,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026 and the sum of \$2,000,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, for the purpose of increasing rates paid to providers of opioid treatment programs. Said amounts are intended to cover the cost of rate increases for both the traditional Medicaid population and granite advantage program population. The department may accept and expend any federal funds available for the purposes of this section without the prior approval of the fiscal committee of the general court. The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said sums out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

6 Effective Date. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.

2025-0776s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill expands access to primary health care services by directing the department of health and human services to amend its contract with the Bi-State Primary Care Association's Recruitment Center in order to expand health care workforce recruitment and retention efforts and increases funding for such programs. The bill also makes an appropriation to the department of health and human services to increase Medicaid reimbursement rates for opioid treatment providers.

SB 245-FN, prohibiting surprise ambulance billing and regulating ground ambulance reimbursement. Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 5-0. Senator Prentiss for the committee.

This bill prohibits health carriers and providers from balance billing for ambulance services and establishes parameters for reimbursement of ground ambulance services by non-participating ambulance service providers. An amendment has been adopted that clarifies balanced billing prohibitions, removes co-pay caps and waivers, points to statute regarding prompt pay requirements, and points to jurisdiction around payment explanation of benefits.

Senate Health and Human Services
 March 5, 2025
 2025-0775s
 05/06

Amendment to SB 245-FN

Amend RSA 420-J:8-i, I as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

I. With respect to a claim for covered services rendered by a non-participating ground ambulance service provider, the health carrier shall directly reimburse the non-participating ground emergency ambulance service provider the rates set or approved, whether in contract, in ordinance, or otherwise, by a local governmental entity in the jurisdiction in which the non-participating ground emergency services originated. If the local government entity having jurisdiction where the ground emergency ambulance service originated does not have set or approved rates, the health carrier shall directly reimburse the non-participating ground emergency ambulance service provider a minimum of 325 percent of the current urban, rural or super rural Medicare rates based on the geographic area where the ground emergency ambulance service originated.

(a) The payment shall be considered payment in full for the ambulance service provided, except for any copayment, coinsurance, deductible, and other cost sharing amounts that the carrier requires the covered individual to pay; and

(b) The non-participating ambulance service provider is prohibited from billing the covered individual for any additional amount for the ambulance service provided except for any copayment, coinsurance, deductible, and other cost sharing amounts that the carrier requires the covered individual to pay.

Amend RSA 420-J:8-i, V and VI as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

V. A health carrier shall reimburse a non-participating ground emergency ambulance provider in accordance with RSA 420-J:8-a, the prompt payment requirements.

VI. A health carrier shall clearly indicate on all payment explanations of benefits whether the claim relates to an insurance plan subject to the jurisdiction of the commissioner.

SB 251, establishing a commission to study the delivery of public health services through regional public health networks and the continued development of coordinated responses to public health incidents and emergencies in New Hampshire.

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

This bill re-establishes the commission to study the delivery of public health services through regional public health networks and the continued development of coordinated responses to public health incidents and emergencies in New Hampshire. Re-establishing this commission will continue the critical, unfinished work surrounding regional public health networks and their collaborative role in New Hampshire's public health system.

JUDICIARY

SB 49-FN, establishing the crime of and penalties for unlawful use of unmanned aircraft systems.

Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 4-0. Senator Gannon for the committee.

Senate Bill 49, a request of the New Hampshire Department of Safety, establishes the crime of, and penalties for the unlawful use of small, unmanned aircraft systems (UAS). Penalties for unlawful UAS operations range from misdemeanors to class A felonies relative to the manner of operation, and danger posed to other craft or individuals.

Senate Judiciary
 March 5, 2025
 2025-0754s
 09/08

Amendment to SB 49-FN

Amend RSA 644:23, I as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

I. A person is guilty of a misdemeanor for a first offense, and a felony for a second or subsequent offense, if such person operates a small unmanned aircraft system ("UAS") that interferes with law enforcement, firefighting, or other emergency response operations, over a military installation, or violates any provisions of RSA 644:9.

Amend RSA 644:23, II(a) as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

(a) A class A misdemeanor for a first offense, and a felony for a second or subsequent offense, if such person negligently operates a small UAS in a manner so as to interfere with or disrupt the flight of a human-occupied aircraft, or otherwise impede the normal course of operations of any international, regional, municipal, or general aviation airport.

Amend RSA 644:23, III as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

III. A person is guilty of a misdemeanor if such a person operates a small UAS in FAA-restricted airspace over the property of a federal or state correctional, penal, or detention facility, or over a military installation, and a class B felony if such operation is done with the purpose of delivering contraband into the facility or to aid in the escape of a prisoner.

SB 143, relative to the impaired driver care management program.

Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 4-0. Senator Abbas for the committee.

Senate Bill 143, a request of the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services, enhances the accountability of drivers subject to the Impaired Driver Care Management Program (IDCMP). As amended, the bill requires that individuals participate in the IDCMP for reinstatement of their license regardless of prior completion within the last five years, while asserting that IDCMP programs must be consistent with nationally recognized standards to be valid.

Senate Judiciary

March 4, 2025

2025-0739s

09/05

Amendment to SB 143

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

AN ACT relative to the impaired driver care management program and recovery residences.

Amend the bill by replacing all after section 7 with the following:

8 Provision of Services; Acceptance Into Treatment. Amend RSA 172-B:2, V(a)(2) to read as follows:

(2) Certification **by a certifying entity designated by the commissioner that is** based on [national] **nationally recognized** standards including, but not limited to, documents to show the recovery house meets minimum safety and recovery standards including, but not limited to health, building, zoning, and fire inspection approvals, proof of insurance, resident agreement, emergency procedures, and policies and procedures addressing grievances, non-discrimination, code of ethics, and safe storage of medication.

9 Provision of Services; Acceptance Into Treatment. Amend the introductory paragraph of RSA 172-B:2, VII(a) to read as follows:

VII.(a) The commissioner or designee shall designate an entity to serve as the certifying body for a voluntary certification program for recovery residences based upon **nationally recognized** standards [determined by the National Alliance for Recovery Residences (NARR) or a similar entity]. The certifying body shall establish and implement a certification program for recovery residences that maintain [nationally-recognized] **nationally recognized** standards that:

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

2025-0739s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill modifies the requirements for the impaired driver care management program and when it is required. This bill further amends the certification standards for recovery houses.

This bill is a request of the department of health and human services.

SB 148-FN, prohibiting those convicted of murder from financially profiting from the death of the victim.

Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 4-0. Senator Abbas for the committee.

Senate Bill 148, as amended, prevented convicted murderers from profiting off the death of their victim. Individuals who have been found to have intentionally and feloniously killed another, and

who have exhausted appeal, may not be beneficiary to the decedent and or forfeits all benefits relative to the decedent's estate. In cases where a conviction is not secured, interested parties may also petition the court.

Senate Judiciary
March 5, 2025
2025-0746s
09/05

Amendment to SB 148-FN

Amend RSA 562-A:2 as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

562-A:2 Forfeiture of Statutory Benefits. An individual who feloniously and intentionally kills the decedent forfeits all benefits under this title with respect to the decedent's estate. If the decedent died intestate, the decedent's intestate estate passes as if the killer predeceased the decedent.

