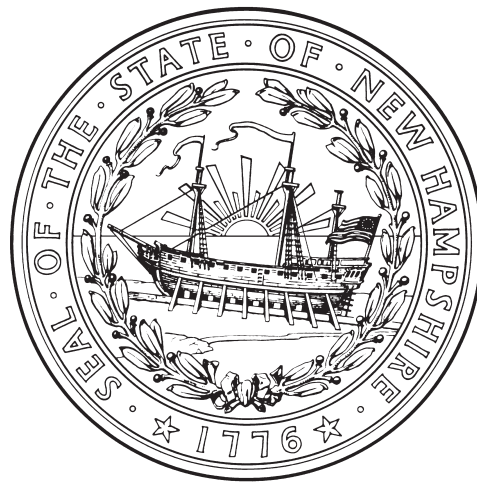


May 15, 2025
Nos. 12-13

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 8, 2025 SESSION
COMMENCEMENT – MAY 15, 2025 SESSION**

SENATE JOURNAL 12 *(continued)*

May 8, 2025

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

SB 184, recognizing the second Thursday in October as children's environmental health day.

SB 217, relative to public notice of historic tax rates and tax impacts of proposed projects.

SB 225-FN-LOCAL, requiring public notice before re-assessment of property values for local tax purposes.

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

HOUSE MESSAGE

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

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

HB 87-FN, prohibiting the posting of land not owned by the poster.

HB 92, (New Title) requiring recusal of members of zoning boards of adjustment and planning boards in certain circumstances.

HB 110, authorizing counties to establish revolving fund accounts.

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

HB 134, relative to the state building code.

HB 179-FN, relative to hazardous waste accident fees.

HB 213, relative to wage garnishment for child support.

HB 214-FN, (New Title) relative to the regulation of recreational therapists and respiratory care practitioners and relative to delaying the effective dates of various new procedures for criminal history records checks.

HB 265, (New Title) requiring that a public body's meeting minutes include start and end times of the meeting and the printed name of the recording secretary.

HB 469, relative to membership of the public deposit investment pool advisory committee.

HOUSE MESSAGE

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

SB 31-FN, establishing an apprentice guide license.

SB 42, relative to notice of death affidavits.

SB 92-FN, relative to the collection of birth worksheet information.

SB 140-FN, establishing a domestic violence fatality review committee.

SB 172, banning certain contract provisions from being enforced against advanced practice registered nurses.

SB 173, relative to residential property subject to housing covenants under the low income housing tax credit program.

SB 179-FN, (New Title) relative to the state council on housing stability.

SB 190, relative to the state health assessment and state health improvement plan advisory council and the commission on the interdisciplinary primary care workforce.

SB 248, establishing a committee to study palliative and hospice care in New Hampshire.

SB 250, relative to pharmacist administration of long-acting injectable drugs.

SB 252, relative to criteria for providing certain medical care through telemedicine.

SB 262-FN, relative to the penalty for trafficking in persons under 18 years of age.

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

HB 307, relative to the food production area for homestead food.

Senator Avarad 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 120, relative to transferring statutory authority from the department of education to the department of military affairs and veterans services regarding educational support services.

HB 165-FN, relative to the maximum amount of disaster relief funding provided to municipalities after a natural disaster.

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

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

HB 294, relative to the processing of absentee ballots.

HB 327-FN, relative to filing for office and witnessing affidavits.

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

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

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

HB 455, relative to reports by the department of health and human services regarding Medicaid enhancement for children and pregnant women.

HB 777, codifying the law enforcement accreditation commission.

HB 779-FN, allowing the sale of rabbit meat in intrastate commerce.

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

Out of Recess. Call the Senate to Order.

MOTION TO ADJOURN FROM LATE SESSION

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

Adopted. Adjournment from the Late Session.

SENATE JOURNAL 13

May 15, 2025

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

Father Dimitrios Costarakis, offered the following prayer:

If we can please pray the Lord's Prayer.

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil for thine is the kingdom the power and the glory of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit now and forever into the ages of ages. Amen.

Senator Rosenwald led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Senator Avarad is excused.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

(The Chair recognized Senator Ricciardi.)

SENATOR RICCIARDI: Thank you. Good morning, everyone. I'd love our guests to come forward and be up here with me. I'd like to mention that we have His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios of Boston. Welcome. Please come forward. We have the Honorable Symeon Tegos, Council General of Greece in Boston. We have the Honorable Senator Lou Rapatikis, President of the World Hellenic Inner Parliament. We have the Regional Commander for the Archons of the Patriarchate, Costa Sideridis. Christos Chrisafides, Archon of the Patriarchate. Marie MacArthur, St. George Greek Orthodox Cathedral. Father Andrew Otto, Assumption Greek Orthodox Church. Tim Giotis, St. George Greek Orthodox Cathedral. Jim Lalopoulos, St. George Greek Orthodox Cathedral. Dick Anagnost, Demetria his wife. Barbara Christofides. We welcome all of you. And I can't forget George Copadis, he is our Commissioner of the New Hampshire Employment Security. How could I forget you? And Commissioner of Education, Frank Edelblut. So we have a wonderful proclamation. This is a really big day for the Greek community. Before I present the proclamation, I'd like to say a few words. So to help you all understand what this day truly means. So Madam President, fellow Senators and honored guests, as someone of Greek heritage and a Greek Orthodox Christian, this moment means a great deal to me. This isn't just a ceremonial proclamation, it's a statement of principle, a stand for religious freedom, human rights, dignity and the right for all people to worship without fear or discrimination. For those who may not be familiar, the economical patriarch located in Constantinople, Turkey is the spiritual center for over 300 million Orthodox Christians all around the world. It has stood for nearly 2,000 years, a symbol of faith, resilience and peace. It is one of the oldest continuous functioning religious institutions in the world. Today it is led by his all-holiness, Patriarch Bartholomew, a man of deep faith who has dedicated his life to building bridges among people of all faiths. He has received the Congressional Gold Medal for his efforts to bring together leaders of all Christian, Jewish, and Muslim faiths in the name of peace, tolerance, and mutual understanding. His leadership has inspired unity. And yet, the very church he leads faces discrimination, threats, and unjust restrictions. The Turkish government refuses to recognize the patriarch's international status. The government has closed the historical Halkiki Seminary, a historical theological school that once trained future leaders of our faith. It has restricted and limited the church's ability to choose its own leaders. It has confiscated church property, imposed harsh and unfair taxes on charities, like the Baluki Hospital, which serves the elderly, all because of their Orthodox Christian faith. This is not just a Greek issue. It's not just a religious issue. It is a human rights issue. If we believe in freedom of all religion for all, then we must speak out when that freedom is denied. With this proclamation, New Hampshire stands in solidarity with voices around the world, urging the government of Turkey to restore religious freedom, to reopen the seminary, to stop interfering in church affairs, and to respect the rights of one of the world's oldest religious institutions. As a baptized member of the Greek Orthodox Cathedral, I carry this responsibility with love and conviction. And as an American and an elected member of this great body, I believe it is our duty to speak out when those who seek peace are met with injustice. And with that, I would love to give you the proclamation. His Eminence. We can hold it and take a little picture if that's okay. Thank you. And a couple other announcements. I want to tell you that stay tuned for next session because I'm going to be doing legislation that will have New Hampshire become part of the Trade Council with Greece. And we have a staff member that is here from Governor Pappas's office, and he would like to say a few words if you'd like to come up.

JAMES BEAUDRY: Thank you, everyone. Obviously, I'm not Congressman Pappas, but I'll have to make do with just me. I have a letter from the Congressman that he would like me to share with you. Dear honorable members of the New Hampshire Senate and friends, thank you so much for inviting me to today's ceremony. While I regret that I cannot be with you all here in person, I applaud the New Hampshire Senate for keeping this issue alive and reminding us of the struggle of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the Orthodox Christian Church continue to suffer under the repressive policies of the Turkish government. The Orthodox Christian community has existed in what is modern-day Turkey for thousands of years. As a key leader of the Church and in promoting generations of religious coexistence, the Ecumenical Patriarchate serves as a religious, political, communal, and international leader for both Christians and non-Christians alike, preaching religious tolerance, condemning extremists, and helping to protect and celebrate the Orthodox Christian community across the globe, including more than 2 million members in the United States. Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, like his predecessors since 1543, continued to reside in Istanbul, fighting to protect the Church's community in Turkey and traveling across the world to defend the religious freedom of the Church and religions apart from his own. Despite the Church's long history and global reach, however, for decades, the Turkish government has systematically upended the practice of religious tolerance and acceptance for Orthodox Christians that live and practice their faith within Turkey. And these discriminatory policies reverberate to members of the Church outside the country's borders as well. Turkey's actions against the domestic and global Orthodox Christian community include maintaining a decades-long prohibition on the operation of theological school in Halki, preventing the Church from maintaining new generations of Orthodox Christian clergy out of this historic site. It requires any individual to hold the office of Ecumenical Patriarchate to be a Turkish national, despite generations of

discriminatory policies that have shrunk the once vibrant Turkish community of Orthodox Christians in the area to less than 3,000 across the country today. Turkey has implemented policies to further erode the Church's institutions and Orthodox Christians from practicing their faith by confiscating the Ecumenical Patriarchate's property, placing a retroactive tax on the church's charities and diminishing the community's long-standing presence by defining the church as a minority religion. As a proud Greek-American and a co-chair of the Hellenic Caucus, I have met Ecumenical Patriarchate several times and find myself continuously inspired by the Patriarchate's long commitment to the church. Leadership promoting religious coexistence and understanding and fighting for religious freedom with and without the church. I support this important resolution and thank the New Hampshire Senate for considering it. It endorses a simple idea that all nations should uphold and safeguard religious and human rights for all, that this freedom should extend to empowering a faith's adherents to follow their religion and its leaders to build and strengthen their communities, and that states that profess to respecting those rights cannot simultaneously discriminate against and systematically undermine the leader of the faith and its ability to function. Thank you again to the New Hampshire Senate for considering this important historical resolution, and I look forward to continuing my work in Congress to ensure religious freedom both at home and abroad.

