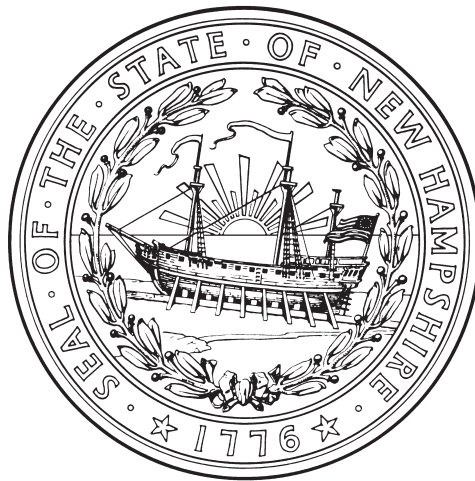


May 8, 2025
Nos. 11-12

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 – MAY 1, 2025 SESSION
COMMENCEMENT – MAY 8, 2025 SESSION**

SENATE JOURNAL 11 *(continued)*

May 1, 2025

HOUSE MESSAGE

The House of Representatives concurs with the Senate in the passage of the following entitled Bills sent down from the Senate:

- SB 16, requiring municipalities to post a copy of election return forms on their websites and in public locations.
- SB 22-FN, relative to disclosure of criminal history and criminal records to the child care licensing unit of the department of health and human services.
- SB 28, relative to workers' compensation claims involving emergency responders with acute stress disorder or post-traumatic stress disorder.
- SB 29, relative to membership, jurisdiction, and reports of the health care workplace safety commission and relative to health care facility reporting requirements under the workplace violence prevention program.
- SB 50, establishing a committee to study the regulation of private animal boarding facilities.
- SB 51, relative to decal fees and the statewide public boat access program.
- SB 68, adding a member to the governor's commission on disability.
- SB 77-FN, providing children in delinquency and children in need of services (CHINS) cases the identical types of psychological evaluations as children in child protection matters.
- SB 91-FN, allowing one-time special appraisals of residences located in commercial zones.
- SB 107-FN, enabling the state treasurer to invest certain fish and game funds.
- SB 133-FN, relative to the designation of emergency medical services performed by ambulance service providers as essential services.
- SB 146-FN, relative to medical examiner's certificates and medical certification of the death record.
- SB 160-FN, relative to the administration of raffles.
- SB 194-FN, (New Title) relative to qualifications for cosmetologists.
- SB 201-FN, relative to classified and unclassified positions.
- SB 229-FN, relative to the sale of uninspected bison, red deer, and elk meat.
- SB 236, relative to transferring control of the Electric Assistance Program to the department of energy.
- SB 278-FN, including qualifying convictions from other states as grounds for termination of parental rights petitions.
- SB 299, relative to penalties for contractors violating water pollution and waste disposal regulations.

HOUSE MESSAGE

The House of Representatives refuses to concur with the Senate in the passage of the following entitled Bills sent down from the Senate:

- SB 147-FN, relative to licenses to sell pari-mutuel pools on simulcast horse races.
- SB 192, establishing a committee to study enhanced coordination between county correctional facilities, the department of corrections, and the department of health and human services.
- SB 228-FN, relative to the limitations on community customer generators.
- SB 230-FN, (New Title) relative to electric utility restructuring and investment in distributed energy resources.

HOUSE MESSAGE

The House of Representatives has voted to Lay On The Table the following entitled Bill(s) sent down from the Senate:

- SB 67-FN, relative to workers' compensation and resolution of payment disputes.
- SB 169, requiring employers to provide certain information regarding cost sharing to employees receiving workers' compensation benefits.
- SB 171, relative to required pay for remote work.

May 5, 2025
2025-1912-EBA
09/08

Enrolled Bill Amendment to HB 73

The Committee on Enrolled Bills to which was referred HB 73

AN ACT relative to harm reduction, substance misuse, and the governor's commission on alcohol and drug abuse prevention, treatment, and recovery.

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 73

This enrolled bill amendment makes technical corrections and a grammatical correction to the bill.

Enrolled Bill Amendment to HB 73

Amend line 1 of RSA 12-J:2-a, I as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

I. For the purposes of this chapter, RSA 126-A, RSA 318-B:43, RSA 328-D:3, and RSA

Amend line 4 of RSA 12-J:2-a, II(d) as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

disposal kits, wound care supplies, medication lock boxes, education, testing, and

Amend lines 1 through 3 of section 3 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

3 New Subdivision; Substance Use Disorder Access Points. Amend RSA 126-A by inserting after section 105 the following new subdivision:

Substance Use Disorder Access Points

126-A:106 Substance Use Disorder Access Points Established.

Senator Avard moved adoption of the Enrolled Bill Amendment. Adopted in recess.

April 29, 2025
2025-1805-EBA
07/06

Enrolled Bill Amendment to HB 279

The Committee on Enrolled Bills to which was referred HB 279

AN ACT establishing a committee to study recipe and process approval for homestead foods.

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 279

This enrolled bill amendment makes a grammatical correction.

Enrolled Bill Amendment to HB 279

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

I. Current requirements under statute and rules for determining what recipes and

Senator Avard moved adoption of the Enrolled Bill Amendment. Adopted in recess.

May 5, 2025
2025-1913-EBA
05/08

Enrolled Bill Amendment to HB 307

The Committee on Enrolled Bills to which was referred HB 307

AN ACT relative to the food production area for homestead food.

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 307

This enrolled bill amendment inserts contingencies to incorporate the text of HB 150 and HB 304 of the 2025 general legislative session.

Enrolled Bill Amendment to HB 307

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

3 Homestead Food Operation; Definition; Text of HB 150 Incorporated. RSA143-A:12, I(a) is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

(a) “Homestead food operation” means a person who produces homestead food products, excluding potentially hazardous food, only in the home kitchen of that person’s primary residence in New Hampshire or a food production area in the person’s primary residence that has handwashing, equipment and food storage, food contact surfaces, general sanitation, and pet exclusion areas.

(1) As used in this subparagraph:

(A) “Handwashing” means an area with access to a hand cleaning station with hot and cold running potable water, soap, and sanitary hand drying provisions.

(B) “Equipment and food storage” means an area that allows for food, equipment, and utensils to be stored in a manner that prevents contamination.

(C) “Food contact surfaces” means all food contact surfaces in an area able to be cleaned and sanitized.

(D) “General sanitation” means an area maintained in a clean and sanitary condition, free from pests and environmental contaminants, whose floors, walls, and ceiling surfaces are durable, smooth and easily cleanable.

(E) “Pet exclusion” means an area that allows for the exclusion of pets during food production.

(2) A homestead food operation may use commercial kitchen equipment so long as the equipment is able to be cleaned and sanitized in the processing area. For purposes of this subparagraph, “commercial kitchen equipment” means the specialized tools and appliances used in professional kitchens to prepare, cook, and store food and that can withstand heavy use and high-volume cooking.

4 Homestead Food License; Text of HB 304 Incorporated. Amend RSA 143-A:12, IV(c)(2) to read as follows:

(2) Products made by nonexempt homestead food operations shall also be clearly labeled with the following statement: “This product is made in a residential ~~kitchen~~ **food production area** licensed by the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services.”

5 Contingency.

I. If HB 150 of the 2025 general legislative session becomes law, section 1 of this act shall not take effect and section 3 of this act shall take effect at 12:01 a.m. of the later occurring of either the effective date of HB 150 or 60 days after the passage of this act. If HB 150 does not become law, section 1 of this act shall take effect 60 days after its passage and section 3 of this act shall not take effect.

II. If HB 304 of the 2025 general legislative session becomes law, section 2 of this act shall not take effect and section 4 of this act shall take effect at 12:01 a.m. of the later occurring of either the effective date of HB 304 or 60 days after the passage date of this act. If HB 304 does not become law, section 2 of this act shall take effect 60 days after its passage and section 4 of this act shall not take effect.

6 Effective Date.

I. Sections 1 and 3 of this act shall take effect as provided in section 5, paragraph I of this act.

II. Sections 2 and 4 of this act shall take effect as provided in section 5, paragraph II of this act.

III. The remainder of this act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

Senator Avard moved adoption of the Enrolled Bill Amendment. Adopted in recess.

May 5, 2025
2025-1906-EBA
07/09

Enrolled Bill Amendment to HB 779-FN

The Committee on Enrolled Bills to which was referred HB 779-FN
AN ACT allowing the sale of rabbit meat in intrastate commerce.

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 779-FN

This enrolled bill amendment makes a grammatical correction to the bill.

Enrolled Bill Amendment to HB 779-FN

Amend RSA 143-A:16, II(c), as inserted by section 2 of the bill, by replacing line 2 with the following:

and food by providing his or her name, the name and the address of the farm, and his or her

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

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

HB 140-FN, establishing a voluntary "blue envelope" program for drivers with autism spectrum disorders and trauma and stressor-related disorders.

HB 211-FN, relative to the use of air rifles for hunting game.

HB 261, relative to election audits.

HB 267, relative to animal chiropractors.

HB 277, relative to the use of the term "foal" and "colt."

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.

HB 426, relative to property tax exemptions for charitable organizations for the prior tax year.

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.

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.

HB 517-FN, repealing certain outreach and marketing requirements under the Granite State paid family leave plan.

Senator Avard moved adoption of the Report of Committee on Enrolled Bills. 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 302, relative to enabling the state treasury to invest in precious metals and digital assets.