Amend RSA 562-A:4, II as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

II. Provisions of a governing instrument are given effect as if the killer predeceased the decedent.

Amend RSA 562-A as inserted by section 1 of the bill by inserting after section 562-A:8 the following new section:

562-A:9 Time of Application of Forfeiture. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, a forfeiture arising under this chapter may be determined at any time prior to the closure of the estate by the probate court. This chapter shall be construed to apply to all estates that have not been closed by the probate court prior to the effective date of this chapter.

Amend RSA 507-I:1, II as inserted by section 2 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

II. "Profits from a homicide crime" include any property which the defendant obtained or income generated as a result of having committed the crime, any potential inheritance or realized inheritance, any assets obtained through the use of unique knowledge obtained during the commission of, or in preparation for the commission of, a crime, any other acquisition of property or interest by the killer, including a life estate in homestead property, and any property obtained by or income generated from the sale, conversion, or exchange of such property and any gain realized by such sale, conversion, or exchange.

SB 259, creating an exception to physical attendance and quorum requirements under the right-to-know law for individuals with disabilities.

Inexpedient to Legislate, Vote 4-0. Senator Gannon for the committee.

Senate Bill 259 absolves certain individuals from in-person quorum standards assuming they, or someone they care for is qualified under the Americans with Disabilities Act. The legislation intended on improving the productivity and participation of certain bodies which faced difficulty satisfying current standards.

SB 300-FN, criminalizing the creation of child intimate visual representations.

Ought to Pass, Vote 4-0. Senator Gannon for the committee.

Senate Bill 300 provides that the production, manufacture, or direction of an intimate visual representation of a child is a class B felony. The standing RSAs on Child Sex Abuse Images are expanded upon in SB 300 to accommodate for generative content which remains harmful yet unaccounted for in current language specific to traditional mediums.

TRANSPORTATION

SB 153-FN, relative to the issuance of permits for the alteration of driveways exiting onto public ways.

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

The original bill proposed a timeframe of 90 days for the issuance of driveway permits, particularly for housing developments that are major traffic generators or significant entrances. The amendment modifies SB 153-FN to become an innovative public-private partnership with NHDOT that will cut permitting time by over one year while enhancing accountability, transparency, and efficiency. This voluntary program streamlines the process by allowing residential home developers to «fast-track» their permits for residential sites with 20 units or more. This act shall take effect 90 days after its passage. The committee moves SB 153-FN ought to pass with an amendment.

Senate Transportation
 March 5, 2025
 2025-0759s
 08/05

Amendment to SB 153-FN

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

AN ACT relative to expedited driveway permitting of major entrances for residential use of 20 units or greater.

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

1 New Paragraph; Expedited Permitting. Amend RSA 236:13 by inserting after paragraph IV-a the following new paragraph:

IV-b. For expedited permitting of major entrances for residential use of 20 units or greater:

(a) The commissioner of the department of transportation shall revise the department's policy for the permitting of driveways and other access to the state highway system to implement an optional program for the expedited permitting of major entrances for residential use of 20 units or greater, within 60 business days of approval of the traffic impact study.

(b) An applicant electing to use the expedited permitting process under this paragraph shall pay a \$120 per unit non-refundable permit fee.

(c) The commissioner of the department of transportation, with approval of the governor and council, may adjust the fee in subparagraph (b).

(d) In addition to the permit fee in subparagraph (b), the applicant shall pay a retainer as formulated in the department's policy relating to the permitting of driveways and other access to the state highway system, for reasonable expenses incurred by the department for third party professional engineer review and consultation during the expedited permitting process. All third-party review fees shall be tracked and a copy provided to the applicant. All unused retainages shall be refunded to the applicant within 120 days of the issuance of the permit.

2 Position Established. There shall be a classified position of business operations specialist established within the department of transportation, compensated under SOC 13, Broad Group 13-1190, Pay Band 6, for the purpose of administering the expedited permitting of major entrances under RSA 236:13, IV-b.

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

2025-0759s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill creates an expedited driveway permit for major entrances for parcels of land for residential use of 20 units or greater.

The question is on the adoption of the Consent Calendar. Adopted.

REGULAR CALENDAR

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION

SB 198, declaring the third week in September to be New Hampshire service dog week.
 Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0. Senator McGough for the committee.

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

COMMERCE

SB 79-FN, enabling the use of self-pour automated systems by liquor commission licensees.
 Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 3-2. Senator Murphy for the committee.

Senate Commerce
 March 4, 2025
 2025-0727s
 05/09

Amendment to SB 79-FN

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 New Section; Self-Automated Pour Systems. Amend RSA 178 by inserting after section 22 the following new section:

178:22-a Self-Automated Pour Systems.

I. In this section:

(a) “Automated system” means a mechanized device capable of dispensing alcoholic beverages in a predetermined amount directly to an employee of the licensee or a patron when an RFID device activates the mechanized device.

(b) “Licensee” means a holder of an on-premises license under RSA 178:20, RSA 178:20-a, RSA 178:21, or RSA 178:22.

(c) “Quantity limit” means 32 ounces of beverage or 32 ounces of cider not exceeding 6 percent alcohol by volume, or 10 ounces of wine.

(d) “Radio frequency identification device” or “RFID device” means a card, wristband, or other item that uses electromagnetic fields, ultra-high frequency radio waves, or other similar technology that automatically and uniquely identifies the user of the device.

II. Automated systems may be used by a licensee under the following conditions:

(a) A licensee may offer self-service of beverage or cider not exceeding 6 percent alcohol by volume, or wine from an automated system on the premises of the licensee.

(b) No licensee shall allow an automated system to be used by patrons without first providing notification to the liquor commission of the licensee’s intent to use an automated system.

(c) The sale of the alcoholic beverage through the automated system shall be deemed to occur between the licensee and the patron.

(d) Every licensee offering a patron self-service through an automated system shall maintain constant video monitoring of the automated system at all times during which the licensee is open to the public. The licensee shall keep recorded footage from the video monitoring for at least 60 days and shall provide the footage, upon request, to the commission or any authorized law enforcement agent.

(e) A licensee shall offer to a patron who prepaids for an RFID device a prorated refund if the patron does not serve himself or herself the full allowable amount of beverage, cider, or wine from the automated system.

III. Automated systems shall have the following requirements:

(a) The automated system shall only be accessible by an activated RFID device that an employee or patron receives from the licensee or the licensee’s designee. Each time a patron activates or reactivates the RFID device, the automated system may dispense to the patron an amount up to the quantity limit. The full amount of the quantity limit need not be served at once. No more than the quantity limit shall be served per each activation of the RFID device.

(b) No beverage, cider, or wine shall be sold, served, or dispensed from an automated system unless the brand name of the beverage, cider or wine manufacturer’s product corresponding to the container from the beverage is drawn is affixed or imprinted on a card, sign, plate, button, screen, or key of the dispensing spigot or nozzle. The automated system shall prohibit the intermixing of alcoholic beverages of different brands or labels while dispensing.

(c) The automated system shall not dispense from or utilize a container other than the original container as received from the manufacturer or wholesaler.

(d) No automated system shall allow beverage, cider, or wine to flow through copper or lead tubing unless such tubing is isolated so that the alcoholic beverage does not come in direct contact with the copper or the lead.

(e) The automated system shall be located in the main portion of the dining room or cocktail lounge in an area that is constantly monitored by the licensee and visible to the public.