Recess. Out of recess.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

(The Chair recognized Senator Watters.)

SENATOR WATTERS: Thank you, Madam President, colleagues. It's my great honor to introduce the retired Dover police officer, Michelle Murch, who also served in the Attorney General's Drug Task Force, but I especially want to introduce her because she was the head of the Dover Mounted Patrol, and I can't quite see if the retired other officer, CJ the horse, is up there, maybe quite naked, but I understand age 22 that CJ is a group two member, okay, so let's remember retirement benefits for the horses as well, but welcome Michelle.

(The Chair recognized Senator Abbas.)

SENATOR ABBAS: Thank you, Madam President. From Salem Animal Control Officer O'Brien's here. She's the Secretary of the New Hampshire Animal Control Officers Association. She's on the Governor's Commission of the Humane Treatment of Animals, and at one time even served as the Senate Page many years ago when she was in the Girl Scouts, and her mother is also a State Representative in the other chamber. So please give her a round of applause.

PRESIDENT CARSON: I also have a few guests to introduce. I'd like Chief Tad Dionne from Hudson stand as well as Jana McMillan who is also with the police department. Thank you for being here with us today.

I would also like our page to come up here. Our page today is Ipeksu Yucel, she's eighteen years old and she's a senior in high school. She goes to the Derryfield School in Manchester. Her favorite subjects are history and international relations, and I think she got a nice a little bit of an introduction to international relations this morning. She has a number of extracurricular activities. Ballet, she is the student body president. She is an ESL tutor for refugee children. She's involved in school admissions. She's an ambassador. She's a retail associate. She's an intern for turn up activism. She's a student dance teacher and choreographer. And in her spare time, she volunteers. Her future plans: She intends to attend law school and work either in civil rights or international law. Please join me in welcoming our page for today.

I also have a resolution presented to Ipeksu Yucel by the Senate of the State of New Hampshire. This is to acknowledge your visit to the New Hampshire Senate and to express the hope that your interest in the affairs of government will continue. Only through the patriotic participation of good citizens can the fundamental freedoms of America be preserved. Thank you very much for being here today.

REGULAR CALENDAR

JUDICIARY

HB 511-FN, relative to cooperation with federal immigration authorities.
Ought to Pass, Vote 3-2. Senator Gannon for the committee.

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

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

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

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

The following Senators were excused: Avar.

Roll Call, Yeas: 15 - Nays: 8. Adopted, bill ordered to Third Reading.

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 19, relative to hotel and motel operations.

Senator Innis moved Concurrence. Adopted.

SB 78, relative to the zoning board of adjustments appeal period.

Senator Innis moved Concurrence.

Recess. Out of recess.

SPECIAL ORDER

Without objection, SB 78 is Special Ordered to another date. Adopted.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

(The Chair recognized Senator Murphy.)

SENATOR MURPHY: Thank you Madam President. Please recognize and welcome the fourth grade class from Henry Moore School in Candia.

SB 292-FN-A, relative to aid to school districts for the cost of special education.

Senator Murphy moved Concurrence. Adopted.

SB 105, enabling towns to adopt budget caps.

Senator Gray moved Concurrence.

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

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

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

The following Senators were excused: Avar.

Roll Call, Yeas: 15 - Nays: 8. Adopted.

SB 235, enabling funds from the Pitman-Robertson Act to be spent by the fish and game department on threatened and endangered species in New Hampshire and allowing the fish and game department to collect donations at sites approved by the executive director.

Senator Pearl moved Concurrence. Adopted.

SB 32, relative to the fish and game commission.

Senator Pearl moved Concurrence. Adopted.

SB 95, relative to youth recreation camp cabins and the state building and fire codes.

Senator Pearl moved Concurrence. Adopted.

SB 138, relative to record requests by health care providers.

Senator Rochefort moved Concurrence.

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, Murphy, Pearl, Sullivan, Birdsell, Abbas, Gannon, Carson.

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

The following Senators were excused: Avard.

Roll Call, Yeas: 15 - Nays: 8. Adopted.

SB 58-FN, relative to venue in criminal prosecutions of distribution of a controlled drug with death resulting. Senator Gannon moved Concurrence. Adopted.

Recess. Out of recess.

SB 62, relative to law enforcement participation in a federal immigration program and relative to cooperation with federal immigration authorities.

Senator Gannon moved Concurrence.

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

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

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

The following Senators were excused: Avard.

Roll Call, Yeas: 15 - Nays: 8. Adopted.

SB 258-FN, establishing crimes related to the fraudulent use of gift cards.

Senator Gannon moved Concurrence. Adopted.

SB 153-FN, relative to expedited driveway permitting of major entrances for residential use of 20 units or greater and the time frame for approval or denial of permit applications.

Senator Ricciardi moved Concurrence. Adopted.

CONSENT CALENDAR REPORTS REMOVED

COMMERCE

HB 225, by Senator Innis

HB 276, by Senator Ricciardi

EDUCATION

HB 235, by Senator Altschiller

HB 324, by Senator Altschiller

HB 361, by Senator Birdsell

HB 677, by Senator Rochefort

ELECTION LAW AND MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

HB 67, by Senator Gray

HB 151, by Senator Gray

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION

HB 118, by Senator Perkins Kwoka

JUDICIARY

HB 616, by Senator Pearl

TRANSPORTATION

HB 612, by Senator Gannon

SPECIAL ORDER

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

CHILDREN AND FAMILY LAW

HB 560, relative to parental access to a minor child's medical records.

EDUCATION

HB 677, (New Title) requiring schools to maintain a supply of EpiPen injectors and epinephrine nasal spray for use in event of an emergency.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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

SPECIAL ORDER

Without objection, the following bills are Special Ordered to Thursday, June 5, 2025. Adopted.

EDUCATION

HB 361, prohibiting mandatory mask policies in schools.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

HB 701, relative to a health care patient's right to try certain emergency health care treatment.

HB 712, limiting breast surgeries for minors.

JUDICIARY

HB 188, relative to contempt of the general court.

TRANSPORTATION

HB 612, enabling the division of motor vehicles to create a temporary traditional driver's license for youth operators about to turn 21.

SPECIAL ORDER

Without objection, the following bill is Special Ordered to the end of the day. Adopted.

COMMERCE

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

FN REPORT FOR May 15, 2025

W/F	Bill	Title	R/C	Committee	Full Name
Waive	HB 187	relative to restraining orders sought by a parent on behalf of a minor child.	Consent	CFL	Children and Family Law
Waive	HB 320	relative to enforcement of marital property settlements.	Consent	CFL	Children and Family Law
Waive	HB 486	relative to grandparents' visitation rights.	Consent	CFL	Children and Family Law
Waive	HB 77	(New Title) prohibiting certain licensees from electronically recording or storing personal information obtained from an identification card.	Consent	COM	Commerce
Waive	HB 225	relative to the employment of military spouses in the event of involuntary deployment of service member.	Consent	COM	Commerce
Waive	HB 276	establishing a liquor license where beverages, wine, and liquor can be sold without food.	Consent	COM	Commerce
Waive	HB 505	allowing the sale of freeze dried foods produced in homestead food operations.	Consent	COM	Commerce
Waive	HB 633	(New Title) creating a legislative study committee to investigate the implementation of housing investment trusts in New Hampshire.	Consent	COM	Commerce
Waive	HB 324	relative to prohibiting obscene or harmful sexual materials in schools.	Consent	EDU	Education
Waive	HB 677	(New Title) requiring schools to maintain a supply of EpiPen injectors and epinephrine nasal spray for use in event of an emergency.	Consent	EDU	Education

Waive	HB 781	(New Title) requiring school districts to adopt policies establishing a cell phone-free education.	Consent	EDU	Education
Waive	HB 67	relative to agreements with the secretary of state for the use of accessible voting systems.	Consent	ELMA	Election Law and Municipal Affairs
Waive	HB 340	relative to electioneering by public employees.	Consent	ELMA	Election Law and Municipal Affairs
Waive	HB 421	relative to notice of tax exempt-status filing procedures by town officials or offices.	Consent	ELMA	Election Law and Municipal Affairs
Finance	HB 546	(New Title) relative to financial disclosures and the public reporting of those disclosures by the secretary of state.	Consent	ELMA	Election Law and Municipal Affairs
Waive	HB 416	prohibiting the intentional disposal of yard waste into the surface waters of the state.	Consent	ENR	Energy and Natural Resources
Waive	HB 658	raising the cap on certain reimbursements from the oil discharge and disposal cleanup fund.	Consent	FIN	Finance
Waive	HB 739	(New Title) relative to excess funds paid to municipalities for use in school districts.	Consent	FIN	Finance
Waive	HB 763	relative to school emergency plans for sports related injuries.	Consent	FIN	Finance
Waive	HB 88	establishing community property trusts.	Consent	JUD	Judiciary
Waive	HB 433	making 17 the age of consent for marriage if either party is active duty military and removing language regarding age waivers for marriage registration records, since age waivers are no longer issued in New Hampshire.	Consent	JUD	Judiciary
Finance	HB 616	(New Title) relative to the confiscation of animals from persons suspected of or charged with abuse of animals and establishing a committee to study the animal cruelty statutes.	Consent	JUD	Judiciary
Waive	HB 105	creating a new conservation license plate and directing the additional fee to the cyanobacteria mitigation loan and grant fund.	Consent	TRANS	Transportation
Waive	HB 260	(New Title) creating a commemorative license plate celebrating the 250th anniversary of American Independence.	Consent	TRANS	Transportation
Waive	HB 321	requiring the division of motor vehicles to extend a fine payment period for certain motor vehicle violations from 30 days to 90 days if the driver requests the extension.	Consent	TRANS	Transportation
Waive	HB 452	relative to the issuance of drivers' licenses for aliens temporarily residing in New Hampshire.	Consent	TRANS	Transportation