Senator Avard moved adoption of the Report of Committee on Enrolled Bills. 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 98, relative to professional limited liability company (PLLC) assistant manager status.

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

HB 167-FN, prohibiting the sale of ski, boat, and board waxes that contain intentionally added per and poly-fluorinated alkyl substances.

HB 192-FN, relative to recommendations of the joint committee on employee classification.

HB 231, prohibiting school district personnel from transporting students to medical or mental health appointments, visits, or procedures without parental consent.

HB 269, relative to the date for correction of the voter checklist.

HB 271-FN, relative to initial license requirements for licensed social work associates.

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

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

HB 507-FN, relative to the timeline for credentialing of mental health care providers.

HB 597, establishing a designated behavioral health access point within the enhanced 911 system.

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

Senator Avard 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 12

May 8, 2025

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

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

From our rugged mountains, to the peaceful lakes, to the shores that meet the sea. You've entrusted this land to us and with the people who call it home. Grant this Senate wisdom as they steward our laws and shape the budgets that sustain our communities. Help them to balance the needs of today with a care for tomorrow. May every decision made here today honor you. Lord bless this great state and all who dwell within it. In your mighty name we pray, Amen.

Senator McGough led the Pledge of Allegiance.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

(The Chair recognized Senator Pearl.)

SENATOR PEARL: Thank you, Madam President. It's a great honor today to be able to introduce some very special guests, many of which who live here in New Hampshire. We have the Director General Liao from Taiwan Economic Council in Boston and you have some other guests. Would you like to introduce everyone that's with us?

MR. CHIH-HENG LIN: Chih-Heng Lin from Bedford.

MS. YI-CHUN CHEN: Yi-Chun Chen from Bedford.

MS. PAMELA CHIANG: Pamela Chiang from Manchester, but I also work at Plymouth.

MS. HUI-YIN (INGRID) LIN: Ingrid Lin from Merrimack, New Hampshire.

MR. HERN CHEN: Hern Chen from Pelham, New Hampshire.

MS. SHIAW-LING CHIEN: Daphne Chen, from Windham

MR. SEN-WEN CHEN: Sen-Wen Chen from Windham as well.

SENATOR PEARL: Well it's great to have you all here in the New Hampshire Senate and we welcome you. I have drafted a State Senate proclamation to present to you certainly honoring all of the relationship between New Hampshire and Taiwan. It's a little lengthy so I will read it.

In the year of our Lord 2025 reaffirming friendship between New Hampshire and the Republic of China Taiwan and supporting Taiwan and international organizations. Whereas the United States and the Republic of China Taiwan share a most important bilateral relationship marked by a mutually beneficial partnership supported by our common values of freedom, democracy, rule of law and a free market economy and our countries now enjoy the strongest relationships ever and whereas May 20th of 2025 marks the second year of the honorable Dr. Lai Ching Te as president and Bi-khim Hsiao as vice president of Taiwan thereby demonstrating the vibrancy of Taiwan's democracy and whereas the United States ranks as Taiwan's second largest trading partner and Taiwan is the seventh largest trading partner of the United States in 2024 with the United States trade in goods with Taiwan totaling an estimated one hundred fifty eight point six billion dollars in 2024, which is a 35% increase over 2023 And whereas, New Hampshire-Taiwan bilateral trade reached 270.6 million in 2024 and New Hampshire exported to Taiwan 44.5 million dollars making Taiwan New Hampshire's 11th largest export market in Asia, a formal bilateral trade agreement between Taiwan and the United States would result in even greater New Hampshire exports to Taiwan and create more jobs for the people of New Hampshire. And whereas, Taiwan is a reliable partner and vibrant democracy in the world, making its inclusion in international organizations such as the World Health Organization and the International Civil Aviation Organization imperative for the best interest and safety of the international community. Now, therefore the New Hampshire Senate does hereby proclaim the support for Taiwan's participation in international organizations, signing a driver's license reciprocity agreement between New Hampshire and Taiwan and exploring ways for New Hampshire and Taiwan to cooperate on educational exchanges, including Mandarin language teaching and learning at the K-12 levels.

I will tell you, these folks are a great part of our community and it's awesome to have you here and we certainly appreciate your country thriving under the democracy that's thriving in your country and it's wonderful to have you here. So welcome and thank you.

DIRECTOR GENERAL LIAO: Thank you so much. Thank you.

SENATOR PEARL: Would you like to say a couple of words and address the Senate?

DIRECTOR GENERAL LIAO: Senate President Carson and all honorable Senators, good morning. It's truly a great honor to be here today to witness the placing of this proclamation. I think this means a great deal to the people of Taiwan, especially during the time when we are facing serious challenges from the authoritarian regimes. Taiwanese people, they are standing up to defend their democracy and their freedom. So thank you for your support and the friendship. This proclamation gives them more courage, more confidence so they can keep moving forward. Thank you so much. And also I'm very happy today to be here with some of our community leaders join me and there have been great bridges between Taiwan and New Hampshire and I look forward to working with you to further strengthen our relations. Thank you so much.

PRESIDENT CARSON: I'd like you to join me in welcoming our newest employee Karina Nicholas. Would you please stand. She's going to be working with the clerk's staff. We also have a familiar face. John Shortis, he's worked with us in the past, John would you please stand.

(The Chair recognized Senator Gannon.)

SENATOR GANNON: Hey, third graders from Danville Elementary, I'll see you on Memorial Day at your parade. Good to see you.

Without objection, the Clerk shall read the first complete House Message and thereafter only the title of each bill shall be read. Adopted.

HOUSE MESSAGE

The House of Representatives concurs with the Senate in the passage of the following entitled Bill, with amendment, in the passage of which amendment the House asks the concurrence of the Senate:

SB 161, making technical corrections to statutes governing out-of-state placements for children.
Senator Abbas moved Concurrence. Adopted.

SB 212, changing references from "votes" to "ballots" in the laws regarding elections.
Senator Gray moved Concurrence. Adopted.

SB 65-FN, relative to stormwater management for solar arrays.
Senator Avard moved Concurrence. Adopted.

SB 233-FN, relative to the grid modernization advisory group.
Senator Avard moved Concurrence. Adopted.

SB 93-FN, relative to licensed nurse assistant (LNA) licensure application materials.
 Senator Pearl moved Concurrence. Adopted.

SB 196-FN, relative to the exemption from competitive bidding requirements for certain state agency projects.
 Senator Pearl moved Concurrence. Adopted.

SB 285, relative to changing the term “physician assistant” to “physician associate.”
 Senator Pearl moved Concurrence. Adopted.

SB 18, permitting the commissioner of health and human services to authorize additional beds for a pediatric intermediate care facility under certain circumstances.
 Senator Rochefort moved Concurrence. Adopted.

SB 254, relative to controlled substance inventories and relative to surrogate parent criminal history records checks.
 Senator Rochefort moved Concurrence. Adopted.

SB 73-FN, relative to the operation of bingo games.
 Senator Lang moved Concurrence. Adopted.

FN REPORT FOR MAY 8, 2025

W/F	Bill	Title	R/C	Committee	Full Name
Waive	HB 473	criminalizing multiple forms of exposing children to controlled substances and allowing law enforcement to take a child into protective custody for screening and testing in an instance of suspected or actual criminal exposure to controlled substances.	Consent	CFL	Children and Family Law
Waive	HB 309	relative to making electronic rent payments optional.	Consent	COM	Commerce
Waive	HB 406	relative to the formation of fraudulent businesses.	Consent	COM	Commerce
Waive	HB 410	(New Title) limiting local authority to adopt restrictions on the building and development of residential properties.	Consent	COM	Commerce
Waive	HB 499	making technical corrections to certain insurance laws.	Consent	COM	Commerce
Waive	HB 694	requiring leases of land, buildings, or space by state agencies to be at fair market value.	Consent	COM	Commerce
Waive	HB 270	requiring the preservation of electronic ballot counting device memory chips.	Consent	ELMA	Election Law and Municipal Affairs
Waive	HB 284	requiring tax impact statements on municipal warrant articles.	Consent	ELMA	Election Law and Municipal Affairs
Waive	HB 672	to allow for off-grid electricity providers in New Hampshire.	Consent	ENR	Energy and Natural Resources
Finance	HB 690	directing the department of energy to investigate the state’s withdrawal from ISO-New England and other strategy decisions that impact ratepayers in relation to New England’s environmental policy.	Consent	ENR	Energy and Natural Resources
Finance	HB 707	requiring the department of environmental services to revise the rules for proposed new landfills.	Consent	ENR	Energy and Natural Resources