IV. RFID devices shall have the following requirements:

(a) An RFID device shall be automatically deactivated and rendered unusable by a patron if it:

(1) No longer contains a volume credit or monetary credit; or

(2) Has been used to dispense the quantity limit.

(b) The automated system shall prohibit a patron from obtaining different types of alcoholic beverage during the same activation. For the purposes of this section the types of alcoholic beverage are beverage, cider, or wine.

(c) The licensee shall maintain the ability to activate and deactivate all RFID devices at any time, and shall store the devices in a secure location that is not freely and readily accessible to patrons.

(d) Each RFID device shall only be used during the hours that the licensee is allowed to serve alcoholic beverages according to its license under this chapter. All RFID devices shall be deactivated upon the conclusion of legal service hours or when the premises closes, whichever occurs first.

V. In order to access the automated system:

(a) An employee or patron shall obtain or activate an RFID device from the licensee or the licensee's designee. A licensee or the licensee's designee shall not issue more than one active RFID device to an employee or patron at any given time and shall ensure that the employee and patron do not share the RFID device with another person.

(b) Before allowing a patron to use an RFID device, the licensee or the licensee's designee shall verify that the patron is 21 years of age or older based upon a government-issued identification card with a name that matches the patron's debit card, credit card, or mobile payment application. The licensee or the licensee's designee shall record such verification of the patron's age in a print or digital log that shall be kept upon the licensee's premises for a period of 3 years from the date of the last entry and shall be available at all times that the premises is open for inspection by the commission and any authorized law enforcement agent. Such log may be kept off the licensee's premises but only with the approval of the commission.

(c) The licensee shall not allow an intoxicated patron to access the automated system.

(d) Any patron in possession of an inactive RFID device may, upon production of the patron's valid identification, have the RFID device reactivated a second time and subsequent times to allow another service of an amount up to the quantity limit. The licensee shall not reactivate the RFID device until the patron's first serving is substantially disposed of or consumed.

VI.(a) Beverage, cider, or wine pipe lines, barrel tubes, coils and other appurtenances used for the dispensing of alcoholic beverages through an automated system shall be cleaned at least once a week by the use of a hydraulic pressure mechanism, hand pump suction, or a force clear, or other substantially similar system. After cleaning, the lines and tubes shall be rinsed with clear water until all chemicals, if any have been used, have been removed. A print or digital record card shall be used to record the dates of cleaning. Such card shall be signed by the person who performs the cleaning and countersigned by the licensee. Such card shall be kept upon the licensee's premises for a period of one year from the date of the last entry and shall be available at all times that the premises is open for inspection by the commission and any authorized law enforcement agent.

(b) At least once every 30 calendar days, a licensee shall calibrate the automated system to ensure that each ounce of liquid registered by the system is precisely one ounce of liquid poured. A print or digital record card shall be used to record the dates of calibration. Such card shall be signed by the person who performs the calibration and counter signed by the licensee. Such card shall be kept upon the licensee's premises for a period of one year from the date of the last entry and shall be available at all times that the premises is open for inspection by the commission and any authorized law enforcement agent.

VII. The commissioner shall adopt rules under RSA 541-A relative to maximum dollar sales and the maximum number of ounces that may be sold to a patron.

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.

SB 162-FN, relative to restrictions on acquisition of ownership, controlling, and occupancy interests in real property by certain foreign principals on or around certain military installations, and criminal penalties and civil forfeiture procedures for illegal acquisition.

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

Senate Commerce
March 5, 2025
2025-0744s
09/11

Amendment to SB 162-FN

Amend RSA 477:22-d as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

477:22-d Qualified Renter/Purchaser Affidavit Required.

I. Every person or entity who leases or acquires an ownership or controlling interest in property within 10 miles of a protected facility shall file with the office of the attorney general, within one business day of closing, or, in the case of a lease, within one business day of the delivery of keys, access codes, or other methods of access to the premises, a notarized qualified renter/purchaser affidavit signed under penalty of perjury, attesting that the person acquiring an ownership or controlling interest, or leasing the property:

- (a) Is not a foreign principal or an agent of a foreign principal, as defined in this subdivision;
- (b) Has read and understands both the prohibitions in this subdivision and the penalties for violations of the terms of this subdivision; and
- (c) Is not prohibited from purchasing or leasing the property under this subdivision.

II. A failure to submit the qualified renter/purchaser affidavit to the attorney general's office does not affect the title or insurability of the title for the real property, or subject the listing, brokering, closing, or leasing agent to civil or criminal liability, unless the agent has actual knowledge that the transaction will result in a violation of this section so long as the agent has complied with the notice requirement in RSA 477:4-i. Nothing in this paragraph shall preclude the attorney general's office from initiating a forfeiture action in accordance with RSA 477:22-f.

III. Failure to submit a required affidavit under this section shall result in a \$500 civil penalty. Prior to an action against a natural person to impose the civil penalty, the attorney general shall give notice and provide 60 days to cure the violation. No opportunity to cure shall be offered to an entity in RSA 477:22-b, as knowledge of the filing requirement under this section shall be imputed.

Amend RSA 477:22-g as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

477:22-g Rulemaking. The attorney general shall adopt rules, pursuant to RSA 541-A, relative to:

- I. The contents and filing requirements for the qualified renter/purchaser affidavit; and
- II. Other provisions of this subdivision that the attorney general determines require administrative rules.

Amend the bill by inserting after section 1 the following and renumbering the original section 2 to read as 3:

2 New Section; Notification of Qualified Renter/Purchaser Affidavit Requirement. Amend RSA 477 by inserting after section 4-h the following new section:

477:4-i Notification of Qualified Renter/Purchaser Affidavit Requirement.

In any purchase and sale agreement, lease agreement, or rental agreement involving real property within 10 miles of a protected facility as defined in RSA 477:22-b, before signing an agreement to sell, transfer, lessee, or rent such real property the seller, lessor, or landlord, or the seller, lessor, or landlord's agent, shall provide written notice to the buyer, lessee, or tenant that the buyer, lessee, or tenant is required to file a qualified renter/purchase affidavit with the attorney general's office pursuant to RSA 477:22-d.

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.

SB 164-FN, relative to homeowners and prohibiting certain types of service agreements.
Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 4-2. Senator Ricciardi for the committee.

Senate Commerce
March 4, 2025
2025-0723s
06/02

Amendment to SB 164-FN

Amend RSA 356-A:16-a, I(b) as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

(b) "Residential real estate" means real estate consisting of not less than one nor more than 4 residential dwelling units.

Amend the introductory paragraph of RSA 356-A:16-a, II as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

II. A service agreement is unfair under this section if any part of the service subject to the agreement is not to be performed within 2 years after the agreement is entered into and has any of the following characteristics:

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.

SB 176-FN, relative to the state minimum hourly rate.
Inexpedient to Legislate, Vote 3-1. Senator Innis for the committee.

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

A roll call was requested by Senator Birdsell, seconded by Senator Avar.

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

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

Roll Call, Yeas: 16 - Nays: 8. Adopted.

EDUCATION

SB 97-FN, relative to intra-district public school transfers.
Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 3-2. Senator Sullivan for the committee.