Waive	HB 612	enabling the division of motor vehicles to create a temporary traditional driver's license for youth operators about to turn 21.	Consent	TRANS	Transportation
Finance	HB 713	relative to mile markers along Route 112.	Consent	TRANS	Transportation
Waive	HB 132	(New Title) relative to liability for familial support under RSA chapter 165, aid to assisted persons.	Regular	CFL	Children and Family Law
Waive	HB 639	relative to the use of and disputes over blockchain and digital currencies.	Regular	COM	Commerce
Finance	HB 649	removing the requirement for physical safety inspections and on-board diagnostic tests for passenger vehicles and eliminating funding for the motor vehicle air pollution abatement fund.	Regular	COM	Commerce
Waive	HB 90	relative to the definition of part-time teachers.	Regular	EDU	Education
Waive	HB 771	relative to funding for open enrollment schools.	Regular	EF	Education Finance
Waive	HB 85	relative to temporary licensure for student respiratory therapists.	Regular	EDA	Executive Departments and Administration
Waive	HB 282	increasing the maximum benefits for first responders critically injured in the line of duty.	Regular	FIN	Finance
Waive	HB 653	establishing a pilot program within the department of education to implement alternatives to restraint and seclusion of students.	Regular	FIN	Finance
Waive	HB 701	relative to a health care patient's right to try certain emergency health care treatment options.	Regular	HHS	Health and Human Services
Waive	HB 712	limiting breast surgeries for minors.	Regular	HHS	Health and Human Services
Waive	HB 731	relative to supportive housing options for individuals with developmental disabilities.	Regular	HHS	Health and Human Services
Finance	HB 71	(New Title) prohibiting the use of the facilities of a public elementary school, a public secondary school, or an institution of higher education to provide shelter for aliens who have not been admitted into the United States and relative to department of health and human services contracts.	Regular	JUD	Judiciary
Waive	HB 188	relative to contempt of the general court.	Regular	JUD	Judiciary
Waive	HB 511	relative to cooperation with federal immigration authorities.	Regular	JUD	Judiciary
Finance	HB 328	establishing a charitable gaming oversight commission.	Regular	WM	Ways and Means

Please Note: Senate Rule 4-5 requires every bill and joint resolution appropriating money, and every other bill which is accompanied by a fiscal note pursuant to RSA 14:44, which has been referred to another committee and found Ought to Pass by the Senate, shall be referred to the Senate Finance Committee for review, unless otherwise ordered by the Senate upon recommendation of the Chair of the Senate Finance Committee. Senator Gray has reviewed the bills on Consent and Regular Calendars to be acted upon by the Senate on May 15, 2025, and his recommendations are listed in 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

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; HB 123 is re-referred to the Committee on Ways and Means; and all other bills, to Third Reading.

CHILDREN AND FAMILY LAW

HB 187-FN, relative to restraining orders sought by a parent on behalf of a minor child. Ought to Pass, Vote 3-0. Senator Sullivan for the committee.

House Bill 187-FN expands the language to allow a parent or guardian to file a restraining order on behalf of a child if someone committing the abuse is outside of the family or household.

HB 273, relative to a parent's access to their minor child's library records. Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 3-0. Senator Sullivan for the committee.

House Bill 273 allows parents to access a minor child's library records. Amendment 2025-2048s clarifies that a parent does not need to share the same address as a child but does need to be listed on the library account to access the records.

Senate Children and Family Law
May 9, 2025
2025-2048s
11/09

Amendment to HB 273

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

1 New Paragraph; Library User Records; Confidentiality; Access to Library Records of Minors. Amend RSA 201-D:11 by inserting after paragraph II the following new paragraph:

II-a. All library records related to a minor's current borrowing of printed library materials and audio-visual materials, such as DVDs and CDs, shall be available to the parent or legal guardian of the minor when requested by the parent or legal guardian listed on the library account.

2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect January 1, 2026.

HB 320-FN, relative to enforcement of marital property settlements. Ought to Pass, Vote 3-0. Senator Long for the committee.

House Bill 320-FN mandates that courts enforce final divorce settlements or decrees unless a party demonstrates, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the agreement is invalid due to factors such as fraud, misrepresentation, undue influence, or subsequent illegality. This provision aims to provide greater certainty and finality in divorce proceedings.

HB 486-FN, relative to grandparents' visitation rights. Re-refer to Committee, Vote 3-0. Senator Long for the committee.

House Bill 486-FN expands the criteria for a court's consideration to grant grandparents visitation rights. The committee members believed that the legislation was not ready for passage and recommended to re-refer it.

COMMERCE

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

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

This bill would prohibit certain licensees from electronically recording or storing personal information obtained from an identification card. Merchants would be able to scan licenses to ensure an individual was able to legally purchase alcohol or tobacco products. To address privacy concerns, merchants would not be authorized to record, retain, or store, information in any electronic form or format.

HB 81, relative to consumption of beverages or liquor in areas not approved for service by the liquor commission. Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0. Senator Murphy for the committee.

Some people, especially women, have adopted the habit of taking their drinks into the bathroom with them in order to avoid contamination or potential date rape drugs being added during their absence. The Liquor Commission has long prohibited the presence of alcohol in bathrooms, placing licensees in the difficult position of telling guests that they must leave their drinks on the table or the bar while they are away. Some licensees have even been forced to station employees outside bathrooms in order to enforce this commission policy. The commission testified that while they enforce the prohibition they do not currently cite licensees for violations, preferring to rely upon warnings. This bill would remove bathrooms from the statute listing areas explicitly not approved for service, protecting both guests and licensees in the process.

HB 280, relative to wage payments.

Inexpedient to Legislate, Vote 6-0. Senator McGough for the committee.

This bill would have repealed the weekly or biweekly payment of wage methods and authorized employers to choose any payment method for their employees. By repealing RSA 275:43, numerous requirements would be removed, including paying in legal tender, ensuring a financial institution is convenient to a place of employment if wages are paid via check, and ensuring there is notification of deductions or fees when they are deducted from pay cards. Given the broad parameters, the Department of Labor expressed concerns in resolving disputes when they arise. As much as the Commerce committee supports the rights of employers to self-determine how to conduct business and pay employees, this bill was not quite ready for prime time, and enough significant concerns were raised by parties on all sides to find it inexpedient to legislate at this time.

HB 310, establishing a commission to study the creation of a regulatory framework for stable tokens, tokenized real-world assets, and blockchain-based trusts in New Hampshire.

Ought to Pass, Vote 6-0. Senator McGough for the committee.

House Bill 310 establishes a study commission to explore a regulatory framework for stable tokens, tokenized real-world assets, and blockchain-based trusts in New Hampshire. Stable tokens are digital currencies pegged 1-to-1 with the U.S. dollar, offering low volatility and efficient use in payments and remittances. Tokenized real-world assets digitally represent ownership of tangible items like gold, real estate, or fine art, enabling fractional ownership, increased liquidity, and broader investment access. Blockchain-based trusts apply distributed ledger technology to estate planning and fiduciary services, potentially automating administration and reducing costs. The commission, composed of experts in law, finance, and technology, will review existing statutes, assess potential risks, and recommend policy updates. HB 310 does not impose immediate regulation but allows the state to study these innovations responsibly, positioning New Hampshire as a leader in financial modernization and free-market innovation while ensuring legal clarity and consumer protection.

HB 413, relative to subdivision regulations on the completion of improvements and the regulation of building permits.

Ought to Pass, Vote 6-0. Senator Reardon for the committee.

This bill would extend the existing 5-year exemption for subdivision plats to 7 years; increase the period for active and substantial development from 2 years to 3 years; change the building code and fire code appeals process; limit the jurisdiction of the local building code board of appeals; and allow the building code review board to appeal decisions made by the Fire Marshal and local building code board of appeals to superior court or the Housing Appeals Board. These changes would provide greater flexibility for developers, and it would lower their risk, which would enable them to take on larger projects. Additionally, it would alleviate escalating costs that are caused by developers having to change work that has been completed.

HB 467, defining “social districts” and enabling municipalities to create social districts.
Ought to Pass, Vote 6-0. Senator McGough for the committee.

This bill would define “social districts” and enable municipalities to create them. These districts would be in a public common area where alcoholic beverages would be allowed to be carried and consumed in designated containers. Municipalities would work with the New Hampshire Liquor Commission to ensure requirements are abided by, and there are plans for safety within these districts. Similar legislation has had tremendous success in cities like Savannah, Las Vegas and in North Carolina, Michigan, and Georgia. The committee finds this bill will enhance the retail experience and be great for business in New Hampshire.

HB 505-FN, allowing the sale of freeze dried foods produced in homestead food operations.
Ought to Pass, Vote 6-0. Senator Innis for the committee.

This bill would provide for the licensing of homestead food operations processing and selling freeze dried foods, specifically fruits, vegetables, and processed dairy food products. These products could be sold at home, a farmstand, a farmers’ market, or in retail stores. This bill would maintain food safety, expand the types of products brought into the marketplace, support local businesses, promote entrepreneurship, and strengthen the agricultural economy. The Department of Health and Human Services had no concerns with this legislation. Please support the Committee’s recommendation of Ought to Pass.

HB 633-FN, creating a legislative study committee to investigate the implementation of housing investment trusts in New Hampshire.
Ought to Pass, Vote 6-0. Senator Fenton for the committee.

This bill would create a legislative study committee to investigate the implementation of housing investment trusts in New Hampshire. The trusts would be a 501(c)(3) charity and would use private investments to acquire properties, providing families with flexible financing options. Since the Committee did not hear from certain state agencies and believes action could be taken without governmental involvement, we believe a study committee is appropriate to further study this issue.