Waive	HB 70	relative to the use of electronic medical records.	Consent	HHS	Health and Human Services
Waive	HB 548	relative to licensing requirements for health care facilities that operate on a membership-based business model.	Consent	HHS	Health and Human Services
Finance	HB 732	to enhance informed consent and accountability in psychotropic drug prescriptions for children under Medicaid.	Consent	HHS	Health and Human Services
Waive	HB 66	relative to material subject to disclosure under the right to know law.	Consent	JUD	Judiciary
Finance	HB 514	allowing private persons to sue for violations of election laws.	Consent	JUD	Judiciary
Waive	HB 522	relative to the expectation of privacy in personal information maintained by the state.	Consent	JUD	Judiciary
Waive	HB 584	relative to public health, safety, and state sovereignty.	Consent	JUD	Judiciary
Waive	HB 666	relative to adding restitution payment for violations of the confidentiality of the library use records and adding library cards and membership status to the list of confidential matters.	Consent	JUD	Judiciary
Finance	HB 687	relative to class action settlements and consent decrees.	Consent	JUD	Judiciary
Finance	HB 328	establishing a charitable gaming oversight commission.	Consent	WM	Ways and Means
Finance	HB 696	exempting electricity generators from the utility property tax and including them under the statewide education property tax, and relative to communications services tax revenues.	Consent	WM	Ways and Means
Waive	HB 631	(New Title) permitting residential building in commercial zoning.	Regular	COM	Commerce
Waive	HB 566	requiring permit applications for new landfills to contain a detailed plan for leachate management.	Regular	ENR	Energy and Natural Resources
Waive	HB 190	relative to therapeutic cannabis possession limits.	Regular	JUD	Judiciary
Waive	HB 207	relative to repealing the prohibition on the possession or sale of blackjacks, slung shots, and metallic knuckles except by or to minors.	Regular	JUD	Judiciary
Waive	HB 380	relative to penalties for criminal violations of the therapeutic use of cannabis.	Regular	JUD	Judiciary
Waive	HB 381	exempting firearms and firearm accessories manufactured for in-state use only from the National Firearm Act.	Regular	JUD	Judiciary

Waive	HB 551	repealing the license to sell pistols and revolvers.	Regular	JUD	Judiciary
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Senator Gray recommends the waiver of referral to the Finance Committee, Senate Rule 4-5, for the following bills which are still in their respective committee:

Waive	HB 316	relative to reimbursement for ground ambulance services.		HHS	Health and Human Services
Waive	HB 377	relative to health care professionals administering hormone treatments and puberty blockers.		HHS	Health and Human Services
Waive	HB 701	relative to a health care patient's right to try certain emergency health care treatment options.		HHS	Health and Human Services

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 20, 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

COMMERCE

HB 309-FN, by Senator Innis

HB 499-FN, by Senator Birdsell

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

HB 223, by Senator McGough

HB 548-FN, by Senator McGough

WAYS AND MEANS

HB 328, by Senator Birdsell

SPECIAL ORDER

Without objection, the following bill is Special Ordered to Next Session. Adopted.

WAYS AND MEANS

HB 328-FN, establishing a charitable gaming oversight commission.

SPECIAL ORDER

Without objection, the following bills are Special Ordered to Thursday, May 22, 2025. Adopted.

COMMERCE

HB 499-FN, making technical corrections to certain insurance laws.

ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

HB 566, requiring permit applications for new landfills to contain a detailed plan for leachate management.

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.

CHILDREN AND FAMILY LAW

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.

Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 3-0. Senator Sullivan for the committee.

House bill 177 fixes clerical errors in the language of the original bill that was placed in the statute from last session after two bills were merged creating an unintended error. Amendment 1744s removes the word “or” and keeps RSA 193:27, VII in the statute for clarity.

Senate Children and Family Law

April 24, 2025

2025-1744s

11/08

Amendment to HB 177

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 Liability for Children With Disabilities in Certain Court Ordered Placements. Amend RSA 186-C:19-b, I(a) to read as follows:

(a) As used in this section “children in placement for which the department of health and human services has financial responsibility” means all children receiving special education or special education and related services whose placements were made pursuant to RSA 169-B, 169-C, [or] 169-D, or 193:27, VII, except children placed in a state facility for detained or adjudicated youth.

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

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

House Bill 178 deletes erroneously inserted language regarding child representation to clarify the statute’s meaning. There is no substantive policy change but rather removes redundant language in the bill.

HB 473-FN, criminalizing multiple forms of exposing children to controlled substances and allowing law enforcement to take a child into protective custody for screening and testing in an instance of suspected or actual criminal exposure to controlled substances.

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

House bill 473 expands the criminal statute which criminalizes exposing children to controlled substances. The legislation also allows law enforcement to take protective custody of a child for screening and testing for exposure to methamphetamine and other controlled substances not provided by a prescription.

COMMERCE

HB 242, relative to brew pub licenses.

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

At the request of the Liquor Commission, this bill would enable the holder of a brew pub license to hold an on-premises or off-premises license under certain conditions. There are individuals who currently own multiple restaurant locations, and they would like to distribute their beer to them. Under this bill, a brew pub licensee could self-distribute to no more than one on-premises license owned by themselves. A licensee could not hold any other type of manufacturing license.

HB 382, relative to authority for municipalities to regulate mandatory on-site parking requirements.

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

As introduced, this bill would have amended the amount of accessory parking that municipalities can require for residential units to one space. The Committee Amendment would replace the entirety of the bill by repealing the requirement that vehicle funding loan contracts have successive periodic payments that are substantially equal in amount. Different financing opportunities, such as Ford’s Flex Buy, have arisen that do not have equal payments over the life of a contract. Flex payment plans provide consumers with greater flexibility and options when purchasing a vehicle. Since these types of plans cannot be offered in New Hampshire, dealers are at a competitive disadvantage.

Senate Commerce
April 29, 2025
2025-1811s
09/07

Amendment to HB 382

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

AN ACT repealing the requirement that vehicle funding loan contracts have successive periodic payments that are substantially equal in amount.

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

1 Repeal. RSA 361-A:17, VI(c), relative to the requirement that vehicle funding loan contracts have successive periodic payments that are substantially equal in amount, is repealed.

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

2025-1811s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill repeals the requirement that vehicle funding loan contracts have successive periodic payments that are substantially equal in amount.

HB 406-FN, relative to the formation of fraudulent businesses.
Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0. Senator Fenton for the committee.

At the request of the Secretary of State's Office, this bill would establish a registry of registered agents for New Hampshire businesses, allow corporations to restate their articles of incorporation, enable them to verify and prevent fraudulent business formations, and create penalties for individuals who fraudulently formulate businesses. There have been instances where fraudulent businesses register a similar name to an existing business, and they use the address of the other business to open bank accounts or submit credit applications. This bill would allow the Office to remove filings in an expeditious manner instead of waiting a 60-day period for fraudulent businesses to be dissolved.

HB 410-FN, limiting local authority to adopt restrictions on the building and development of residential properties.

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

This bill would have prohibited the local adoption of extraordinary restrictions on residential property unless the restriction is narrowly tailored to serve a compelling government interest in public health or safety. In part, restrictive zoning has contributed to high housing costs and shortages. Given the passage of other housing legislation, however, the Committee felt additional time was needed to determine if this bill was necessary.

HB 437, providing specific curative measures for undischarged mortgages.
Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0. Senator Reardon for the committee.

This bill would establish automatic discharge periods for undischarged mortgages based on whether their term or maturity date is stated or not. Undischarged mortgages can lead to uncertainty after a buyer has already applied for financing, set up an inspection, and secured a closing date. A filing with the superior court is required before an obsolete mortgage can be discharged, which can cost between \$5,000 and \$10,000.

HB 694-FN, requiring leases of land, buildings, or space by state agencies to be at fair market value.
Ought to Pass, Vote 6-0. Senator Reardon for the committee.

This bill would require that property leased by state agencies are leased at a rate which would be considered a fair market rate, unless a sub-market rate is agreed to by the property owner. Often, the state forces terms on entities when they lease properties. Consequently, costs are shifted onto local taxpayers because the amount of the renewed lease does not cover the real cost of the property. This bill would only apply to lease renewals to help recalibrate lease payments if there is inflation or other emerging factors. In addition to the baseline cost of a building, the utilities and custodial services could be negotiated as well.

ELECTION LAW AND MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

HB 138-L, relative to tax impact notation on warrant articles with multi-year tax impacts.
Ought to Pass, Vote 3-2. Senator Lang for the committee.

House Bill 138 would require municipalities to provide an estimated tax impact statement for the first five years of any municipal financial contract before voters cast their ballots on its approval. The committee believes voters should have all of the available information when making long-term financial decisions. For this reason, the Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee recommends that HB 138 Ought to Pass.

HB 154, enabling voters to request to have their ballots hand-counted.
Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 5-0. Senator Long for the committee.

House Bill 154 would allow voters to request hand counting of their ballots. The committee amendment states that a voter requesting a hand count must then give the ballot to the person operating the ballot machine, who will place the ballot into the auxiliary compartment of the ballot machine for manual counting after the polls close. The Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee recommends that House Bill 154 Ought to Pass with Amendment.

Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs
April 29, 2025
2025-1828s
08/06

Amendment to HB 154

Amend RSA 656:42, XII as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

XII. Any voter may request to have his or her ballot hand-counted and the voter shall be instructed to hand the ballot to the election official manning the ballot machine, who shall place the ballot in the auxiliary compartment of the ballot counting device to be hand counted by election officials after the close of the polls.

HB 200, relative to the procedure for overriding a local tax cap.
Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 5-0. Senator Rochefort for the committee.

House Bill 200 would change the procedure for overriding a local tax cap. Currently, a three-fifths majority is needed to adopt a local tax cap; however, overriding this cap requires only a simple majority. HB 200 would amend this requirement to mandate a three-fifths majority for overriding the tax cap, providing a mechanism to address unforeseen expenses without undermining the purpose of the tax cap in controlling spending. The committee amendment allows the question to be presented on a single ballot. The Senate Election Law and Municipal Committee recommends Ought to Pass with Amendment on HB 200.

Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs
April 30, 2025
2025-1833s
07/05

Amendment to HB 200

Amend the introductory paragraph of RSA 32:5-b, III as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

III. The legislative body may override the cap by the usual procedures applicable to annual meetings of the legislative body, provided that: when a proposed appropriation will cause the amount of local taxes raised by the town or district to exceed the tax cap under this section or the total amount already raised and appropriated has caused the amount of local taxes raised by the town or district to exceed the tax cap under this section, voting on the appropriation question shall be by ballot, except in the case of a legislative body that uses an official ballot form of meeting under RSA 40:13 or under a charter adopted pursuant to RSA 49-D. If a 3/5 majority or the super majority as determined under a charter pursuant to RSA 49-D of those voting on the question vote "yes," the appropriation is approved. Only votes in the affirmative or negative shall be included in the calculation of the 3/5 majority or the super majority as determined under a charter pursuant to RSA 49-D.

HB 270, requiring the preservation of electronic ballot counting device memory chips.
Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 5-0. Senator Gray for the committee.

House Bill 270 would require the preservation of electronic ballot counting device external storage devices for the same period as other election documentation after an election. The committee amendment incorporates language requested by the Secretary of State to ensure that the statute is applicable to all of the technology used in our elections. For these reasons, the Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee recommends "Ought to Pass with Amendment" on HB 270.

Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs
April 30, 2025
2025-1834s
08/05

Amendment to HB 270

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

AN ACT requiring the preservation of electronic ballot counting device external storage devices.

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

1 Preservation of Election Material. Amend RSA 33-A:3-a, XXXVI and XXXVII to read as follows:

XXXVI. Elections-federal elections: ballots and absentee ballot applications, affidavit envelopes, [and] lists, **and electronic ballot counting device external storage devices**: by the town clerk until the contest is settled and all appeals have expired or at least 22 months after the election, whichever is longer. **Extra electronic ballot counting device external storage devices programmed for, but not used during the election are exempt from preservation.**

XXXVII. Elections-not federal: ballots and absentee ballot applications, affidavit envelopes, [and] lists, **and electronic ballot counting device external storage devices**: by the town clerk until the contest is settled and all appeals have expired or at least 60 days after the election, whichever is longer. **Extra electronic ballot counting device external storage devices programmed for, but not used during the election are exempt from preservation.**

2 Electronic Data; Electronic Ballot Counting Devices. Amend RSA 656:42, VIII to read as follows:

VIII.(a) Before each election, the vendor for any electronic ballot counting device shall provide the secretary of state with an exact electronic record of the data written to each [memory card] **external storage device** to be used in the election.

(b) Whenever the town or city clerk receives a programmed external storage device from the vendor, the clerk shall lock any programmed external storage device not inserted into an electronic ballot counting device in a safe and record the names of individuals that have access to such safe in the activity log.

[~~(b)~~] **(c)** The town or city clerk shall preserve each [memory] **external storage** device used at each election [until after the recounts for such election are complete and any and all legal challenges to the outcome of that election are adjudicated] **as provided in RSA 33-A:3-a or as directed by the secretary of state.**

[~~(c)~~] **The town or city clerk shall securely preserve each memory device used in any election as directed by the secretary of state.**

(d)(1) To help ensure that the counting device cannot be tampered with or improperly accessed, the town or city clerk shall employ electronic ballot counting device seals and seal the electronic ballot counting device in all places specified by the secretary of state in the election procedure manual published pursuant to RSA 652:22.

(2) The town or city clerk shall update an activity log supplied by the secretary of state to keep a record each time a counting device seal is broken and a new one installed, and the reason for which the seal was broken.

(3) No person shall break a counting device seal without the presence of 2 witnesses. Upon breaking such seal, the person responsible shall update the activity log, obtain the signatures of each witness, record the reason for breaking such seal, ensure that it is resealed with a new seal immediately, and properly record the new seal number in the activity log.

(4) Before the moderator places into service a counting device on election day, the moderator and clerk shall certify on the pre-election certificate required by RSA 658:32 all counting device seals have been maintained intact, and any seals which have been broken in accordance with this section have been appropriately resealed and the activity log properly recorded and signed.

(5) If, on election day, the moderator notices that any seal on the counting device appears tampered with or broken without an adequate record in the activity log, the moderator shall refrain from using the counting device in that election, and shall report the apparent tampering to the attorney general, the secretary of state, the town or city clerk, and the selectmen.

(6) The counting device and the activity log shall be subject to review by the attorney general or secretary of state at any time.

~~[(7) Whenever the town or city clerk receives a memory device from the vendor, the clerk shall break the memory device seal, insert the memory device in the electronic ballot counting device, and apply a new seal. The clerk shall lock any programmed memory device not inserted into an electronic ballot counting device in a safe and record the names of individuals that have access to such safe on the activity log.~~

~~[(8) Whenever the town or city clerk removes the memory device from the electronic ballot counting device, the clerk shall immediately return it to the memory card programmer or, if programmed locally, secure the device in a safe and reseat the empty memory device slot or port.]~~

(e)(1) The town or city clerk shall give public notice of the date and time of a pre-election test of the electronic ballot counting device and ballots.

(2) Upon receipt of the official ballots from the secretary of state, the town or city clerk shall remove the number of ballots needed to test the electronic ballot counting device from among the official ballots and keep them separate and secure from the remaining official ballots thereafter.

(3) The town or city clerk shall mark any ballots used for testing with the words "TEST."

(4) The town or city clerk shall mark the test ballots in such a way as to demonstrate a vote for each candidate on at least one test ballot, as well as votes for less than and more than the number of candidates that may be voted for an office, write-ins, multiple votes for a candidate who appears in more than one party column for the same office on a general election ballot, and ballots on which there are no votes. The clerk shall mark as many as possible of the combinations of choices that a voter may indicate on the ballot.

(5) The town or city clerk shall run each of the test ballots through the counting device in the following orientations: Top first with side one face up, bottom first with side one face up, top first with side one face down, and bottom first with side one face down.

(6) The town or city clerk shall count the votes marked on the test ballots run through the electronic ballot counting device and multiply the results by 4 to account for the 4 different orientations, and check these results against the tally from the electronic ballot counting device.

(7) If the electronic ballot counting device's tally does not match the count of the town or city clerk, the clerk shall notify the moderator, who shall order that the electronic ballot counting device not be used at the election.

(8) The pre-election test shall be completed no later than the Wednesday immediately prior to the election.

(9) The town or city clerk shall document the pre-election test by preserving:

(A) The test ballots.

(B) The count of votes on the test ballots made by the town or city clerk.

(C) The results from the electronic ballot counting device that was tested.

(10) The clerk shall test all electronic ballot counting devices and ***programmed external storage*** ~~[memory]~~ devices in the possession of the town or city.

(11) Prior to placing the electronic ballot counting device or any ~~[memory]~~ ***programmed external storage*** device into service in an election, the moderator and the clerk shall certify on the pre-election certificate required by RSA 658:32 that there is evidence that pre-election testing was conducted on each electronic

ballot counting device and each [memory] **programmed external storage** device in the town or city clerk's possession, and that these ballot counting devices and [memory] **programmed external storage** devices have passed the test. The moderator and clerk shall also certify on the pre-election certificate required by RSA 658:32 that all electronic ballot counting device seals are present, all seals have been maintained intact, and that any seals which have been broken in accordance with this section have been appropriately resealed and the activity log properly recorded and signed.

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

2025-1834s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill requires preservation of electronic ballot counting device external storage devices with other election material until the contest is settled and all appeals have expired or at least 22 months after elections, whichever is longer.

HB 284-FN, requiring tax impact statements on municipal warrant articles.
Inexpedient to Legislate, Vote 5-0. Senator Lang for the committee.

House Bill 284 mandates that municipalities provide tax impact statements for budgets and warrant articles. The committee believes the requirements in this particular bill are burdensome, particularly for school districts operating across several towns. Although the committee supports transparency, the challenges presented by this bill outweigh its advantages. For these reasons, the committee recommends Inexpedient to Legislate on HB 284.

HB 374, relative to local tax cap and budget laws.
Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 4-1. Senator Lang for the committee.

House Bill 374 makes important corrections and clarifications to the current statute concerning local tax caps and budget laws. It adds necessary statutory warrant article language, incorporates key statutory references, and changes the date the annual inflation index is applied from January 1st to October 1st. The committee amendment removes language that prohibited the legislative body from amending the question on the ballot. For these reasons, the Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee recommends Ought to Pass with Amendment for HB 374.

Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs
April 30, 2025
2025-1835s
07/05

Amendment to HB 374

Amend RSA 32:5-c, V as inserted by section 3 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

V. Voting on the question shall be by ballot, but the question shall not be placed on the official ballot used to elect officers, except in the case of a legislative body that uses an official ballot form of meeting under RSA 40:13 or under a charter adopted pursuant to RSA 49-D. Polls shall remain open and ballots shall be accepted by the moderator for a period of not less than one hour following the completion of discussion on the question. If a 3/5 majority of those voting on the question vote "yes," RSA 32:5-b shall apply within the local political subdivision beginning with the following fiscal year and for all subsequent years until it is **changed as provided in paragraph V-a or** rescinded as provided in paragraph VI.

Amend RSA 32:5-f, V as inserted by section 6 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

V. Voting on the question shall be by ballot, but the question shall not be placed on the official ballot used to elect officers, except in the case of a legislative body that uses an official ballot form of meeting under RSA 40:13 or under a charter adopted pursuant to RSA 49-D. Polls shall remain open and ballots shall be accepted by the moderator for a period of not less than one hour following the completion of discussion on the question. If a 3/5 majority of those voting on the question vote "yes," RSA 32:5-e shall apply within the school district beginning with the following fiscal year and for all subsequent years until it is **changed as provided in paragraph V-a or** rescinded as provided in paragraph VI.

ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

HB 404, relative to information on the hike safe card.

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

HB 404 updates the definition of “family” for the purposes of purchasing a New Hampshire Hike Safe Card. It includes domestic partners and their minor children, alongside spouses, minor children, and stepchildren already covered. The bill also clarifies that a family guardian and their ward are considered part of the family for the card’s purposes. Purchasers can obtain the Hike Safe Card online, with fees deposited into the Fish and Game search and rescue fund after deducting a transaction fee.

HB 504, relative to the state energy policy.

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

HB 504 revises New Hampshire’s state energy policy to emphasize affordable, reliable, diverse, and secure energy sources, prioritizing market and regulatory mechanisms. It encourages a broad range of technologies, including distributed energy sources and energy storage, while supporting customer choice. The bill aims to remove regulatory barriers to innovation, thereby enhancing the state’s energy independence and infrastructure. Additionally, the legislation seeks to balance market signals, consumer prices, energy reliability, and the financial stability of utilities.

Senate Energy and Natural Resources

April 29, 2025

2025-1813s

06/11

Amendment to HB 504

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 Public Utilities; Electric Utility Integrated Distribution Planning; New Hampshire Energy Policy. Amend RSA 378:37 to read as follows:

378:37 New Hampshire Energy Policy. The general court declares that it shall be the energy policy of this state to meet the energy needs of the citizens and businesses of the state at the lowest reasonable cost while providing for the reliability and diversity of energy sources; to maximize the use of cost effective energy efficiency and other demand side resources; and to protect the safety and health of the citizens, the physical environment of the state, and the future supplies of resources, with consideration of the financial stability of the state’s utilities. ***It is the policy of the sovereign state of New Hampshire and purpose of this chapter to use market and regulatory mechanisms to promote affordable, reliable, diverse, and secure energy resources for the public health, safety, and welfare of its citizens and its physical environment.***

I. New Hampshire shall promote the development of resources to achieve the purpose of this chapter, fostering a range of technology types, including reliable, on-demand, diverse, and firm energy resources, and distributed energy sources and storage capacities consistent with these goals, while allowing for customer choice.

II. New Hampshire shall promote the development of resources, tools, and infrastructure to enhance the state’s ability to ensure the state’s energy independence by removing regulatory barriers to innovation to ensure that the state can procure affordable, reliable, diverse, and secure energy resources, including energy generation combined with storage, and consistent with RSA 362-F.

III. New Hampshire shall allow market forces and market-based mechanisms to drive prudent use of energy resources. Government intervention to economically advantage one technology over another shall be time-limited, narrow, or necessary to achieve a specific policy goal.

IV. New Hampshire shall pursue energy conservation and efficiency according to market principles in order to address market barriers, as regulated by policies for the public good and public health, and focus on market transformation in accordance with cost-effective fiscal strategies as authorized by the legislature, and consistent with RSA 374-F.

V. New Hampshire shall maintain an environment that allows for accurate market signals while balancing affordable consumer prices, price stability, energy reliability, public health and safety, and the financial stability of utilities and energy suppliers.

VI. State regulatory processes shall balance economic costs with the level of review necessary to ensure protection of the state's various interests, and where federal action is required, New Hampshire will collaborate to encourage expedited federal review and action.

HB 627, relative to permitting the public utilities commission to approve new providers for the Lifeline program. Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0. Senator Rosenwald for the committee.

HB 627 allows the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission to designate new providers for the federal Lifeline program. Specifically, the Public Utilities Commission may approve any commercial mobile service provider or telecommunications company to receive federal universal service support. This authority is granted in addition to existing federal designations under 47 U.S.C. Sections 214(e)(1) and 214 (e)(2) and 47 C.F.R Section 54.201. The bill also authorizes the Public Utilities Commission to create rules to implement this new designation process.

HB 672-FN, to allow for off-grid electricity providers in New Hampshire. Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 5-0. Senator Pearl for the committee.

HB 672-FN establishes a new category of “off-grid electricity providers” in New Hampshire, defined as entities independently generating, transmitting, distributing, or selling electricity without connection to any existing electric transmission or distribution system, even for backup purposes. These providers must operate entirely separate from regulated utilities and cannot be located within or across any federal, state, or municipal roadways, rights-of-way, or state boundaries. The bill exempts off-grid providers from typical utility regulations under RSA Title XXXIV, unless they later connect to regulated systems or violate roadway or boundary restrictions, at which point they become fully regulated.

Senate Energy and Natural Resources
April 29, 2025
2025-1812s
06/08

Amendment to HB 672-FN

Amend RSA 374:3-c, I(a) as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

(a) “Off-grid electricity provider” means an entity, person, private company, electric cooperative, municipal agency, or otherwise, that engages in any combination of generating, transmitting, distributing, or selling electricity at retail to consumers; is not connected to any existing electric transmission or distribution system within the state for either primary or backup supply, operates independently of existing utilities and other regulated entities, is not located within or crosses any federal, state, or municipal roadway or right-of-way, or cross state boundaries. Off-grid electricity providers are not public utilities.

Amend RSA 374:3-c, III as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

III. At anytime, if an off-grid electricity provider elects to connect to any portion of an existing electric transmission or distribution system within the state for either primary or backup supply, locates within or crosses any federal, state, or municipal roadway or right-of-way, or crosses state boundaries, it shall cease being an “off-grid electricity provider” and immediately become subject to the provisions of RSA Title XXXIV.

HB 682, relative to the office of offshore wind industry, the offshore and port development commission, and the office of energy innovation.

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

HB 682 restructures New Hampshire’s approach to offshore wind industry development and energy innovation. It removes the office of offshore wind industry development from the office of energy innovation and repeals the offshore wind industry workforce training committee and offshore wind and port development commission. The bill transfers the Grid Modernization and Hydrogen Advisory Councils to the Office of Energy Innovation. It mandates advising state officials on clean energy resource development in the Gulf of Maine, including potential economic impacts and supply chain considerations. Additionally, the bill revises requirements for studies and mitigations associated with offshore wind development.

Senate Energy and Natural Resources
 April 29, 2025
 2025-1808s
 06/09

Amendment to HB 682

Amend RSA 12-P:7-b, II(b) as inserted by section 2 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

~~[(f)]~~**(b)** Advise the governor, state agencies, the public utilities commission, and the legislature on the development of clean energy resources in the Gulf of Maine, ***including if deemed necessary, assessment of port facilities, economic impact, supply chain analysis, and development of workforce***, and the purchase of power by New Hampshire public utilities from these resources.

Amend the bill by replacing section 8 with the following:

8 Additional Studies or Mitigation. Amend RSA 485-I:6, II to read as follows:

II. The coastal program in coordination with the fish and game department and other relevant state agencies shall determine, in consultation with the impacted communities, whether additional studies and/or mitigation are required under proposals for offshore wind development in the Gulf of Maine. ~~[Any required studies or mitigation shall be included in agreements with developers of offshore wind energy in the Gulf of Maine and the power purchase agreements for Gulf of Maine renewable energy resources.]~~

Amend the bill by replacing section 10 with the following:

10 Repeal. The following are repealed:

I. RSA 12-O:51-a, relative to the offshore wind industry workforce training center committee.

II. RSA 374-F:10, relative to the offshore wind and port development commission.

HB 690-FN, directing the department of energy to investigate the state's withdrawal from ISO-New England and other strategy decisions that impact ratepayers in relation to New England's environmental policy. Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 5-0. Senator Avard for the committee.

HB 690-FN directs the New Hampshire Department of Energy to investigate the potential withdrawal of the state from ISO-New England, focusing on strategies to protect ratepayers from bearing costs of other states' environmental policies unfairly. The investigation will assess the functions and responsibilities currently managed by ISO-New England that could be independently handled by New Hampshire. It will also evaluate the financial, operational, and reliability impacts of existing ISO-New England, including potential exit fees, duplicative costs, and economic efficiencies. Additionally, the study will explore federal and state legal barriers, necessary tariff changes, and alternative regulatory structures. Findings must be reported to the relevant legislative committees within one year, funded through a special assessment on electric utilities.

Senate Energy and Natural Resources
 April 28, 2025
 2025-1810s
 06/11

Amendment to HB 690-FN

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

1 New Section; Department of Energy Investigation. Amend RSA 12-P by inserting after section 16 the following new section:

12-P:17 Investigation. The department of energy shall conduct an investigation into the state of New Hampshire's withdrawal from ISO New England and other strategies to assure that New Hampshire ratepayers do not pay for public policy initiatives of other New England states, including environmental policies, in a manner that is unjust and unreasonable. It shall be funded by an assessment in accordance with RSA 365:37.

I. This investigation shall answer the following questions:

(a) What are the current rights and obligations of ISO New England? Which responsibilities, currently held by ISO New England, could New Hampshire meet on its own through state agencies, utilities, or otherwise?

(b) Have other states, or utilities in other states, or both, left or considered leaving ISO New England or any other regional transmission organization? What has been the result of such initiatives?

(c) What new capabilities would state government and/or utilities need to develop if New Hampshire were no longer participating in ISO New England?

(d) What are the costs and benefits to New Hampshire of leaving ISO New England? Would the state and its electric ratepayers suffer economically inefficient outcomes as a result, including exit fees, duplication of investments or costs, or operational redundancies?

(e) What effect would exiting ISO New England have on the reliability of the bulk power transmission system serving New Hampshire?