Senate Education
March 4, 2025
2025-0735s
07/06

Amendment to SB 97-FN

Amend RSA 193:3, I as inserted by section 1 of the bill by inserting after subparagraph (i) the following new subparagraph:

(j) The school board of each school district shall adopt a policy addressing instances in which there are more requests to transfer to a school than there is ability to accommodate students based on teacher to student ratio and existing school capacity pursuant to subparagraph (e).

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

Senator Prentiss offered a Floor Amendment.

Sen. Prentiss, Dist 5
March 10, 2025
2025-0844s
02/08

Floor Amendment to SB 97-FN

Amend RSA 193:3, I(e) as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

(e) In determining whether to authorize a request to transfer to another school within the district, the superintendent shall, through a policy established by a vote of the school board, con-

sider whether the specifically requested school has the ability to accommodate the student based on teacher to student ratio and existing school capacity. In determining whether it is in the best interest of the student to change the student's school or assignment ***to a school outside the district***, the superintendent shall consider the student's academic, physical, personal, or social needs.

Recess. Out of recess.

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

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).

SB 203-FN, relative to administration of the education freedom accounts program.
Inexpedient to Legislate, Vote 3-2. Senator Abbas for the committee.

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

A roll call was requested by Senator McGough, seconded by Senator Avarad.

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

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

Roll Call, Yeas: 16 - Nays: 8. Adopted.

SB 205-FN, requiring schools to offer free or reduced cost breakfast and lunch to children who meet federal income eligibility guidelines.
Inexpedient to Legislate, Vote 3-2. Senator Ward for the committee.

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

SB 207-FN, requiring the department of education to administer the education freedom account program.
Inexpedient to Legislate, Vote 3-2. Senator Ward for the committee.

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

A roll call was requested by Senator Avarad, seconded by Senator McGough.

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

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

Roll Call, Yeas: 16 - Nays: 8. Adopted.

SB 208-FN, requiring local school boards and public libraries to adopt curation policies.
Re-refer to Committee, Vote 3-2. Senator Altschiller for the committee.

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

EDUCATION FINANCE

SB 293-FN, relative to using enrollment in Medicaid as a measure of eligibility for school lunches.
Inexpedient to Legislate, Vote 3-2. Senator Ward for the committee.

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

SB 295-FN, expanding the number of students eligible for education freedom accounts.
Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 3-2. Senator Murphy for the committee.

Senate Education Finance

March 6, 2025

2025-0793s

07/02

Amendment to SB 295-FN

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

AN ACT relative to education freedom accounts.

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

1 Education; Education Freedom Accounts; Definitions. Amend RSA 194-F:1, VI to read as follows:

VI. "Eligible student" means a resident of this state who is eligible to enroll in a public elementary or secondary school ~~[and whose annual household income at the time the student applies for the program is less than or equal to 350 percent of the federal poverty guidelines as updated annually in the Federal Register by the United States Department of Health and Human Services under 42 U.S.C. section 9902(2). No income threshold need be met in subsequent years, provided the student otherwise qualifies]~~. Students in the special school district within the department of corrections established in RSA 194:60 shall not be eligible students.

2 New Paragraphs; Education; Education Freedom Accounts; Application for an Education Freedom Account. Amend RSA 194-F:3 by inserting after paragraph I the following new paragraphs:

I-a. For the 2025-2026 fiscal year, and each fiscal year thereafter, total enrollment for the education freedom account program shall be capped at 10,000. However, in any fiscal year when student applications for the education freedom account program are equal to or greater than 90 percent of the total enrollment cap applicable to that fiscal year, the total enrollment cap shall increase by 25 percent. The department shall publish on its website information identifying the total enrollment cap when it is increased pursuant to this paragraph.

I-b. In any fiscal year, if student applications during the spring application window exceed the program cap, priority shall be determined in the following order:

- (a) A student currently enrolled in the EFA program;
- (b) A sibling of a student currently enrolled in the EFA program;
- (c) A child with disabilities as defined by RSA 186-C:2;

(d) A student whose family income is less than or equal to 350 percent of the federal poverty guidelines as updated annually by the United States Department of Health and Human Services under 42 U.S.C. section 9902 (2).

I-c. In any fiscal year, for students applying after June 30 during the fall application window, only students who meet the priority categories as defined by RSA 194-F:3, I-b(b)-(d) are eligible for pro-rated accounts. The scholarship organization shall prioritize current EFA students for renewal in the spring by reserving space for them under that year's enrollment cap before awarding new EFA accounts for fall applicants.

3 Education; Education Freedom Accounts; Application for an Education Freedom Account. Amend RSA 194-F:3, III(b) to read as follows:

(b) The student on whose behalf the parent is applying is an eligible student ***and meets the priority guidelines when applications exceed the enrollment cap.***

4 New Paragraph; Education; Education Freedom Accounts; Authority and Responsibilities of the Scholarship Organization. Amend RSA 194-F:4 by inserting after paragraph IV the following new paragraph:

IV-a. The scholarship organization shall establish and publicize no less than 2 deadlines by which application forms must be submitted.

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

2025-0793s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill:

I. Increases the number of students eligible for education freedom accounts by removing household income thresholds.

II. Removes certain conditions tied to education freedom account funds.

Recess. Out of recess.

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

Senator Perkins Kwoka offered a Floor Amendment.

Sen. Perkins Kwoka, Dist 21
 March 12, 2025
 2025-0963s
 07/02

Floor Amendment to SB 295-FN

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

AN ACT relative to education freedom accounts.

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

1 Education; Education Freedom Accounts; Definitions. Amend RSA 194-F:1, VI to read as follows:

VI. "Eligible student" means a resident of this state who is eligible to enroll in a public elementary or secondary school ~~[and whose annual household income at the time the student applies for the program is less than or equal to 350 percent of the federal poverty guidelines as updated annually in the Federal Register by the United States Department of Health and Human Services under 42 U.S.C. section 9902(2). No income threshold need be met in subsequent years, provided the student otherwise qualifies]~~. Students in the special school district within the department of corrections established in RSA 194:60 shall not be eligible students.

2 New Paragraphs; Education; Education Freedom Accounts; Application for an Education Freedom Account. Amend RSA 194-F:3 by inserting after paragraph I the following new paragraphs:

I-a. For the 2025-2026 fiscal year, and each fiscal year thereafter, total enrollment for the education freedom account program shall be capped at 10,000. However, in any fiscal year when student applications for the education freedom account program are equal to or greater than 90 percent of the total enrollment cap applicable to that fiscal year, the total enrollment cap shall increase by 25 percent. The department shall publish on its website information identifying the total enrollment cap when it is increased pursuant to this paragraph.

I-b. In any fiscal year, if student applications during the spring application window exceed the program cap, priority shall be determined in the following order:

- (a) A student currently enrolled in the EFA program;
- (b) A sibling of a student currently enrolled in the EFA program;
- (c) A child with disabilities as defined by RSA 186-C:2;
- (d) A student whose family income is less than or equal to 350 percent of the federal poverty guidelines as updated annually by the United States Department of Health and Human Services under 42 U.S.C. section 9902 (2).

I-c. In any fiscal year, for students applying after June 30 during the fall application window, only students who meet the priority categories as defined by RSA 194-F:3, I-b(b)-(d) are eligible for pro-rated accounts. The scholarship organization shall prioritize current EFA students for renewal in the spring by reserving space for them under that year's enrollment cap before awarding new EFA accounts for fall applicants.