EDUCATION

HB 50, relative to intentional or knowing violation of the prohibition on teaching discrimination.
Inexpedient to Legislate, Vote 4-1. Senator Altschiller for the committee.

This bill would have allowed a person aggrieved by the intentional or knowing violation of the prohibition on teaching discrimination to initiate civil action against the offending school or district. Additionally, it would deem the intentional or knowing violation of this prohibition by an educator, a violation of the educator code of conduct while expanding the definition of educator to include administrators and specialists in addition to teachers. A similar bill has passed in the Senate and the Committee believes both are not needed at this time.

HB 292, establishing a commission to study school administrative unit consolidation.
Re-refer to Committee, Vote 5-0. Senator Ward for the committee.

This bill would create a commission to study the issue of school administrative unit consolidation. The Committee determined that the Senate version of this legislation thoroughly addresses the concerns raised regarding the study of SAU consolidation. Due to complexities that may arise through this study, HB 292, though not needed at this time, will be re-referred to the Committee.

HB 354, relative to alternate certification pathways for career and technical education instructors.
Ought to Pass, Vote 4-0. Senator Prentiss for the committee.

House Bill 354 allows individuals seeking certification to teach in career and technical education (CTE) specialty areas to substitute a nationally recognized test with three years of relevant full-time work experience and an industry-recognized credential. The bill creates an alternate pathway to licensure to help address workforce needs in CTE fields.

HB 431, establishing a commission to study the costs of special education.
Re-refer to Committee, Vote 5-0. Senator Prentiss for the committee.

This bill would establish a commission to study the cost of special education in public schools. The Prime Sponsor of the bill testified that the current amended version completely replaced the original legislation, and she no longer supports it. Additionally, aspects of this amended version are already being addressed by other legislative bodies. Committee members determined that more work needs to be done before HB 431 is ready for passage.

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

Ought to Pass, Vote 4-1. Senator Abbas for the committee.

This bill authorizes the allocation and re-purposing of career and technical education classrooms by local school districts. Currently, once funds are accepted from the state for CTE classrooms, they must be used for that purpose exclusively. This legislation allows for flexibility, after twenty years, so that the states investment can be utilized by schools for all student needs.

HB 752, relative to procedures for the closing of a charter school.

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

This bill as amended adds to the procedures for the closing of a chartered public school and requires records to be kept either by a chartered public school, or in the event of its closure, by the Department of Education, for 60 years. Additionally, it establishes the closed charter schools fund for the collection of transcript request fees. The NH Board of Education will establish rules for preserving the records, and furnishing copies, including fees.

Senate Education

May 13, 2025

2025-2145s

08/11

Amendment to HB 752

Amend RSA 194-B:16-a, IV-V as inserted by section 2 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

IV. The department shall establish a fee schedule association sufficient to cover related costs for the maintenance and furnishing of records pursuant to this section.

V. The department, upon request of the individual concerned and receipt of required fees, shall furnish a certified copy of the individual's record.

VI. All transcript request fees collected by the department under this section shall be deposited into a non-lapsing fund at the department, and shall be used for managing the storage and retrieval of closed charter school transcripts.

VII. The state board of education may adopt rules under RSA 541-A concerning the preserving of the records, and furnishing copies, including fees.

VIII. There is hereby established in the department of education the closed charter schools fund. The fund shall be comprised of transcript fees collected by the department after the closure of a charter school. The fund shall be non-lapsing and shall be continually appropriated to the department.

Amend the bill by inserting after section 2 the following and renumbering the original section 3 to read as 4:

3 New Subparagraph; Closed Charter School Fund. Amend RSA 6:12, I(b) by inserting after subparagraph (399) the following new subparagraph:

(400) Moneys collected in the closed charter schools fund established in RSA 194-B:16-a, VIII.

2025-2145s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill adds to the procedures for the closing of a chartered public school, requires records to be kept either by a chartered public school, or in the event of its closure, by the department of education, for 60 years, and establishes the closed charter schools fund for the collection of transcript request fees.

HB 781-FN, requiring school districts to adopt policies establishing a cell phone-free education.

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

House Bill 781-FN requires school boards and charter schools to adopt policies restricting student cell phone use during class time, with exceptions for medical needs, disabilities, or language support services. The bill ensures accommodations remain in place for students with IEPs, 504 plans, or emergent multi-lingual needs.

ELECTION LAW AND MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

HB 274, relative to the verification of voter rolls annually.

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

House Bill 274 would provide for the annual verification of voter rolls. The committee believes that requiring a yearly check, when there are already periodic checks in statute, would increase administrative costs and unduly overburden local election officials. For these reasons, the Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee recommends Inexpedient to Legislate on HB 274.

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

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

House Bill 340 clarifies the definition of electioneering for public employees. The committee heard testimony indicating that certain language in the bill could blur the lines between what constitutes electioneering and what represents a public employee's right to free speech. For this reason, the committee seeks additional time to work on this bill. Therefore, the Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee recommends re-refer on HB 340.

HB 373-L, relative to the management and regulation of town real property.

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

House Bill 373 aims to enhance municipal authority over town-owned real property by allowing select boards to lease property for up to one year without action from the legislative body. For leases longer than one year, the legislative body must vote; if approved, the select board may enter into a lease agreement for up to ninety-nine years without the need for continuous renewal approval from the legislative body. The committee believes this bill improves efficiency at the local level, and for this reason, the Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee recommends Ought to Pass on HB 373.

HB 421-FN, relative to notice of tax exempt-status filing procedures by town officials or offices.

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

House Bill 421 requires municipalities to provide a two-month notice for the annual tax-exemption filing deadline to tax-exempt organizations. To address concerns about potential burdens on town officials, the committee amendment modifies the requirement by stating that towns must announce the deadline in a manner similar to other public notices and only send notifications to charitable organizations that filed the previous year but have yet to do so for the current year. Furthermore, the bill allows organizations that missed the 2024 deadline due to unforeseen circumstances to retroactively qualify for this exemption for the year 2024. For these reasons, the Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee recommends HB 421 Ought to Pass with Amendment.

Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs

May 6, 2025

2025-1964s

07/11

Amendment to HB 421-FN

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

1 New Paragraph; Taxation; Persons and Property Liable to Taxation; Real Estate and Personal Property Tax Exemption. Amend RSA 72:23 by inserting after paragraph VII the following new paragraph:

VIII. Cities and towns shall annually mail the forms prescribed under RSA 72:23-c, I and RSA 72:23, VI to all property owners whose real estate was exempt from taxation in the prior property tax year under RSA 72:23, III, IV or V, and notify such property owners of the form submission deadline. The forms shall be mailed no later than 60 days before the due dates of the completed forms and supplemental documents. If the city or town or property owner otherwise qualified to receive an exemption discovers that the required forms were not sent or received, the property owner qualified to receive an exemption may submit the application to the city or town, and the governing body may grant an exemption thereunder for that year only, irrespective of any calendar date or the approval of the local tax rate and without penalty to the qualified owner.

2 Taxation; Persons and Property Liable to Taxation; Real Estate and Personal Property Tax Exemption. Amend RSA 72:23, VI to read as follows:

VI. Every charitable organization or society, except those religious and educational organizations and societies whose real estate is exempt under the provisions of paragraphs III and IV, shall annually before June 1, file with the municipality in which the property is located upon a form prescribed and provided by the board of tax and land appeals a statement of its financial condition for the preceding fiscal year and such other information as may be necessary to establish its status and eligibility for tax exemption. If any organization, otherwise qualified to receive an exemption, shall satisfy the selectmen that they were prevented by accident, mistake, or misfortune from filing an application on or before June 1, the officials may receive the application at a later date and grant an exemption thereunder for that year; but no such application shall be received or exemption granted after ~~[the local tax rate has been approved for that]~~ **March 31, the end of the property tax year. Cities and towns shall give notice and post blank copies of the proper tax forms in a manner similar to other public notices 60 days before the filing due date. Seven days after the filing due date, municipalities shall send notices to any charitable organizations approved in the prior year that have yet to file.**

3 Taxation; Persons and Property Liable to Taxation; Real Estate and Personal Property Tax Exemption. Amend RSA 72:23-c, I to read as follows:

I. Every religious, educational and charitable organization, Grange, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion, the Disabled American Veterans, the American National Red Cross and any other national veterans association shall annually, on or before April 15, file a list of all real estate and personal property owned by them on which exemption from taxation is claimed, upon a form prescribed and provided by the board of tax and land appeals, with the selectmen or assessors of the place where such real estate and personal property are taxable. If any such organization or corporation shall willfully neglect or refuse to file such list upon request therefor, the selectmen may deny the exemption. If any organization, otherwise qualified to receive an exemption, shall satisfy the selectmen or assessors that they were prevented by accident, mistake or misfortune from filing an application on or before April 15, the officials may receive the application at a later date and grant an exemption thereunder for that year; but no such application shall be received or exemption granted after ~~[the local tax rate has been approved for that]~~ **March 31, the end of the property tax year. Cities and towns shall give notice and post blank copies of the proper tax forms in a manner similar to other public notices 60 days before the filing due date. Seven days after the filing due date, municipalities shall send notices to any charitable organizations approved in the prior year that have yet to file.**

4 Effective Date. This act shall take effect April 1, 2026.

2025-1964s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill requires cities and towns and the department of revenue administration to give certain notices regarding the annual tax-exemption filing deadline to tax-exempt organizations.

HB 481, relative to moving the state primary date.

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

House Bill 481 would move the state primary date from September to June. The Committee wishes to hold onto this bill in order to observe the progress of similar legislation currently making its way through the legislature. Therefore, the Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee recommends re-refer on HB 481.

HB 546-FN, relative to financial disclosures and the public reporting of those disclosures by the secretary of state. Inexpedient to Legislate, Vote 4-0. Senator Gray for the committee.