(f) What are the benefits to New Hampshire of continued participation in ISO New England? What opportunities exist to improve such outcomes should New Hampshire continue to participate in ISO New England?

(g) What impediments to ISO New England withdrawal exist as the result of federal law, state law, or other legal obligations?

(h) How can a regional wholesale electricity market balance differing state policy goals while ensuring just and reasonable outcomes for New Hampshire utility customers?

(i) What changes to existing ISO New England tariffs would be necessary in order to allow New Hampshire to withdraw from ISO New England?

(j) What obligations would New Hampshire, and entities operating in New Hampshire, incur under the Federal Power Act if New Hampshire were to withdraw from ISO New England?

(k) What alternative regulatory structures, beyond reliance on a regional transmission organization like ISO New England, should New Hampshire consider to assure that New Hampshire electric customers receive safe and reliable service at the lowest possible cost?

(l) Is the governance of ISO New England, including its board of directors as well as its stakeholder advisory body NEPOOL, sufficiently accountable to the public and adequate to assure that ISO New England is operated in the public interest?

(m) When operating independently of ISO-New England, what restrictions would be placed on the state by the Federal Power Act or principles of federalism? What powers are beyond the state's purview?

(n) What alternative regulatory structures could the state explore that would better allow it to serve reliable, affordable electricity to its citizens?

II. The report of answers shall be provided to the senate and house committees responsible for energy policy within one year of its passage.

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

HB 707-FN, requiring the department of environmental services to revise the rules for proposed new landfills. Re-refer to Committee, Vote 4-1. Senator Avarad for the committee.

HB 707 requires the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services to update its rules for new landfill siting to better protect public health, drinking water, and the environment. The bill establishes strict, site-specific setback requirements ensuring that groundwater contaminated by a landfill cannot reach drinking water wells or surface waters within five years. It mandates 24/7 on-site staffing, detailed hydrogeological testing, and minimum soil permeability standards beneath landfill sites. It also elevates the storm design standard to a 100-year storm event with a 50% margin of safety and prohibits landfill permits near certain airports, incorporating federal Ford Act standards. The bill aims to ensure DES prioritizes environmental safety and public health in future solid waste regulations.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

HB 70-FN, relative to the use of electronic medical records.

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

This bill prohibits health carriers from requiring that providers use electronic medical records. The Committee heard testimony that this bill is largely unnecessary. Additionally, while private payers do not require this, it is required for Medicare and Medicaid. The Committee recommends that this bill is inexpedient to legislate.

HB 126, relative to prescriptions for certain controlled drugs.

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

This bill clarifies exceptions to the 34-day limit on prescriptions for controlled drugs and permits a pharmacist to fill a prescription for a 92-day supply of injectable androgen under certain circumstances. The Committee believes it is best to consider this bill at a later time, and thus recommends re-referring the bill.

HB 358, relative to exemption from immunization requirements on the basis of religious belief.

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

This bill provides that a parent or legal guardian may claim an exemption from childhood immunization requirements on the basis of religious belief by providing a signed statement to that effect. The bill removes the statutory reference to a form used for such purpose. This bill is intended to correct an issue and reflect the original intent of previous legislation regarding religious exemptions by clarifying that the exemptions require no more than a statement from the parent or legal guardian and their signature. A committee amendment has been adopted at the request of the Department of Health and Human Services to specify that it shall be a written statement.

Senate Health and Human Services

April 25, 2025

2025-1753s

07/05

Amendment to HB 358

Amend RSA 141-C:20-c, II as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

II. A parent or legal guardian objects to immunization because of religious beliefs. ~~[The parent or legal guardian shall sign a form stating that the child has not been immunized because of religious beliefs.]~~ ***The exemption shall require no more information than a written statement that the child has not been immunized because of religious belief pursuant to RSA 141-C:20, II and a signature by the parent or legal guardian.***

HB 559, relative to staffing requirements in emergency medical transport vehicles.

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

This bill provides that not more than one emergency medical care provider shall be required to provide care to a patient during transport in an ambulance or other emergency medical service vehicle. The Committee heard testimony that ambulances can currently travel to scenes with one licensed provider, but two are needed to transport patients. Additionally, utilization data from when this was practiced during the pandemic under an emergency order shows that this was utilized by a very small portion of communities. The Committee does not think it is necessary to move forward with this legislation at this time because there is rulemaking capacity on waivers within the Department of Safety that can be utilized to address this issue on a case-by-case basis.

HB 732-FN, to enhance informed consent and accountability in psychotropic drug prescriptions for children under Medicaid.

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

This bill requires medical care providers to review FDA medication guides with the parent, guardian, or state-designated caregiver before prescribing a psychotropic drug for a minor under Medicaid. While the Committee agrees that communication with parents is beneficial and necessary, this information is already available online and being provided with such prescriptions at the pharmacy level. Due to questions remaining regarding the definition of psychotropic drugs used in the bill and the impact on the provider's role by this specifically applying to Medicaid patients, the Committee does not think it is best to move forward with this legislation.

JUDICIARY

HB 66-FN, relative to material subject to disclosure under the right to know law.

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

House Bill 66-FN sought to clarify who may submit an RSA 91-A request, and how such requests ought to be made and satisfied. Any individual may request access to public records should they do so during normal business hours and on the premises of the body in question. The Senate Judiciary Committee does not recommend passage given concerns surrounding the potential labor and monetary costs imposed on municipalities by HB 66-FN.

HB 514-FN, allowing private persons to sue for violations of election laws.
Inexpedient to Legislate, Vote 5-0. Senator Altschiller for the committee.

House Bill 514-FN would enable private persons to sue for violations of RSA 659. Under the bill, an individual, partnership, association, or political subdivision could petition the Department of Justice or Superior Courts for injunctive relief. A response would be required within five business days of the claim, or immediately, if made within 15 days of an election. The Committee does not recommend passage as the body unanimously determined the bill would exacerbate volunteer shortages, harming the administration of our elections.

HB 522-FN, relative to the expectation of privacy in personal information maintained by the state.
Inexpedient to Legislate, Vote 5-0. Senator Gannon for the committee.

House Bill 522-FN would require statutory authority for government entities to acquire, collect, retain, or use any personal information of individuals residing in the State from a third-party provider. Individuals would be entitled to seek damages up to \$1000 from aggrieving entities. The Committee does not recommend passage given concerns surrounding the costs and burdens posed to State Superior Courts by the proposal.

HB 584-FN, relative to public health, safety, and state sovereignty.
Inexpedient to Legislate, Vote 5-0. Senator Gannon for the committee.

House Bill 584-FN proclaims that the World Health Organization, United Nations, and World Economic Forum shall have no jurisdiction in the State of New Hampshire and provides that no policies may be implemented from the identified organizations by any public, or quasi-public entity in the State. Given that the identified organizations do not create policy for the State of New Hampshire nor its entities, the committee does not recommend the bill for passage.

HB 666-FN, relative to adding restitution payment for violations of the confidentiality of the library use records and adding library cards and membership status to the list of confidential matters.
Inexpedient to Legislate, Vote 5-0. Senator Ward for the committee.

House Bill 666-FN included library cards, and library membership status to the list of confidential matters in RSA 201-D:11. The Committee found that the penalties for violations of the law were disproportionate, and accordingly, does not recommend the bill for passage.

HB 687-FN, relative to class action settlements and consent decrees.
Inexpedient to Legislate, Vote 5-0. Senator Abbas for the committee.

House Bill 687-FN, The Class Action Settlement and Consent Decree Reform Act, provides that any monies which cannot be distributed to injured parties of a class action suit must be deposited into the State General fund, whether the injured parties remain unidentified or unable to reach. The Senate Judiciary Committee does not recommend passage of HB 687-FN on the basis that unclaimed funds are typically accounted for in a contingency amid a settlement.

WAYS AND MEANS

HB 696-FN, exempting electricity generators from the utility property tax and including them under the statewide education property tax, and relative to communications services tax revenues.
Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 5-0. Senator Murphy for the committee.

The committee amendment replaces the language of HB 696 with the similar language of SB 277, which removes the requirement that electric generators be subject to the utility property tax (UPT). Generators are no longer state regulated utilities. They are now considered manufacturers and as such should be paying the statewide education property tax (SWEPT), not the UPT. As amended by the committee, the bill honors payment in lieu of tax (PILOT) agreements until their expiration. After such time, the SWEPT obligation may be included in any new PILOT agreement or paid in addition to it.

Senate Ways and Means
April 30, 2025
2025-1844s
07/11

Amendment to HB 696-FN

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

AN ACT relative to the application of utility property taxes and statewide education property taxes to electric generating facilities.

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

1 New Paragraph; Taxation; Payment in Lieu of Taxes for Renewable Generation Facilities; Transition to Payment of State Education Property Tax. Amend RSA 72:74 by inserting after paragraph VII the following new paragraph:

VIII. In the case of an electric generating facility that is exempt from the utility property tax pursuant to RSA 83-F:1, V(g) and making payments in lieu of taxes to a municipality pursuant to RSA 72:74, if the payment in lieu of tax agreement was in effect as of July 1, 2027, then the facility shall not be liable for payment of the state education tax under RSA 76:3 until that payment in lieu of taxes agreement expires or until July 1, 2032, whichever occurs first. Once payment of the state education tax under RSA 76:3 is required, it may be included in a payment in lieu of taxes agreement pursuant to a new agreement reached under RSA 72:74, or be paid in addition to a payment in lieu of taxes agreement if the underlying agreement has not expired or been reopened and renegotiated. If, under RSA 76:3, the state education tax is paid separately from the payment in lieu of taxes, then the amount of the state education tax owed by the facility shall be determined by using the imputed value of the facility that is calculated and used by the department of revenue administration for purposes of equalization under RSA 21-J:3, XIII.