3 Education; Education Freedom Accounts; Application for an Education Freedom Account. Amend RSA 194-F:3, III to read as follows:

III. The scholarship organization shall approve an application for an EFA if:

- (a) The parent submits an application for an EFA in accordance with application procedures established by the scholarship organization.
- (b) The student on whose behalf the parent is applying is an eligible student ***and meets the priority guidelines when applications exceed the enrollment cap.***
- (c) Funds are available for the EFA.

(d) A phase-out grant under RSA 194-F:10 is available to prevent a direct increase in the town's public education levy due to the loss of state funds a school would have received under RSA 198:40-a.

- ~~(d)~~ (e) The parent signs an agreement with the scholarship organization:

4 New Paragraph; Education; Education Freedom Accounts; Authority and Responsibilities of the Scholarship Organization. Amend RSA 194-F:4 by inserting after paragraph IV the following new paragraph:

IV-a. The scholarship organization shall establish and publicize no less than 2 deadlines by which application forms must be submitted.

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

2025-0963s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill:

I. Increases the number of students eligible for education freedom accounts by removing household income thresholds.

II. Removes certain conditions tied to education freedom account funds.

The question is on the adoption of the Floor Amendment.

A roll call was requested by Senator Perkins Kwoka, seconded by Senator Fenton.

The following Senators voted Yes: Watters, Prentiss, Fenton, Rosenwald, Reardon, Long, Perkins Kwoka, Altschiller.

The following Senators voted No: Rochefort, Lang, McConkey, Gray, Innis, Ward, Ricciardi, McGough, Avard, Murphy, Pearl, Sullivan, Birdsell, Abbas, Gannon, Carson.

Roll Call, Yeas: 8 - Nays: 16. Failed.

Senator Altschiller offered a Floor Amendment.

Sen. Altschiller, Dist 24

March 11, 2025

2025-0887s

07/02

Floor Amendment to SB 295-FN

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

AN ACT relative to education freedom accounts.

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

1 Education; Education Freedom Accounts; Definitions. Amend RSA 194-F:1, VI to read as follows:

VI. "Eligible student" means a resident of this state who is eligible to enroll, **and currently enrolled**, in a public elementary or secondary school [~~and whose annual household income at the time the student applies for the program is less than or equal to 350 percent of the federal poverty guidelines as updated annually in the Federal Register by the United States Department of Health and Human Services under 42 U.S.C. section 9902(2). No income threshold need be met in subsequent years, provided the student otherwise qualifies~~], **unless they already receive an education freedom account under RSA 194-F:2**. Students in the special school district within the department of corrections established in RSA 194:60 shall not be eligible students.

2 New Paragraphs; Education; Education Freedom Accounts; Application for an Education Freedom Account. Amend RSA 194-F:3 by inserting after paragraph I the following new paragraphs:

I-a. For the 2025-2026 fiscal year, and each fiscal year thereafter, total enrollment for the education freedom account program shall be capped at 10,000. However, in any fiscal year when student applications for the education freedom account program are equal to or greater than 90 percent of the total enrollment cap applicable to that fiscal year, the total enrollment cap shall increase by 25 percent. The department shall publish on its website information identifying the total enrollment cap when it is increased pursuant to this paragraph.

I-b. In any fiscal year, if student applications during the spring application window exceed the program cap, priority shall be determined in the following order:

(a) A student currently enrolled in the EFA program;

(b) A sibling of a student currently enrolled in the EFA program;

(c) A child with disabilities as defined by RSA 186-C:2;

(d) A student whose family income is less than or equal to 350 percent of the federal poverty guidelines as updated annually by the United States Department of Health and Human Services under 42 U.S.C. section 9902 (2).

I-c. In any fiscal year, for students applying after June 30 during the fall application window, only students who meet the priority categories as defined by RSA 194-F:3, I-b(b)-(d) are eligible for pro-rated accounts. The scholarship organization shall prioritize current EFA students for renewal in the spring by reserving space for them under that year's enrollment cap before awarding new EFA accounts for fall applicants.

3 Education; Education Freedom Accounts; Application for an Education Freedom Account. Amend RSA 194-F:3, III(b) to read as follows:

(b) The student on whose behalf the parent is applying is an eligible student ***and meets the priority guidelines when applications exceed the enrollment cap.***

4 New Paragraph; Education; Education Freedom Accounts; Authority and Responsibilities of the Scholarship Organization. Amend RSA 194-F:4 by inserting after paragraph IV the following new paragraph:

IV-a. The scholarship organization shall establish and publicize no less than 2 deadlines by which application forms must be submitted.

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

2025-0887s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill:

I. Increases the number of students eligible for education freedom accounts by removing household income thresholds.

II. Removes certain conditions tied to education freedom account funds.

The question is on the adoption of the Floor Amendment.

A roll call was requested by Senator Altschiller, seconded by Senator Avarad.

The following Senators voted Yes: Watters, Prentiss, Fenton, Rosenwald, Reardon, Long, Perkins Kwoka, Altschiller.

The following Senators voted No: Rochefort, Lang, McConkey, Gray, Innis, Ward, Ricciardi, McGough, Avarad, Murphy, Pearl, Sullivan, Birdsell, Abbas, Gannon, Carson.

Roll Call, Yeas: 8 - Nays: 16. Failed.

Senator Prentiss offered a Floor Amendment.

Sen. Prentiss, Dist 5

March 11, 2025

2025-0886s

07/02

Floor Amendment to SB 295-FN

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

AN ACT relative to education freedom accounts.

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

1 Education; Education Freedom Accounts; Definitions. Amend RSA 194-F:1, VI to read as follows:

VI. "Eligible student" means a resident of this state who is eligible to enroll in a public elementary or secondary school [~~and whose annual household income at the time the student applies for the program is less than or equal to 350 percent of the federal poverty guidelines as updated annually in the Federal Register by the United States Department of Health and Human Services under 42 U.S.C. section 9902(2). No income threshold need be met in subsequent years, provided the student otherwise qualifies~~]. Students in the special school district within the department of corrections established in RSA 194:60 shall not be eligible students.

2 New Paragraphs; Education; Education Freedom Accounts; Application for an Education Freedom Account. Amend RSA 194-F:3 by inserting after paragraph I the following new paragraphs:

I-a. For the 2025-2026 fiscal year, and each fiscal year thereafter, total enrollment for the education freedom account program shall be capped at 10,000. However, in any fiscal year when student applications for the education freedom account program are equal to or greater than 90 percent of the total enrollment cap applicable to that fiscal year, the total enrollment cap shall increase by 25 percent. The department shall publish on its website information identifying the total enrollment cap when it is increased pursuant to this paragraph.

I-b. In any fiscal year, if student applications during the spring application window exceed the program cap, priority shall be determined in the following order:

(a) A student currently enrolled in the EFA program;

(b) A student whose family income is less than or equal to 350 percent of the federal poverty guidelines as updated annually by the United States Department of Health and Human Services under 42 U.S.C. section 9902 (2);

(c) A sibling of a student currently enrolled in the EFA program; and

(d) A child with disabilities as defined by RSA 186-C:2.