House Bill 546, as written, would require political committees and candidates to file financial disclosures with the Secretary of State within 48 hours of receiving donations exceeding \$1,000. Reporting would be necessary from the start of the campaign through the first legislative year following a candidate's election victory. This bill would increase the reporting requirements, and does not account for the computer programming costs to implement this change. For these reasons, the committee recommends Inexpedient to Legislate on HB 546.

ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

HB 123, relative to yield taxes on property enrolled or registered for the purpose of generating carbon offset credits. Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 4-1. Senator Pearl for the committee.

This bill, as amended, addresses recent concerns about the impacts of carbon sequestration programs on New Hampshire forest lands and related industries. It establishes a study commission with broad scope and membership which is directed to provide its final report by November 1, 2027. It provides an election for landowners who desire to implement a payment in lieu of tax under the longstanding provisions of RSA 79:5. Finally, it provides a moratorium on the enrollment or registration of any New Hampshire forest land in any new carbon offset project during the period of the study commission. Projects that are already enrolled or registered as of July 1, 2025 are exempt from the moratorium, but are required to file a notice of certain actions, such as commitment of annual growth for credits under the carbon program, with the Department of Revenue Administration and the local municipality.

Senate Energy and Natural Resources
May 13, 2025
2025-2133s
08/06

Amendment to HB 123

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

AN ACT defining pre-sequestration timber tax revenue, establishing a moratorium on carbon sequestration and establishing a commission to study the effects of carbon sequestration in New Hampshire forests upon state and local tax revenue, effective forest management, and the health of New Hampshire's logging industry.

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

1 New Paragraph; Taxation; Forest Conservation and Taxation; Definitions. Amend RSA 79:1 by inserting after paragraph VIII the following new paragraph:

IX. "Pre-sequestration timber tax revenue" means the average of the amounts any municipality received in timber tax revenue from the owner of a parcel of land for the 5 full tax years preceding the tax year in which the owner or the owner's predecessor in interest entered into a legally binding commitment to enroll or register the timber on such land in a carbon sequestration program or to otherwise dedicate the timber on such land to carbon sequestration.

2 Taxation; Forest Conservation and Taxation. RSA 79:5 is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

79:5 General Tax; Credits in Certain Cases.

I. Whenever it shall appear to the assessing officials that a town or city is unreasonably deprived of revenue because of the failure of an owner to cut standing wood or timber when it shall have arrived at the degree of maturity most suitable for its use, such standing wood or timber shall be taxed in the same manner as general property and be subject to the same rights of appeal, the intent being to prevent the holding of standing wood or timber indefinitely without the payment of any taxes. If such standing wood or timber is taxed under the provision of this section, such taxes shall be a credit against any yield tax later imposed.

II. As an alternative to the imposition of the tax provided for in paragraph I, in any tax year the owner may make a payment in lieu of taxes to the town or city equal to the difference between the pre-sequestration timber tax revenue and the actual timber tax paid by the landowner in that year. For any tax year for which the owner elects to make a payment in lieu of taxes under this paragraph, the owner shall notify the town or city in writing of the owner's election on or before December 31 preceding such tax year.

3 New Subdivision; Carbon Sequestration Programs Study Commission. Amend RSA 79 by inserting after section 31 the following new subdivision:

Carbon Sequestration Programs Study Commission

79:32 Carbon Sequestration Programs Study Commission. There is established a commission to study the impacts of the growing practice of dedicating tracts of New Hampshire forests to sequestration of carbon emissions.

79:33 Membership and Compensation.

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

(a) Two members of the house of representatives, one of whom shall be from the ways and means committee and one of whom shall be at large, appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives.

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

(c) The commissioner of the department of revenue administration, or designee.

(d) The commissioner of the department of natural and cultural resources, or designee.

(e) One Coos county commissioner, or designee.

(f) One municipal official with experience in administration of the timber yield tax, appointed by the New Hampshire Municipal Association.

(g) One public member with experience owning and operating a family-owned tree farm, appointed by the Governor.

(h) One public member, designated by the current Fee Owner as that term is defined in that certain Grant of Conservation Easement, dated as of October 9, 2003, applicable to approximately 146,400 acres located in Coos County.

(i) One public member with experience owning and operating forest land, designated by the New Hampshire timberland owner's association.

(j) One public member, designated by the New Hampshire Retail Lumber Association.

(k) One public member, designated by the New Hampshire Home Builders Association.

(l) One licensed forester, appointed by the president of the senate.

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

79:34 Duties. The commission shall study:

I. For existing agreements or other arrangements under which New Hampshire landowners have committed any standing timber on their property to the sequestration of carbon emissions through registration with a carbon credit offset registry or similar program, the length of such commitment and any restrictions on or disincentives against logging of such timber.

II. The state and local tax impact of committing New Hampshire forest tracts to carbon sequestration.

III. Whether the state's current system of taxation fairly and proportionally taxes the transactions by which New Hampshire forest tracts are committed to carbon sequestration and the fair market value of those tracts.

IV. Whether other statutory provisions interfere with the power of cities and towns under RSA 79:5 to tax standing timber that has been committed to carbon sequestration.

V. Whether the purchasers of carbon credits generated by carbon sequestration in New Hampshire forests should be taxed by the state for the benefit those credits confer.

VI. The impact on sound forest management practices, including minimization of forest fire risk.

VII. The impact on New Hampshire's logging industry.

VIII. The effect carbon sequestration has on the state and national timber industry and its competitiveness with the timber industries of other states and countries.

79:35 Chairperson; Quorum. The members of the study commission shall elect a chairperson from among the members. The first meeting of the commission shall be called by the senate member. The first meeting of the commission shall be held before September 15, 2025. Six members of the commission shall constitute a quorum.

79:36 Report. The commission shall report its findings and any recommendations for proposed legislation to the speaker of the house of representatives, the president of the senate, the house clerk, the senate clerk, the governor, and the state library before November 1, 2027. The commission shall inform the secretary of state and the director of the office of legislative services when its report has been submitted.

79:37 Moratorium. Between July 1, 2025, and the date upon which the carbon sequestration programs study commission submits its report pursuant to RSA 79:36, no owner of standing timber in New Hampshire on a parcel of more than 500 acres shall enter into, or exercise any unexercised right pursuant to, any agreement or other arrangement to commit any part of such timber or its annual growth to the sequestration of carbon emissions through enrollment or registration with a carbon credit offset program or otherwise. Any such ex-

ercise, agreement, or other arrangement shall be void. Any subdivision of an owner's land of 500 acres or less after the effective date of this act shall be subject to the prohibitions in this paragraph. Nothing in this section shall be construed to impair any such owner's existing, legally binding commitment of such timber or annual growth to the sequestration of carbon emissions. If an owner reports, enrolls, registers, or otherwise commits any annual growth to or with a carbon credit offset program the owner shall report such report, enrollment, registration, or other commitment to the department of revenue administration and the tax assessor of the town or city in which the annual growth took place and shall provide documentation establishing that such commitment of annual growth is not subject to the prohibitions in this paragraph. In the application of this paragraph, the owner shall have the burden of establishing that such timber or annual growth is the subject of such a legally binding commitment as of the effective date of this section.

4 Repeal.

I. RSA 79:5, II, relative to payments in lieu of taxes is repealed.

II. RSA 79:32 through 79:37, relative to the carbon sequestration programs study commission, is repealed.

5 Effective Date.

I. Section 4 of this act shall take effect November 1, 2027.

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

2025-2133s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill:

I. Defines pre-sequestration timber tax revenue and allows for payment in lieu of taxes on such revenue.

II. Establishes a moratorium on carbon sequestration contracts.

III. Establishes a commission to study carbon sequestration programs.

HB 171, establishing a moratorium on the issuance of permits for new landfills.

Re-refer to Committee, Vote 4-1. Senator Avard for the committee.

HB 171 establishes a moratorium on the issuance of permits for new landfills in New Hampshire. During the moratorium, the Department of Environmental Services may accept and review applications for completeness but cannot process them further. The bill would allow for expansions or modifications of existing landfills permitted before December 1, 2022, under specific conditions. The term "site" is defined to include parcels owned by landfill operators or affiliates as of that date.

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

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

HB 189 defines "clean energy" to include low-greenhouse gas sources such as small-scale nuclear and renewable energy. It incorporates this definition into the Department of Energy's 10-year state energy strategy. The bill emphasizes fuel diversity and the inclusion of new technologies in planning New Hampshire's future. It also removes references to the Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Energy Board from the development process.

Senate Energy and Natural Resources

May 13, 2025

2025-2140s

06/09

Amendment to HB 189

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

AN ACT relative to the department of energy's 10-year state energy strategy and removing references to the energy efficiency and sustainable energy board.

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 New Section; Statutory Construction; Clean Energy. Amend RSA 21 by inserting after section 54 the following new section:

21:55 Clean Energy. “Clean energy” means minimal to no greenhouse gas emitting sources, including nuclear and other renewable sources.

2025-2140s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill:

I. Defines “clean energy” to mean small-scale nuclear and renewable energy and makes it part of the department of energy’s 10-year state energy strategy.

II. Removes reference to the energy efficiency and sustainable energy board.

HB 221, relative to assessment of cost effectiveness of the systems benefit charge.

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

HB 221 modified how New Hampshire assesses the cost-effectiveness of programs funded by the systems benefit charge, which supports energy efficiency and other utility programs. It requires the Public Utilities Commission to base its evaluations on the most recent Avoided Energy Supply Cost Study for New England, as well as any evaluation, measurement, and valuation studies. For the program years through 2026, the Granite State Test will be the primary measure of cost-effectiveness, with the Total Resource Cost test used as a secondary metric. Starting in 2027, the Commission may adopt new or modified tests through an adjudicative process, provided changes are finalized at least 12 months before implementation. The bill also mandates that electric system savings fall below 65% of their total planned energy savings.

HB 416-FN, prohibiting the intentional disposal of yard waste into the surface waters of the state.