2 New Subparagraph; Utility Property Tax; Definitions; Exemptions. Amend RSA 83-F:1, V by inserting after subparagraph (f) the following new subparagraph:

(g) Property used for the purposes of generating electricity, except such property owned by entities as defined in RSA 362:2, I that are engaged in the distribution or transmission of electricity.

3 New Subparagraph; Taxation; Utility Property Taxation; Payment Forms. Amend RSA 83-F:5, V by inserting after subparagraph (b) the following new subparagraph:

(c) As of May 1 of each year the owners of property exempted from the definition of utility property under RSA 83-F:1, V(g) shall file a form, designated by the commissioner, that collects sufficient information so that the department can identify utility and non-utility property and maintain an inventory of assets that are and are not subject to the utility property tax. The form shall be signed by an authorized representative, subject to the pains and penalties of perjury. If by May 1 the taxpayer is unable to file the form required under this subparagraph, the taxpayer shall request an extension from the department. Such extension shall be valid only upon written confirmation from the department, and shall not exceed 30 days per request. No more than 2 extensions shall be granted in a given tax year.

4 Utility Property Tax; Exemption from Education Tax; Reference Added. Amend RSA 83-F:9 to read as follows:

83-F:9 Exemption From Education Tax. Persons and property subject to taxation under this chapter shall not be subject to tax under RSA 76:3; provided, however, that nothing in this chapter shall be construed to exempt such persons or property from local school, municipal, district, or county taxation under RSA 76, ***except as provided in RSA 72:74, VIII.***

5 Applicability. This act shall apply to tax periods beginning on or after April 1, 2028.

6 Effective Date. This act shall take effect July 1, 2027.

2025-1844s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill provides:

I. That an electric generating facility exempt from the utility property tax and making a payment in lieu of taxes to the municipality shall not be responsible for payment of the state education tax until such agreement expires or until July 1, 2032, whichever occurs first.

II. For calculation and payment of the utility property tax in future agreements.

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

Recess. Out of recess.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

(The Chair recognized Senator Pearl.)

SENATOR PEARL: Thank you Madame President. We have two regular advocates for policy here at the Statehouse in attendance today. Terese Bastarache and Julie Smith, they're both members of my community and I want to welcome you to the New Hampshire Senate.

REGULAR CALENDAR

COMMERCE

HB 631-FN, permitting residential building in commercial zoning.
Ought to Pass, Vote 5-1. Senator Innis for the committee.

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

HB 685, permitting in all residentially zoned areas by right the construction of manufactured housing.
Ought to Pass, Vote 5-1. Senator Murphy for the committee.

Senator Lang offered a Floor Amendment.

Sen. Lang, Dist 2

May 8, 2025

2025-2005s

07/06

Floor Amendment to HB 685

Amend RSA 674:31 as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

674:31 Definition. As used in this subdivision, “manufactured housing” means any structure, transportable in one or more sections, which, in the traveling mode, is 8 body feet or more in width and 40 body feet or more in length, or when erected on site, is 320 square feet or more, and which is built on a permanent chassis and designed to be used as a dwelling with or without a permanent foundation when connected to required utilities, which include plumbing, heating, and electrical heating systems contained therein. Manufactured housing as defined in this section shall not include campers or recreation vehicles as defined in RSA 216-I:1 or RSA 259:84-a; pre-site built housing as defined in RSA 674:31-a.

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.

ELECTION LAW AND MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

HB 107, relative to political advertising printed in newspapers, periodicals, or billboards.
Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 4-0. Senator Gray for the committee.

Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs

April 15, 2025

2025-1616s

05/11

Amendment to HB 107

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 Identification of Political Advertising; Rates. Amend RSA 664:16 to read as follows:

664:16 Identification of Political Advertising; Rates.

I. Political advertising printed in newspapers[;] **or** periodicals[~~;-or-billboards~~] shall be marked at the beginning [~~or-at-the-end~~] thereof “Political Advertising.” No person or business organization publishing a newspaper or periodical, operating a radio or television station, or selling billboard space shall charge an advertising rate to any candidate, political committee, party, or cause that is different from that charged to any other candidate, political committee, party, or cause.

II. Notwithstanding RSA 664:21, whoever violates paragraph I shall be guilty of a violation and the fine shall be no more than \$50. Any subsequent violation within a 5-year period of the first violation shall be subject to a \$1,000 civil penalty.

2025-1616s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill removes the requirement to mark political advertising printed in billboards as “Political Advertising.” It also provides for the issuance of fines for violations of such requirements.

Senator Gray moved to Lay on the Table. Adopted.

Recess. Out of recess.

JUDICIARY

HB 190-FN, relative to therapeutic cannabis possession limits.

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

Senator Abbas moved to Lay on the Table.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

(The Chair recognized Senator Birdsell.)

SENATOR BIRDSELL: I would like to welcome the Grinnell fourth-graders from Derry, New Hampshire, our biggest town.

Senator Abbas moved to Lay on the Table.

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

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

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

Roll Call, Yeas: 14 - Nays: 10. Adopted.

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.

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

Senator Gannon moved to Lay on the Table. Adopted.

HB 380-FN, relative to penalties for criminal violations of the therapeutic use of cannabis.

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

Senator Abbas moved to Lay on the Table.

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, Avard, Pearl, Birdsell, Abbas, Gannon, Carson.

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

Roll Call, Yeas: 14 - Nays: 10. Adopted.

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

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

Senate Judiciary

April 28, 2025

2025-1826s

06/05

Amendment to HB 381-FN

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

AN ACT limiting liability for certain design features of firearms.

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

1 New Section; Limitation of Actions Against Firearm Manufacturers. Amend RSA 507-D by inserting after section 5 the following new section:

507-D:6 Limitation of Actions Against Firearm Manufacturers.

I. In any product liability action involving a firearm, the manufacturer of the firearm shall not be liable in tort under any theory of defective product design, failure to warn, negligence, strict product liability, or any other claim based on the absence or presence of any of the following features:

- (a) A magazine disconnect mechanism;
- (b) A loaded chamber indicator;
- (c) Authorized user recognition technology; or
- (d) An external mechanical safety, including but not limited to a hinged, pivoting, or tabbed trigger safety.

II. Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit liability for a firearm manufacturer in cases where the claimant establishes that the firearm contained an actual manufacturing defect or failed to operate in a manner consistent with the manufacturer's express warranty or representations.

III. This section shall not alter or limit any other defense available to firearm manufacturers under RSA 507-D or any other applicable law.

IV. If any provision of this section or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the chapter which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, to the fullest extent permitted by law, and to this end the provisions of this chapter are declared to be severable.

V. In this section:

- (a) "Firearm" shall have the same meaning as provided in RSA 173-B:1, XI.
- (b) "Magazine disconnect mechanism" shall mean a mechanism that prevents a semiautomatic firearm from firing when the detachable magazine is not fully inserted in the firearm.
- (c) "Loaded chamber indicator" shall mean a mechanism or feature intended to indicate to the user that a cartridge is in the firing chamber of a firearm.
- (d) "Authorized user recognition technology" shall mean a mechanism, device, or technology applied to a firearm that prevents a user not authorized by the owner from firing the firearm.
- (e) "External manual safety" shall mean a manually operated mechanism that, when engaged, blocks the trigger from functioning.

2 Applicability. RSA 507-D:6 as inserted by section 1 of this act shall apply to any action filed on or after the effective date of this section. It shall not affect any claim that has been fully adjudicated, settled, or dismissed prior to the effective date of this section.

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

2025-1826s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill limits liability for firearm manufacturers regarding specific design features.

The question is on the adoption of the Committee Amendment.

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, 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.

Recess. Out of recess.

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

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, 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.

Senator Gannon moved to Lay on the Table.

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, 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.

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:

SB 93-FN, relative to licensed nurse assistant (LNA) licensure application materials.

Senator Avard moved adoption of the Report of Committee on Enrolled Bills. Adopted.

JUDICIARY

HB 551-FN, repealing the license to sell pistols and revolvers.
Ought to Pass, Vote 3-2. Senator Gannon for the committee.

Senator Gannon offered a Floor Amendment.

Sen. Gannon, Dist 23
May 5, 2025
2025-1907s
09/05

Floor Amendment to HB 551-FN

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

AN ACT repealing the license to sell pistols and revolvers and limiting liability for certain design features of firearms.

Amend the bill by replacing all after section 5 with the following:

6 New Section; Limitation of Actions Against Firearm Manufacturers and Federal Firearms Licensees.
Amend RSA 507-D by inserting after section 5 the following new section:

507-D:6 Limitation of Actions Against Firearm Manufacturers and Federal Firearms Licensees.

I. In any product liability action involving a firearm, the manufacturer of the firearm and any federal firearms licensee (FFL) who sold or transferred the firearm shall not be liable in tort under any theory of defective product design, failure to warn, negligence, strict product liability, or any other claim based on the absence or presence of any of the following features:

- (a) A magazine disconnect mechanism;
- (b) A loaded chamber indicator;
- (c) Authorized user recognition technology; or
- (d) An external mechanical safety, including but not limited to a hinged, pivoting, or tabbed trigger safety.

II. Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit liability for a firearm manufacturer or FFL in cases where the claimant establishes that the firearm contained an actual manufacturing defect or failed to operate in a manner consistent with the manufacturer's express warranty or representations.

III. This section shall not alter or limit any other defense available to firearm manufacturers or FFL under RSA 507-D or any other applicable law.

IV. If any provision of this section or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the chapter which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, to the fullest extent permitted by law, and to this end the provisions of this chapter are declared to be severable.

V. In this section:

(a) "Firearm" shall have the same meaning as provided in RSA 173-B:1, XI.

(b) "Magazine disconnect mechanism" shall mean a mechanism that prevents a semiautomatic firearm from firing when the detachable magazine is not fully inserted in the firearm.

(c) "Loaded chamber indicator" shall mean a mechanism or feature intended to indicate to the user that a cartridge is in the firing chamber of a firearm.

(d) "Authorized user recognition technology" shall mean a mechanism, device, or technology applied to a firearm that prevents a user not authorized by the owner from firing the firearm.

(e) "External manual safety" shall mean a manually operated mechanism that, when engaged, blocks the trigger from functioning.

7 Applicability. RSA 507-D:6 as inserted by section 6 of this act shall apply to any action filed on or after the effective date of this section. It shall not affect any claim that has been fully adjudicated, settled, or dismissed prior to the effective date of this section.

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

2025-1907s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill repeals the local licensing requirement for the sale of pistols and revolvers. This bill further limits liability for firearm manufacturers and federal firearm licensees regarding specific design features.

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: 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.

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

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

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

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

Roll Call, Yeas: 16 - Nays: 8. Adopted, bill ordered to Third Reading.

Recess. Out of recess.

WAYS AND MEANS

HB 247-L, authorizing municipalities to hold a referendum on whether to allow historic horse racing. Inexpedient to Legislate, Vote 3-2. Senator Lang for the committee.

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

CONSENT CALENDAR REPORTS REMOVED

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

COMMERCE

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

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

Senate Commerce
 April 30, 2025
 2025-1830s
 07/05

Amendment to HB 309-FN

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

2 Proceedings In Special Cases; Prohibited Practices and Security Deposits; Remedies. Amend RSA 540-A:4, IX(d) to read as follows:

(d) The provisions of subparagraph (a) shall not apply to any violation of 540-A:3, V-a, V-b, [or] V-c, **or X**.

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

Senator Innis offered a Floor Amendment.

Sen. Innis, Dist 7
 May 6, 2025
 2025-1972s
 07/05

Floor Amendment to HB 309-FN

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

2 Proceedings In Special Cases; Prohibited Practices and Security Deposits; Remedies. Amend RSA 540-A:4, IX(d) to read as follows:

(d) The provisions of subparagraph (a) shall not apply to any violation of 540-A:3, V-a, V-b, [or] V-c, **or X**.

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.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

HB 223, relative to licensing requirements for health care facilities that operate within 15 miles of a critical access hospital.

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

Senator Birdsell moved to Lay on the Table. Adopted.

HB 548-FN, relative to licensing requirements for health care facilities that operate on a membership-based business model.

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

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

LIST OF RULE 6-25'S FOR THE DAY

Senator Reardon: HB 242

LIST OF IN FAVOR/OPPOSITION FORMS FOR THE DAY

Senator Abbas: HB 631-FN: In opposition to the motion of Ought to Pass.

Senator Avar: HB 631-FN: In opposition to the motion of Ought to Pass.

Senator Avar: HB 685: In opposition to the motions of Ought to Pass and Ought to Pass with Amendment.

Senator Birdsell: HB 631-FN: In opposition to the motion of Ought to Pass.

Senator Birdsell: HB 685: In opposition to the motion of Ought to Pass with Amendment.

Senator McGough: HB 207: In opposition to the motions of Inexpedient to Legislate and Laid on Table.

Senator McGough: HB 223: In opposition to the motion of Laid On Table.

Senator McGough: HB 548: In opposition to the motion of Inexpedient to Legislate.

Senator Pearl: HB 631-FN: In opposition the motion of Ought to Pass.

Senator Pearl: HB 685: In opposition to the motion of Ought to Pass with Amendment.

Senator Ricciardi: HB 631: In opposition to motion of Inexpedient to Legislate.

Senator Ricciardi: HB 685: In opposition to the motion of Inexpedient to Legislate.

Senator Rochefort: HB 631: In opposition to the motion of Ought to Pass.

Senator Rochefort: HB 685: In opposition to the motion of Ought to Pass with Amendment.

Senator Rosenwald: HB 522: In opposition to the motion of Inexpedient to Legislate.

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

HB 138-LOCAL, relative to tax impact notation on warrant articles with multi-year tax impacts.

HB 154, enabling voters to request to have their ballots hand-counted.

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.

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

HB 200, relative to the procedure for overriding a local tax cap.

HB 242, relative to brew pub licenses.

HB 270, requiring the preservation of electronic ballot counting device external storage devices.

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

HB 358, relative to exemption from immunization requirements on the basis of religious belief.

HB 374, relative to local tax cap and budget laws.

HB 382, repealing the requirement that vehicle funding loan contracts have successive periodic payments that are substantially equal in amount.

HB 404, relative to information on the hike safe card.

HB 406-FN, relative to the formation of fraudulent businesses.

HB 437, providing specific curative measures for undischarged mortgages.

HB 473-FN, criminalizing multiple forms of exposing children to controlled substances and allowing law enforcement to take a child into protective custody for screening and testing in an instance of suspected or actual criminal exposure to controlled substances.

HB 504, relative to the state energy policy.

HB 551-FN, repealing the license to sell pistols and revolvers and limiting liability for certain design features of firearms.

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

HB 631-FN, permitting residential building in commercial zoning.

HB 672-FN, to allow for off-grid electricity providers in New Hampshire.

HB 682, relative to the office of offshore wind industry, the offshore and port development commission, and the office of energy innovation.

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

HB 694-FN, requiring leases of land, buildings, or space by state agencies to be at fair market value.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(The Chair recognized Senator Reardon.)

SENATOR REARDON: Thank you, Madam President. I rise today to honor John F. Swope of Concord who passed away on April 29th. John and his wife Marjory moved to Concord in 1963 just after his graduation from Yale Law School to begin his career at the United Life and Accident Insurance Company that later became Chubb Life and is now known as Lincoln Financial. John quickly rose through the ranks and within fifteen years he was the president of the company. He served and supported more civic and philanthropic boards than I can name here and was a mentor to a generation of business leaders. More than one person recalled John's steadfast belief that a company has a responsibility not only to its shareholders but also to its employees and to the community in which it exists. John imparted to future leaders a core belief. If you have the privilege and the opportunity to run a business in this state you have an obligation to step up and to have your business and you personally participate in meeting the needs of the community. John Swope exemplified that belief in everything he touched. It's no surprise he was one of the founders of Leadership New Hampshire. In the 80s, John's passion and vision helped guide New Hampshire PBS from a humble location beneath the bowling alley at UNH to the strong institution it is today. He served as president and

CEO and remained a steadfast presence on their board of directors. He brought that same leadership to the national level, serving on the national board of PBS, including as interim president and CEO in 1999. He was a longtime director and major supporter of the Currier Museum of Art, where he was the most senior trustee and chaired the campaign that led to its expansion. One of John's many passions was the arts here in Concord. He was a driving force, fundraiser and donor behind the creation of Concord's Capital Center for the Arts and later the Bank of New Hampshire stage. The current director of the Capital Center said, it would not exist, but for John Swope. His early support quite literally saved the center from the wrecking ball in the 1970s. In 2011, John donated 77 acres of land in memory of his late wife Marjory, herself a Concord treasurer, creating Marjory Swope Park and Trails, a gift to the city that will benefit generations to come. Those who knew and spent time with John often spoke of his dry and witty sense of humor, no matter how serious the situation John always had a quip. He was a kind and generous man, a business leader who understood the power of mentoring and the value of community culture in the arts. Not many executives of large companies spend their entire career in one town and get involved with the intensity that John did, but Concord and New Hampshire as a whole are the beneficiaries of that commitment. We will miss John Swope and are deeply grateful for the remarkable legacy he leaves behind. Thank you.

(The Chair recognized Senator Birdsell.)

SENATOR BIRDSELL: Madam President. and I just want to let everyone know that there has been white smoke coming from the Sistine Chapel. We have no idea who it is yet. He will be coming off to the podium soon. So we have a pope.

(The Chair recognized Senator Innis.)

SENATOR INNIS: Thank you Madam President. Just an announcement. This is Small Business Week and we have a lot of small business owners here in the chamber. They'll clean up after you. They'll feed you. They'll transport you. But I want to encourage everyone, maybe spend a little less on Amazon. A little more in your community whether it's Main Street in Concord or Main Street in your town. Support not just the small businesses but your neighbors who own them. Thank you Madam President.

(The Chair recognized Senator Pearl.)

SENATOR PEARL: Thank you, Madam President. Personal Privilege if I may. I want to thank all of you, as you know, my wife had a little medical issue last week as we were coming into the Senate session, and she ended up being hospitalized for four days with a severe case of diverticulitis, but she came home Sunday, and she's doing great. And with thanks to all of you, the support that I received from many of you who reached out personally asking how she was doing, and many members of the community, it's just nice to know we have a big family. I always refer to you as my extended family, and I feel that way about it, so thank you for your support.

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.