I-c. In any fiscal year, for students applying after June 30 during the fall application window, only students who meet the priority categories as defined by RSA 194-F:3, I-b(b)-(d) are eligible for pro-rated accounts. The scholarship organization shall prioritize current EFA students for renewal in the spring by reserving space for them under that year's enrollment cap before awarding new EFA accounts for fall applicants.

3 Education; Education Freedom Accounts; Application for an Education Freedom Account. Amend RSA 194-F:3, III(b) to read as follows:

(b) The student on whose behalf the parent is applying is an eligible student ***and meets the priority guidelines when applications exceed the enrollment cap.***

4 New Paragraph; Education; Education Freedom Accounts; Authority and Responsibilities of the Scholarship Organization. Amend RSA 194-F:4 by inserting after paragraph IV the following new paragraph:

IV-a. The scholarship organization shall establish and publicize no less than 2 deadlines by which application forms must be submitted.

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

2025-0886s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill:

I. Increases the number of students eligible for education freedom accounts by removing household income thresholds.

II. Removes certain conditions tied to education freedom account funds.

The question is on the adoption of the Floor Amendment.

A roll call was requested by Senator Altschiller, seconded by Senator Fenton.

The following Senators voted Yes: Watters, Prentiss, Fenton, Rosenwald, Reardon, Long, Perkins Kwoka, Altschiller.

The following Senators voted No: Rochefort, Lang, McConkey, Gray, Innis, Ward, Ricciardi, McGough, Avard, Murphy, Pearl, Sullivan, Birdsell, Abbas, Gannon, Carson.

Roll Call, Yeas: 8 - Nays: 16. Failed.

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

A roll call was requested by Senator Murphy, seconded by Senator Birdsell.

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, Prentiss, Fenton, Rosenwald, Reardon, Long, Perkins Kwoka, Altschiller.

Roll Call, Yeas: 16 - Nays: 8. Adopted, bill ordered to the Committee on Finance (Rule 4-5).

ELECTION LAW AND MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

SB 213-FN, relative to absentee voting.

Ought to Pass, Vote 3-2. Senator Gray for the committee.

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

SB 214, enabling no-excuse absentee registration and voting.

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

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

A roll call was requested by Senator Birdsell, seconded by Senator Avarad.

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

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

Roll Call, Yeas: 16 - Nays: 8. Adopted.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

SB 130-FN, relative to insurance reimbursement for ambulance services.

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

Senate Health and Human Services

February 12, 2025

2025-0402s

05/02

Amendment to SB 130-FN

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

AN ACT establishing a commission to study delivery models for emergency medical services in the state of New Hampshire.

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

1 New Subdivision; Commission to Study Delivery Models for Emergency Medical Services. Amend RSA 153-A by inserting after section 37 the following new subdivision:

Commission to Study Delivery Models for Emergency Medical Services

153-A:38 Commission to Study Delivery Models for Emergency Medical Services.

I. There is established a commission to study delivery models for emergency medical services in the state of New Hampshire.

II. Notwithstanding RSA 14:49, the members of the commission shall be as follows:

(a) Three members of the house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives. At least one member of each party shall be appointed, and at least one member representing Coos County shall be appointed.

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

(c) A representative from the department of safety, appointed by the commissioner.

(d) A representative from the New Hampshire Fire Chiefs Association, appointed by the association.

(e) A representative from the New Hampshire Ambulance Association, appointed by the association.

(f) A representative from the Professional Firefighters of New Hampshire, appointed by the association.

(g) A representative from the New Hampshire Hospital Association, appointed by the association.

- (h) A representative from the New Hampshire Municipal Association, appointed by the association.
- (i) A representative from the New Hampshire Association of Counties, appointed by the association.
- (j) A representative from AHIP, appointed by the association.

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

IV. The commission shall:

- (a) Review the history and operation of emergency medical services delivery in New Hampshire and the current models adopted by municipalities in New Hampshire for emergency responses.
- (b) Review the systems response to both emergency calls for assistance, unscheduled emergency transfers and non-emergency transfers.
- (c) Identify the barriers to providing emergency medical services in New Hampshire, including access to EMS services in rural communities, interfacility transfers, and the provision of advanced life support.
- (d) Examine what part or parts of the state could benefit from regional emergency medical services models of care.
- (e) Identify recommendations to support and build sustainable emergency medical systems in New Hampshire.

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

VI. The commission shall report its findings and any recommendations for proposed legislation to the speaker of the house of representatives, the president of the senate, the house clerk, the senate clerk, the governor, the state library, and the New Hampshire Historical Society on or before November 1, 2025.

2 Repeal. RSA 153-A:38 and the subdivision heading preceeding RSA 153-A:38, relative to the commission to study delivery models for emergency medical services, is repealed.

3 Effective Date.

I. Section 2 of this act shall take effect November 1, 2025.

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

2025-0402s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill establishes a commission to study delivery models for emergency medical services in the state of New Hampshire.

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.

SB 249-FN, relative to the uncompensated care and Medicaid fund.
Ought to Pass, Vote 3-2. Senator Birdsell for the committee.

Senator Birdsell offered a Floor Amendment.

Sen. Birdsell, Dist 19

March 11, 2025

2025-0915s

05/09

Floor Amendment to SB 249-FN

Amend RSA 167:64, II as inserted by section 2 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

II. Beginning in state fiscal year 2026 and continuing every state fiscal year thereafter, the commissioner of the department of health and human services shall provide Medicaid payments, subject to the payment

conditions set forth in paragraph V, to the hospitals in an amount equal to 91 percent of the money collected pursuant to RSA 84-A in the prior state fiscal year. Payments to the hospitals shall be made in accordance with this section.

Amend RSA 167:64, IX as inserted by section 2 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

IX. The remaining funds available under this section shall be used to make provider payments and to support Medicaid services and Medicaid programs administered by the department in amounts directed by the budget in each year of the biennium, and from this an amount of at least 9 percent of the money collected pursuant to RSA 84-A in the prior state fiscal year shall be used to support Medicaid services and Medicaid programs administered by the department of health and human services with first priority to funding Medicaid service provider payments to community mental health centers, federally qualified health centers, substance use disorder providers, and other Medicaid service providers as determined by the commissioner of the department of health and human services.

Amend the bill by replacing all after section 3 with the following:

4 Committee Established. There is established a committee to study the Medicaid enhancement tax and disproportionate share hospital payments.

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

(a) Three members of the senate appointed by the president of the senate. One member shall be from the senate finance committee and one member shall be from the senate health and human services committee. Two members shall be from the majority party and one member shall be a member of the minority party.

(b) Two members of the house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives. One member shall be from the house health and human services committee and one member shall be from the house finance committee.

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

III. The committee shall:

(a) Study the Medicaid enhancement tax in the state of New Hampshire.

(b) Study disproportionate share hospital payments in New Hampshire.

(c) Study the relationship between the Medicaid enhancement tax and disproportionate share hospital payments in New Hampshire and review the history of this issue in New Hampshire.

(d) Study the feasibility of the state of New Hampshire moving to a directed payment plan for disproportionate share hospital payments.

(e) Solicit testimony from any person or organization with relevant information or expertise.

(f) Draft legislation to address any issues identified around the topics studied and reviewed by the committee. This draft legislation shall be included in the committee's final report.

IV. The members of the study committee shall elect a chairperson from among the members. The first meeting of the committee shall be called by the first-named senate member. The first meeting of the committee shall be held within 30 days of the effective date of this section. Three members of the committee shall constitute a quorum.