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

HB 416-FN prohibits the intentional disposal of yard waste into the surface waters of New Hampshire. It amends existing law to include yard waste among items that cannot be dumped in or near surface waters. First-time violations are treated as violations, while repeat offenses can be classified as misdemeanors or felonies depending on the violator. Enforcement authority is granted to peace officers and the Department of Environmental Services, which may also recover cleanup costs from violators.

Senate Energy and Natural Resources

May 13, 2025

2025-2141s

06/05

Amendment to HB 416-FN

Amend RSA 485-A:15, II as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

II. For any violation of this section any authorized member or agent of the department of environmental services ~~[shall]~~ **may** order the immediate removal of material involved in the violation, by the person responsible for the material in question. ***The authority to enforce this section shall extend to all peace officers in the state of New Hampshire, as defined by RSA 594:1, III.***

Amend RSA 485-A:15, V as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

V. Any person who purposely or knowingly violates paragraph I shall be guilty of a class B felony.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION

HB 82, relative to the regulation of various occupations.

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

HB 82 amends licensing statutes and the Office of Professional Licensure and Certification’s governing statutes to shift certain responsibilities and regulation to the Office, in keeping with prior legislation. The bill amends statutes related to the regulation of various professions. The committee amendment allows for subcommittees in the Electricians’ Board. This bill was a request of the OPLC.

Senate Executive Departments and Administration
 May 7, 2025
 2025-1983s
 09/11

Amendment to HB 82

Amend the bill by inserting after section 38 the following and renumbering the original sections 39 through 46 to read as 40 through 47, respectively:

39 Electricians; Board. RSA 319-C:4, III is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

III. With the approval of the executive director, the board may convene a subcommittee or subcommittees for the purpose of reviewing and making recommendations on matters that could be handled by the full board pursuant to RSA 319-C.

HB 142, relative to Gold Star Mother's Day.

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

HB 142 changes the observance of Gold Star Mother's Day to the last Sunday in September. The committee amendment removed the provision designating the Honor and Remember Flag as a state symbol but requires the governor to order that flag to be displayed daily at the New Hampshire State Veterans Cemetery in Boscawen on the last Sunday of September.

Senate Executive Departments and Administration
 May 7, 2025
 2025-1985s
 07/09

Amendment to HB 142

Amend RSA 4:13-h, II as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

II. The governor shall order the Honor and Remember Flag to be displayed daily at the New Hampshire state veterans cemetery in Boscawen in the most junior order of precedence on the last Sunday in September.

HB 156, relative to the duties of the advisory committee on state procurement.

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

HB 156 amends the membership and duties of the Advisory Committee on State Procurement to include making recommendations to encourage local food production and conservation. The committee amendment establishes an Advisory Committee on State Procurement of Agricultural Products and requires that committee to produce a report to the Speaker of the House, President of the Senate, House and Senate Clerks, the Governor, and the chair of the Advisory Committee on State Procurement.

Senate Executive Departments and Administration
 May 7, 2025
 2025-1993s
 08/05

Amendment to HB 156

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

1 New Section; Advisory Committee on State Procurement of Agricultural Products. Amend RSA 21-I by inserting after section 14-d the following new section:

21-I:14-e Advisory Committee on State Procurement of Agricultural Products.

I. There is established an advisory committee on state procurement of agricultural products.

II. The members of the committee shall be 3 members of the house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives and one senate member appointed by the president.

III. The committee shall:

(a) Assess current practices for procuring locally produced food.

(b) Evaluate economic and environmental impacts of supporting conservation-focused farming.

(c) Develop recommendations for potential incentive mechanisms.

(d) Align findings with state food system planning goals.

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

V. Beginning November 1, 2025 and each November 1 thereafter, the committee shall report its findings and any recommendations for proposed legislation to the speaker of the house of representatives, the president of the senate, the house clerks, the senate clerk, the governor, and the chair of the advisory committee on state procurement established in RSA 21-I:14-d.

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

2025-1993s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill creates an advisory committee on state procurement of agricultural products to review state procurement policies and make recommendations to encourage local food production and conservation.

HB 233, requiring meetings of the New Hampshire vaccine association to be audio and video recorded and published on its website within 48 hours.

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

HB 233 requires meetings of the New Hampshire Vaccine Association to be audio and video recorded and published on its website within 48 hours. The Committee decided to re-refer this bill to ensure that the New Hampshire Vaccine Association follows through on its commitment to do this themselves without legislation.

HB 428-L, prohibiting municipal amendments to the state building code.

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

HB 428-L prohibits local legislative bodies from making any new changes to the state building codes. The committee amendment cleaned up language to ensure that municipal amendments to the state building code are not more or less stringent than the state building code.

Senate Executive Departments and Administration

May 7, 2025

2025-1989s

07/05

Amendment to HB 428-LOCAL

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

AN ACT relative to the state building code.

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

1 Public Safety and Welfare; State Board of Fire Control; State Fire Code; Rules. Amend RSA 153:5, V to read as follows:

V. The state fire marshal, and the local fire chief, in accordance with RSA 154:2, shall use the state fire code, including rules adopted under paragraph I, and any local ~~codes~~ **ordinances or regulations** adopted ~~[in accordance with RSA 47:22 or RSA 155-A:3,]~~ **by the local legislative body** for the purposes of new construction, additions, and alterations. It is the intent of the legislature to avoid conflicts in the adoption and application of the state building code and the state fire code. **Local municipal ordinances or regulations to allow for administrative amendments to the state fire code shall be permitted. Amendments to the state fire code implementing the issuance of permits and the collection of fees or other administrative functions shall be reserved for the municipalities, provided they are not less stringent than the state fire code and reviewed pursuant to RSA 153:4-a, II. No amendments to the technical requirements of the state fire code are permitted.**

2 New Hampshire Building Code; Definitions. RSA 155-A:1, III is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

III. “Local enforcement agency” means, for a municipality as defined in RSA 672:10 that has adopted an enforcement mechanism under RSA 155-A:3, the official qualified and authorized to issue permits, make inspections, and enforce the laws, ordinances, and rules enacted by the state and local government that establish standards and requirements applicable to the construction, alteration, relocation, enlargement, replacement, repair, equipment, use and occupancy, location, maintenance, removal, and demolition of every building or structure, or any appurtenances connected or attached to such building or structure.

3 State Building Code. Amend RSA 155-A:2, III to read as follows:

III. To the extent that it does not conflict with any other provision of law, and except as otherwise provided in this paragraph, the issuance of permits and the collection of fees pursuant to the state building code is expressly reserved for counties, towns, cities, and village districts where such activities have been authorized in accordance with RSA ~~[674:51 and RSA 47:22]~~ **155-A:3**. Pursuant to the state fire marshal’s authority to enforce the state building code under RSA 155-A:7, I, the fire marshal may establish for municipalities that do not have a building official or other enforcement mechanism authorized in RSA 155-A:4, with approval of the commissioner of safety and by rules adopted under RSA 541-A, fees to defray the cost of issuing building permits in accordance with the state building code. Such fees shall be deposited in the fire standards and training and emergency medical services fund established in RSA 21-P:12-d.

4 State Building Code. Amend RSA 155-A:2, VI to read as follows:

VI. For any municipality which has not adopted an enforcement mechanism under RSA 674:51, the contractor of the building, building component, or structure shall notify the state fire marshal concerning the type of construction before construction begins excluding one- and 2-family dwellings. Any municipality that has adopted an enforcement mechanism under RSA ~~[674:51]~~ **155-A:3** may contract with a local enforcement agency or a qualified third party for these services as an alternative to establishing the position of building ~~[inspector under RSA 674:51, II(c)]~~ **official pursuant to RSA 155-A:3**, and such agency or third party shall have the same authority as a building inspector as provided in that section.

5 State Building Code. Amend RSA 155-A:2, VIII to read as follows:

VIII. Nothing in this chapter shall be construed as amending, repealing, or superseding any local law, ordinance, code, or regulation, except local code requirements that are less stringent than the state building code~~[or state fire code]~~, or where expressly required by RSA ~~[674:51, or RSA 47:22]~~ **155-A:3**, and all buildings, building components, and structures shall comply with all applicable state or local building ~~[and fire code]~~ requirements, land use restrictions including, but not limited to subdivision regulations, use and location restrictions, density and dimensional limitations, or historic district laws or ordinances.

6 Local Amendments; Application. RSA 155-A:3 is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

155-A:3 Enforcement mechanism.

I. The local legislative body, as defined in RSA 672:8, is hereby empowered and authorized to establish a local enforcement agency, as defined in RSA 155-A:1, III, to enforce the state building code adopted under RSA 155-A. The local legislative body may adopt a nationally recognized code not included in, and not inconsistent with, the state building code, except for a nationally recognized code which has the same or similar scope or purpose, as determined by the building code review board, that is included in the most recent edition of the state building code adopted under RSA 155-A:1, IV.

II. Amendments to the state building code implementing the issuance of permits and the collection of fees pursuant to RSA 155-A:2, III, and the issuance of permits and certificates of occupancy pursuant to RSA 155-A:2, IV, or other administrative functions shall be reserved for the municipalities, provided they are not less stringent than the state building code and confirmed pursuant to RSA 155-A:3, IV. No amendments to the technical requirements of the state building code are permitted. Municipal amendments to technical requirements of the state building code are permitted if the state building code is more than 2 editions behind the published model codes included in the state building code, provided they are not more or less stringent than the state building code and confirmed pursuant to RSA 155-A:3, IV.

III. At a minimum, the municipality shall ensure by ordinance that implementation and enforcement includes:

(a) The date of the first enactment of any building code regulations in the municipality and of each subsequent amendment thereto.

(b) Provision for the establishment of a building code board of appeals as provided in RSAs 673:1, V; 673:3, IV; and 673:5.

(c) Provision for the establishment of the position of building official as provided in RSA 673:1.