V. The committee shall report its findings and any recommendations for proposed legislation to the president of the senate, the speaker of the house of representatives, the senate clerk, the house clerk, the governor, and the state library on or before November 1, 2025.

5 Repeal; Effective July 1, 2027. RSA 167:64, II, relative to Medicaid payments to hospitals, is repealed.

6 Effective Date.

I. Section 5 of this act shall take effect July 1, 2027.

II. The remainder of this act shall take effect July 1, 2025.

2025-0915s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill revises the funding mechanism for uncompensated care costs under the state Medicaid program, including the distribution of disproportionate share hospital payments. The percentage of funds used for Medicaid payments to hospitals is repealed July 1, 2027. The bill also establishes a committee to study the Medicaid enhancement tax and disproportionate share hospital payments.

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 the Committee on Finance (Rule 4-5).

JUDICIARY

SB 144-FN, authorizing the state to report mental health data for firearms background check purposes and providing for processes for confiscation of firearms following certain mental health-related court proceedings and for relief from mental health-related firearms disabilities.

Inexpedient to Legislate, Vote 3-1. Senator Abbas for the committee.

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

A roll call was requested by Senator Altschiller, seconded by Senator Fenton.

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

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

Roll Call, Yeas: 16 - Nays: 8. Adopted.

CACR 8, relating to sheriffs. Providing that no person shall hold the office of county sheriff after he or she has attained the age of seventy-five years.

Ought to Pass, Vote 4-0. Senator Abbas for the committee.

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

A Roll Call is required.

The following Senators voted Yes: Rochefort, Lang, McConkey, Prentiss, Gray, Innis, Ward, Ricciardi, Fenton, McGough, Avar, Reardon, Murphy, Pearl, Sullivan, Birdsell, Long, Perkins Kwoka, Abbas, Gannon, Carson.

The following Senators voted No: Watters, Rosenwald, Altschiller.

Roll Call, Yeas: 21 - Nays: 3. Adopted by necessary 3/5 vote. Resolution ordered to Third Reading.

TRANSPORTATION

SB 151-FN, relative to accessible parking permit verification and fraud prevention.

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

Senate Transportation

February 19, 2025

2025-0497s

11/09

Amendment to SB 151-FN

Amend the bill by deleting section 4 and renumbering the original section 5 to read as 4.

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

Senator Gray offered a Floor Amendment.

Sen. Gray, Dist 6

March 11, 2025

2025-0913s

09/02

Floor Amendment to SB 151-FN

Amend RSA 265:69, I(j) as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

(j) In any parking place, whether on public or private property, specially designated for a person with a walking disability by means of a sign as required by RSA 265:73-a stating that the space is reserved for a

person with a walking disability or displaying the international accessibility symbol, unless that person has a special plate or placard issued or recognized pursuant to RSA 261:86 or RSA 261:88, and the person who qualifies for the plate or placard is being transported to or from the parking place. Notwithstanding the provisions of title LXII or any other provision of law, a person who violates the provisions of this subparagraph, ***except if subject to RSA 265:74, III***, shall be fined a minimum of [~~\$250~~] ***\$500 plus penalty assessment*** of which [~~20~~] ***50*** percent is payable to the town or city where the violation occurred;

Amend RSA 265:74, III as inserted by section 3 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

III. A person shall display a hanging windshield placard in such a manner that it may be viewed from the front and rear of the vehicle by hanging it from the front windshield rearview mirror of a vehicle when utilizing a parking space reserved for persons with disabilities. When there is no rearview mirror, the placard shall be visibly displayed on the dashboard. A motor vehicle operator with a valid placard who fails to comply with the terms of this paragraph shall not be subject to the penalty in RSA 265:69, I(j), and shall be fined no more than 5 dollars, of which 50 percent is payable to the town or city where the violation occurred.

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 83-FN, establishing an elderly, disabled, blind, and deaf property tax exemption reimbursement fund, authorizing video lottery terminals, renaming the lottery commission, and creating a voluntary statewide self-exclusion database.

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

Senate Ways and Means

March 5, 2025

2025-0773s

08/09

Amendment to SB 83-FN

Amend RSA 287-J:5, II as inserted by section 4 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

II. VLTs shall not accept a wager in excess of \$50.

Amend RSA 287-J:6, I as inserted by section 4 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

I. Each VLT licensee shall collect a sum equal to 35 percent of gross video lottery revenue for distribution under paragraph II.

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).

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.

EDUCATION

SB 33-FN, relative to the regulation of public school materials.

Re-refer to Committee, Vote 4-1. Senator Ward for the committee.

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

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

The following Senators voted Yes: Watters, Prentiss, Fenton, Rosenwald, Reardon, Long, Perkins Kwoka, Altschiller.

The following Senators voted No: Rochefort, Lang, McConkey, Gray, Innis, Ward, Ricciardi, McGough, Avard, Murphy, Pearl, Sullivan, Birdsell, Abbas, Gannon, Carson.

Roll Call, Yeas: 8 - Nays: 16. Failed.

Senator Ward moved Ought to Pass.

Recess. Out of recess.

Senator Avard moved to call the question.

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

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

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, Prentiss, Fenton, Rosenwald, Reardon, Long, Perkins Kwoka, Altschiller.

Roll Call, Yeas: 16 - Nays: 8. Adopted, bill ordered to Third Reading.

EDUCATION FINANCE

SB 296, increasing the percentage of nonpublic school scholarships awarded to students who qualify for the federal free and reduced-price meal program.

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

Senate Education Finance

March 6, 2025

2025-0794s

07/05

Amendment to SB 296

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

AN ACT relative to eligibility for education freedom account scholarships.

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

1 Taxation; Education Tax Credit; Definitions. Amend RSA 77-G:1, VIII to read as follows:

VIII. "Eligible student" means a New Hampshire resident who is at least 5 years of age and no more than 20 years of age, **or 21 if eligible under RSA 186-C:2**, who has not graduated from high school, and

(a)(1) Who is currently attending a New Hampshire public school, including a chartered public school, and for whom the adequacy grant in the next school year would be reduced if the student were removed from the average daily membership calculation, or who is entering kindergarten or first grade; or

(2) Who received a scholarship under subparagraph (1) or this subparagraph in the prior program year; or

(3) Who does not qualify under subparagraph (1) or (2); and

(b) Whose annual household income is less than or equal to 300 percent of the federal poverty guidelines as updated annually in the Federal Register by the United States Department of Health and Human Services under the authority of 42 U.S.C. section 9902(2). The scholarship organization shall verify eligibility under this subparagraph[-] ; **and**

(c) Who does not possess an education freedom account under RSA 194-F.

2 Taxation; Education Tax Credit; Scholarships. Amend RSA 77-G:2, I(d) and (e) to read as follows:

(d) At least **50** [40] percent of the scholarships awarded by the scholarship organization to eligible students as defined in RSA 77-G:1, VIII(a)(1) and (2) shall be awarded to students who qualified for the federal free and reduced-price meal program in the prior year.

(e) A student shall reapply each year for a scholarship. ***If during the reapplication process, a student who was awarded a scholarship for the previous year is deemed ineligible for the following year under RSA 77-G:1, VIII(b), the student may still receive the scholarship for the following year, deemed a probationary year. If following the probationary year, the student is again deemed ineligible during the reapplication process under RSA 77-G:1, VIII(b), then the student is ineligible to receive the scholarship that year and may reapply in subsequent years.***

3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.

2025-0794s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill:

I. Increases the percentage of nonpublic school scholarships awarded to students who qualify for the federal free and reduced-price meal program.

II. Establishes a probationary period for ineligible students to allow for them to receive an additional year of scholarship funding.

Senator Ward moved to Lay on the Table. Adopted.

ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

SB 236, relative to transferring control of the Electric Assistance Program to the department of energy. Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0. Senator Avarad for the committee.

Senator Watters offered a Floor Amendment.

Sen. Watters, Dist 4

March 7, 2025

2025-0826s

06/09

Floor Amendment to SB 236

Amend RSA 369-B:1, XIII as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

XIII. The commission *and the department shall* ~~[should]~~ design ~~[low-income]~~ *low-income* programs in a manner that targets assistance and has high operating efficiency, so as to maximize the benefits that go to the intended beneficiaries of the ~~[low-income program]~~ *low-income programs*.

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.

SPECIAL ORDER

Without objection, the following bill is Special Ordered to Thursday, March 20, 2025. Adopted.

TRANSPORTATION

SB 157-FN, relative to inspection and registration of certain fleet vehicles and necessary amendments and administrative rules regarding the state implementation plan.

LIST OF RULE 6-25'S FOR THE DAY

Senator Reardon: SB 83-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

CACR 8, relating to sheriffs. Providing that no person shall hold the office of county sheriff after he or she has attained the age of seventy-five years.

SB 33-FN, relative to the regulation of public school materials.

SB 44, relative to hand counts of ballots in elections.

SB 49-FN, establishing the crime of and penalties for unlawful use of unmanned aircraft systems.

SB 79-FN, enabling the use of self-pour automated systems by liquor commission licensees.

SB 103-FN-LOCAL, relative to the number of polling stations that are available for certain towns.

SB 130-FN, establishing a commission to study delivery models for emergency medical services in the state of New Hampshire.

SB 143, relative to the impaired driver care management program and recovery residences.

SB 148-FN, prohibiting those convicted of murder from financially profiting from the death of the victim.

SB 162-FN, relative to restrictions on acquisition of ownership, controlling, and occupancy interests in real property by certain foreign principals on or around certain military installations, and criminal penalties and civil forfeiture procedures for illegal acquisition.

SB 164-FN, relative to homeowners and prohibiting certain types of service agreements.

SB 179-FN, relative to the state council on housing stability.

SB 184, recognizing the second Thursday in October as children's environmental health day.

SB 186, relative to a portrait in the likeness of Senator Jeb Bradley at the state house.

SB 195, relative to the composition and duties of the New Hampshire advisory council on career and technical education.

SB 198, declaring the third week in September to be New Hampshire service dog week.

SB 206-FN, requiring public schools to adopt policies to limit the use of cell phones by students.

SB 209-FN, requiring schools to engage an owner's project manager for construction of school building aid projects at the time of application.

SB 213-FN, relative to absentee voting.

SB 215, requiring an unorganized town or unincorporated place to elect town officers for the purpose of conducting elections.

SB 218, relative to absentee ballot outer envelopes.

SB 221, relative to the verification of the checklist.

SB 232, clarifying certain net metering terms and conditions.

SB 235, enabling funds from the Pitman-Robertson Act to be spent by the fish and game department on threatened and endangered species in New Hampshire.

SB 236, relative to transferring control of the Electric Assistance Program to the department of energy.

SB 245-FN, prohibiting surprise ambulance billing and regulating ground ambulance reimbursement.

SB 251, establishing a commission to study the delivery of public health services through regional public health networks and the continued development of coordinated responses to public health incidents and emergencies in New Hampshire.

SB 294-FN, relative to lab fees for career and technical education courses.

SB 302-FN, requiring background checks for solid waste facility owners.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(The Chair recognized Senator Pearl.)

SENATOR PEARL: Thank you, Madam President. I would just like you all to know that this weekend is Maple Weekend. We're having an open house at our farm, as well as probably more than a hundred around the state. So, any of you would like to come, Saturday and Sunday, we have ours and would love to have you stop by. Thank you.

(The Chair recognized Senator Abbas.)

SENATOR ABBAS: Thank you, Madam President. There was a senior from Pelham High School, I just wanted to say her name is Liz Donovan. She was the, she's a wrestler. She was the New England champion. All of New England, she was obviously 4-0, but not a single point, scored on her. Congratulations to her for a job well done.

PRESIDENT CARSON: I'd like to remind everybody about the rule concerning electronic devices. It's kind of interesting standing up here. I can see everybody. There's a lot of folks that are on their phones. So I'm just going to read the rule again to just remind everybody that the use of electronic devices by senators, with the exception of state-issued devices, is prohibited on the Senate floor during session unless the Senate is in recess or otherwise approved by the Senate. So please, moving forward, I know it's tempting to look at your phone. But please, don't do that. It's a violation of Senate rules.

(The Chair recognized Senator Altschiller.)

SENATOR ALTSCHILLER: Yes, Madam President. Late Sunday evening, Stratham lost a very special person, Muriel Rubin, born on November 11, 1932, known to all of us as Mimi, passed away at 93 years old. Mimi and her beloved husband, the Honorable George Rubin, were my neighbors for 23 years. They adored each other. Mimi adored George and deeply loved her daughters and her grandchildren ferociously. At her service this morning at the State Veterans Cemetery, her granddaughter noted that she lived through International Women's Day because she was a feminist through and through. George served in the United States

Army for forty years and was deployed in multiple locations, the longest assignment being in Germany. And Mimi supported George, and she was a true patriot. She served alongside him. And when he retired from the service, they moved here to New Hampshire in Stratham. Mimi was stunning, most likely because she was genuinely a good person whose inner light shone so brightly. She gave generously to charity and lived to perform a mitzvah at every opportunity. When I was considering running for office 10 years ago, Mimi and George were my first kitchen cabinet. George served in the House as a rabble rousing Republican and Mimi as a staunch Democrat. I will miss hearing Mimi's opinions of the issues of the day. George and Mimi were married almost 71 years. Every morning, George would prepare Mimi's coffee and bring it to her. And she cherished this ritual and his morning kiss. Rest in peace, Mimi. May your name be a forever blessing.

(The Chair recognized Senator McGough.)

SENATOR McGOUGH: Thank you, Madam President. Just a short bit of personal privilege, if I would. I'd just like to wish you all a Happy St. Patrick's Day, which is Monday, and share a little bit of Irish history from our family. Eighty-nine years ago, in 1936, in the great flood of Pittsburgh, there was thirty-six people who were tragically lost, and thankfully, the fifteen members of my mother's family escaped with their shirts on their backs, all happy and healthy. But five billion dollars of damage in today's dollars were sustained in this great St. Patrick's Day flood, and by the grace of God, only thirty-six lives were lost. So every year, we remember those thirty-six lives and try to do a little bit of charity, and I urge you all to do the same and enjoy a very, very happy St. Patrick's Day and wear a little shamrock with pride, and hopefully, think of your favorite Irish joke or story or toast or something fun, and enjoy a Happy St. Patrick's Day.

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.