(d) The building official shall have the authority to:

- (1) Accept and review appropriate design documents;
- (2) Issue building permits as provided in RSA 676:11-13;
- (3) Perform inspections as may be necessary to assure compliance with the state building code; and
- (4) Issue any certificates of occupancy as enacted pursuant to paragraph IV.

(e) A schedule of fees, or a provision authorizing the governing body to establish fees, to be charged for building permits, inspections, and for any certificate of occupancy enacted pursuant to paragraph IV.

IV. The regulations adopted pursuant to paragraph I may include a requirement for a certificate of occupancy to be issued prior to the use or occupancy of any building or structure that is erected, remodeled, or undergoes a change or expansion of use subsequent to the effective date of such requirement. The municipality shall be responsible for implementation and enforcement of the requirement under this paragraph.

V. Municipal Employees and Departments.

(a) The provisions of this chapter shall not be construed to restrict or encumber the local governing body's authority relative to the appointment, removal, or duties of municipal employees and the organization of municipal departments.

(b) Any provision of the state building code that conflicts with existing local ordinances, regulations, policies, practices, or procedures regarding the appointment, removal, or duties of municipal employees and the organization of municipal departments shall not apply, provided that the ordinances, regulations, policies, practices, or procedures do not prevent effective enforcement of the state building code.

VI. Any ordinance adopted under paragraph II by a local legislative body shall be submitted to the state building code review board for review and confirmation.

VII. The state building code established in RSA 155-A shall be effective in all municipalities, as defined in RSA 672:10, in the state, without further local modification, except as permitted by this section, and shall be enforced as provided in RSA 155-A:7. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no local legislative body shall enact or enforce any ordinance, adopt or enforce any rule, or implement any regulation that amends, overrides, or deviates from the state building code, or addresses any subject included in the state building code, except as otherwise permitted by this section or other statute, on or after the effective date of this section. All municipalities with an enforcement mechanism shall enforce and comply fully with the state building code without further local modification, except as otherwise permitted by this section or other statute.

VIII.(a) Local amendments and codes adopted pursuant to paragraph III prior to July 1, 2024, and the procedural history of adoption under RSA 155-A:10 shall be submitted for review to the building code review board for confirmation that such additional amendments are not inconsistent with or less stringent than, nor intended to replace, the requirements of the most recent edition of the building code adopted under RSA 155-A. No local amendment shall be enforced if it was not submitted to the building code review board by August 30, 2024. Upon the withholding of confirmation of a submitted local amendment by the state building code review board, the amendment shall not be enforced.

(b) Any such ordinance enacted or adopted pursuant to paragraph III on or after July 1, 2024, shall not be enforced unless confirmed by the building code review board pursuant to RSA 155-A:10, IV(c). The procedural history of local adoption relating to published notice, public hearing, and vote of approval shall be submitted to the board within 30 days of enactment or adoption and prior to enforcement.

IX. No municipality or local land use board, as defined in RSA 672:7, shall enforce any ordinance, regulation, code, or administrative practice requiring the installation of automatic fire suppression sprinklers in any new or existing detached one- or two-family dwelling unit in a structure used only for residential purposes, or in existing buildings that contain, or will contain, no more than four dwelling units, unless fire sprinklers are existing or are required by a nonresidential occupancy. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, no municipality or local land use board shall enforce any existing ordinance, regulation,

code, or administrative practice requiring the installation or use of automatic fire suppression sprinklers in any manufactured housing unit, as defined in RSA 674:31, situated in a manufactured housing park, as defined in RSA 205-A:1, II. Nothing in this paragraph shall affect the ability of an applicant for a local land use permit to include the installation of fire suppression sprinklers pursuant to RSA 674:36, IV, or affect the validity or enforceability of such inclusion.

X. No county, city, town, village district, local land use board, or other subdivision of this state shall adopt any ordinance, regulation, code, or administrative practice that prohibits or restricts a person or entity from installing a safe and commercially available heating or other energy system of their choice, or from engaging the services of an energy provider of their choice to install, connect, or resupply such energy system. In this paragraph, “energy provider” means a qualified and licensed distributor of oil, propane, natural gas, or other company or entity that supplies energy or related services to the public.

7 Local Amendments; Application. Amend RSA 155-A:4, II to read as follows:

II. In municipalities that have adopted an enforcement mechanism pursuant to RSA ~~[674:51 and RSA 47:22]~~ **155-A:3**, the permit under this section shall conform to the locally adopted process. No permit shall be issued that would not result in compliance with the state building code ~~and state fire code~~.

8 Local Amendments; Application. Amend RSA 155-A:7, I to read as follows:

I. The local enforcement agency appointed pursuant to RSA ~~[674:51 or RSA 47:22]~~ **155-A:3** shall have the authority to enforce the provisions of the state building code and the local fire chief shall have the authority to enforce the provisions of the state fire code, provided that where there is no local enforcement agency or contract with a qualified third party pursuant to RSA 155-A:2, VI, the state fire marshal or the state fire marshal’s designee may enforce the provisions of the state building code and the state fire code, subject to the review provisions in RSA 155-A:10, upon written request of the municipality.

9 Local Amendments; Application. Amend RSA 155-A:10, IV(c) – (f) to read as follows:

(c) Municipal ~~[amendments]~~ **ordinances**: municipalities shall submit proposed ~~[amendments]~~ **ordinances** to the state building code ~~[pursuant to RSA 155-A:3]~~ to the board for review and confirmation prior to adoption. Municipalities may submit proposed language to the board for an advisory opinion at any time. Cities shall submit ~~[the]~~ final proposed ~~[building code amendments]~~ **ordinances** no later than 90 days before final adoption. Towns shall submit ~~[the]~~ final proposed ~~[amendments]~~ **ordinances** no later than 10 days after the conclusion of the final public hearing. Municipal submissions shall include the final text for each ~~[amendments]~~ **ordinance**. The board shall act to review and confirm proposed municipal ~~[amendments]~~ **ordinances** within 90 days of submission for cities, and 45 days for towns. Failure of the board to act within these time frames shall constitute a confirmation of the municipal ~~[amendments]~~ **ordinances**. The board’s review shall be limited to a confirmation that the local ~~[amendments]~~ **ordinance** complies with RSA ~~[674:51 or RSA 47:22]~~ **155-A:3**, and a verification with the state fire marshal that there is no conflict with the fire code.

(d) Once an ~~[amendments]~~ **ordinance** is approved by the legislative body, the municipality shall submit documentation to the building code review board within 30 days, pursuant to subparagraph (c), that the public hearing was properly noticed and held, and that the provision was adopted by the local legislative body.

(e) [Repealed.]

(f) ~~[amendments]~~ **Ordinances** adopted by municipalities, submitted to the board ~~[under the provisions of RSA 674:51, II this chapter]~~, and confirmed by the board, shall be published by the board after notification of adoption is received from the municipality.

10 General Requirements. Amend RSA 155-A:11-b, I to read as follows:

I. The board shall hear appeals of final decisions of any local building code board of appeals established under **RSA 155-A:3 and** RSA 674.

11 General Requirements. Amend RSA 674:34, II to read as follows:

II. Appeals of decisions of any local building code board of appeals shall be made within 30 days of the board’s decision to the state building code review board as outlined under RSA ~~[155-A:10, IV(c)]~~ **155-A:11-b**.

12 General Requirements. Amend RSA 675:1, II to read as follows:

II. Zoning ordinances proposed under RSA 674:16 **and** historic district ordinances proposed under RSA 674:46 shall be adopted in accordance with the procedures required under RSA **675:2 through 675:5**.

13 Repeal. The following are repealed:

I. RSA 47:22, relative to the municipalities' grant of power.

II. RSA 674:51, relative to the local land use planning board and their power to amend state building codes and establish enforcement procedures.

14 Effective Date. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.

HB 598, establishing a committee to study data sources of all entities operated by all branches of government that are or are potentially made available to the public, identify the data formats of those sources, and recommend legislation to standardize types and formats of data output from all or select governmental entities. Inexpedient to Legislate, Vote 5-0. Senator Reardon for the committee.

HB 598 establishes a committee to study data sources of all entities operated by all three branches of government that are or are potentially made available to the public, identify the data formats of those sources, and recommend legislation to standardize types of formats of data output from all or select government entities. The Committee felt that such a committee could have significant unforeseen costs to the departments and agencies.

HB 634, repealing the New Hampshire council on autism spectrum disorders. Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 5-0. Senator Reardon for the committee.

HB 634 repeals the New Hampshire Council on Autism Spectrum Disorders. The committee amendment makes hybrid meetings easier for the Council to enable a quorum while ensuring that RSA 91-A standards are met.

Senate Executive Departments and Administration
May 7, 2025
2025-1988s
05/11

Amendment to HB 634

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

AN ACT relative to the New Hampshire council on autism spectrum disorders.

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

1 New Hampshire Council on Autism Spectrum Disorders. RSA 171-A:32 is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

171-A:32 New Hampshire Council on Autism Spectrum Disorders Established; Duties.

I. There is established a council on autism spectrum disorders (NHCASD) to provide leadership in promoting comprehensive and quality education, health care, and services for individuals with autism spectrum disorders and their families. The members of the council shall be as follows:

(a) The governor, or designee.

(b) The commissioner of the department of education, or designated representative specializing in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1974.

(c) The commissioner of the department of health and human services, or designee.

(d) The bureau chief of the bureau of developmental services, department of health and human services, or designee.

(e) The bureau chief of the bureau of behavioral health, department of health and human services, or designee.

(f) The director of the Institute on Disability, University of New Hampshire, or designee.

(g) A special education director, appointed by the New Hampshire Association of Special Education Administrators, Inc.

(h) The president of the New Hampshire Medical Society, or designee with a specialty in family medicine or pediatrics.

- (i) A representative of the New Hampshire Developmental Disabilities Council, appointed by the council.
- (j) Two individuals who are diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder, appointed by the NHCASD.
- (k) Two family members of individuals diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder, appointed by the NHCASD.
- (l) A representative of the Community Support Network, Inc., appointed by such organization.
- (m) A representative of the New Hampshire Psychological Association, appointed by the association.
- (n) The director of the office of Medicaid business and policy, department of health and human services, or designee.
- (o) A member of a New Hampshire based self-advocacy organization, appointed by the NHCASD.
- (p) Up to 5 additional members, appointed by the NHCASD.
- (q) A clinical service provider, as appointed by the council.
- (r) A representative of the New Hampshire School Nurses' Association, appointed by the association.
- (s) A licensed speech-language pathologist, appointed by the New Hampshire Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Inc.

II. A quorum of the council shall be a half plus one member of the appointed members of the council.

III. Meetings shall be conducted in a hybrid in-person/electronic format. Members for whom it is not reasonably practical to attend in-person may participate remotely, and the reason for remote participation shall be stated in the minutes of the meeting. Hybrid meetings shall comply with RSA 91-A requirements.

IV. The council shall:

- (a) Provide advisory leadership on training, policy, data collection, and coordination of support and services for individuals with autism spectrum disorders and their families.
- (b) Collaborate with groups and organizations that focus on providing quality services to individuals with autism spectrum disorder and their families.
- (c) Make recommendations on best practices in New Hampshire for serving individuals with autism spectrum disorder.
- (d) Provide an online listing of resources for individuals and families of people with autism spectrum disorder.
- (e) Make an annual report to the governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, the president of the senate, the commissioners of the department of health and human services and department of education, the members of the house committees on education, health, human services and elderly affairs, and finance, and the members of the senate committees on education, health and human services, and finance.

V. The department of health and human services shall provide administrative support to the council.

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

2025-1988s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill revises the membership and duties of the New Hampshire council on autism spectrum disorders.

The bill is a request of the New Hampshire council on autism spectrum disorders.

HB 780, relative to the director of the division of archives and records management of the department of state. Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0. Senator Gannon for the committee.

HB 780 makes the statutes relative to the Director of the Division of Archives and Records Management of the Department of State gender neutral. The Committee received testimony that this bill stemmed from a conversation between the prime sponsor and the State Archivist.

FINANCE

HB 658-FN, raising the cap on certain reimbursements from the oil discharge and disposal cleanup fund.
Ought to Pass, Vote 8-0. Senator Pearl for the committee.

This bill reallocates the fees within the various programs that the Oil Discharge and Disposal Cleanup Fund manages to more align with the projected uses based on a 10-year actuarial review.

HB 739-FN, relative to excess funds paid to municipalities for use in school districts.
Inexpedient to Legislate, Vote 8-0. Senator Lang for the committee.

This bill requires municipalities to remit any excess statewide education property tax to the state for deposit in the Education Trust Fund. Due to the existing lawsuit, committee members felt it would be premature to act on the bill.

HB 763-FN, relative to school emergency plans for sports related injuries.
Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 8-0. Senator Rosenwald for the committee.

This bill further specifies requirements for emergency plans for sports related injuries and appropriates \$1 to the Division of Fire Standards and Training and Emergency Medical Services to aid in funding and distributing AEDs to schools, in order that they may comply with requirements for AEDs according to emergency plans for sports related injuries. The bill also establishes a dedicated fund administered by the Division of Fire Standards and Training and Emergency Medical Services to assist schools in procuring AEDs.

Senate Finance
May 9, 2025
2025-2076s
07/06

Amendment to HB 763-FN

Amend paragraph I as inserted by section 4 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

I. There is hereby appropriated from the general fund to the division of fire standards and training and emergency medical services the sum of \$1 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026 for the purpose of creating funds for which public and non-public schools may apply in order to implement cardiac emergency response preparedness plans for school athletic events and practices. The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said sum out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

2025-2076s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill further specifies requirements for emergency plans for sports related injuries and appropriates \$1 to the division of fire standards and training and emergency medical services to aid in funding and distributing AEDs to schools, in order that they may comply with requirements for AEDs according to emergency plans for sports related injuries. The bill also establishes a dedicated fund administered by the division of fire standards and training and emergency medical services to assist schools in procuring AEDs.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

HB 606, relative to a patient's right to medically appropriate care for reproductive disorders.
Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 5-0. Senator Birdsell for the committee.

As amended, this bill affirms a patient's right to receive appropriate reproductive care for a medical condition when such care may include a procedure or medication that leaves the patient sterile or unable to have children. This will address the experiences of women with serious reproductive medical conditions who experienced great difficulty in obtaining proper care due to social factors and circumstances.

Senate Health and Human Services
May 7, 2025
2025-1982s
05/11

Amendment to HB 606

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

AN ACT relative to a patient's right to appropriate reproductive care for medical conditions.

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

1 New Section; Physicians and Surgeons; Right to Appropriate Reproductive Care for Medical Conditions. Amend RSA 329 by inserting after section 31-b the following new section:

329:31-c Right to Appropriate Reproductive Care for Medical Conditions.

I. If a patient who is 18 years of age or older has a medical condition for which a medically advisable course of treatment or precautionary measure may include a procedure, medication, or treatment that leaves the patient sterile or unable to have children, the physician shall not deny the treatment on the basis of age, number of children, marital status, or fertility goals contrary to the patient's statement. The physician may require the patient to sign an informed consent and waive all damages from the procedure related to sterilization. A physician who violates this right may be subject to disciplinary action by the board of medicine.

II. A patient who has signed an informed consent or a waiver and proceeds with appropriate reproductive care for a medical condition shall have no civil right of action against any health care provider or health care institution on the basis of the patient being rendered sterile or unable to have children. This paragraph shall not provide immunity against any purposeful, reckless, or negligent act of a health care provider or health care institution.

III. For purposes of this section, "medical condition" means any disease, disorder, syndrome, symptoms, genetic predisposition or family medical history, or the state of being medicated, that either affect the reproductive system, or make reproduction not advisable either for the medical interest of the patient or for potential children. "Appropriate reproductive care for a medical condition" shall include the following: a hysterectomy (uterus), oophorectomy (ovaries), orchiectomy (testicles), salpingectomy (fallopian tubes), endometrial ablation, or medications that may affect fertility. For the purposes of this section, gender dysphoria shall not be considered a medical condition that affects the reproductive system or makes reproduction inadvisable; however, a patient who has a medical condition as defined in this paragraph shall not be denied a sterilizing treatment on the basis of having gender dysphoria.

IV. A patient who has been denied appropriate reproductive care for a medical condition as defined in paragraph III may seek review of the decision by the board of medicine within 3 years of the last denial to determine whether the denial was consistent with this section. A violation of this section shall be subject to review and disciplinary action by the board of medicine in conjunction with the office of professional licensure and certification under RSA 310, and shall not be subject to further civil liability or criminal penalty.

2 New Paragraph; Board of Medicine; Rulemaking; Denial of Appropriate Reproductive Care for Medical Conditions. Amend RSA 329:9 by inserting after paragraph XXI the following new paragraph:

XXII. Review of complaints asserting a violation of RSA 329:31-c, relative to appropriate reproductive care for medical conditions, including disciplinary proceedings under RSA 310:10 and assessment of fines under RSA 310:12.

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

2025-1982s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill affirms a patient's right to receive appropriate reproductive care for a medical condition when such care may include a procedure or medication that leaves the patient sterile or unable to have children.

JUDICIARY

HB 88-FN, establishing community property trusts.

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

House Bill 88-FN allows the formation of community property trusts in New Hampshire. Its goal is to provide a tax advantage for estates as communal property in the event of the death of one of the owners. As communal property, estates would be taxed based on their value at the time of transfer rather than at the time of purchase.

HB 433-FN, making 17 the age of consent for marriage if either party is active duty military and removing language regarding age waivers for marriage registration records, since age waivers are no longer issued in New Hampshire.

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

House Bill 433-FN sought to provide an exception to the age of consent for marriage for couples in which a partner served in the armed forces in active duty. The committee heard testimony which detailed concerns surrounding safety, in addition to the fact that marriage may not be a requisite to assign beneficiaries. Accordingly, the committee does not find the bill expedient to legislate.

TRANSPORTATION

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

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

This bill would have established a new conservation license plate to generate revenue for the Cyanobacteria Mitigation Loan and Grant Fund. The Committee recommended this bill to be re-referred, citing concerns that the new plate could interfere with the existing Moose Plate program.

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

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

This bill would have expanded the number of handicapped license plates and placards that the Division of Motor Vehicles is authorized to issue to eligible individuals. Specifically, it would have permitted an individual who qualifies for a handicapped plate or placard to receive one for each vehicle they own. The committee recommends the bill as inexpedient to legislate, citing concerns that it could increase the potential for fraudulent use of handicapped parking privileges.

HB 260-FN, creating a commemorative license plate celebrating the 250th anniversary of American Independence. Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0. Senator McConkey for the committee.

This bill would create a commemorative license plate in celebration of the 250th anniversary of Bunker Hill.

HB 321-FN, requiring the division of motor vehicles to extend a fine payment period for certain motor vehicle violations from 30 days to 90 days if the driver requests the extension.

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

This bill would have required the Division of Motor Vehicles to extend the fine payment period for certain motor vehicle violations from 30 days to 90 days upon a driver's request. However, the legislation requires further refinement to resolve outstanding questions before it can be finalized.

HB 452-FN, relative to the issuance of drivers' licenses for aliens temporarily residing in New Hampshire.

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

This bill attempted to impose stricter requirements on the issuance and renewal of nonresident drivers' licenses, but it raised serious concerns about practicality, enforcement, and potential legal issues. The Committee recommends re-referral because it lacked clarity, enforceability, and a sound policy foundation.

HB 461, relative to department of safety and department of motor vehicle training and testing materials.

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

This bill proposed eliminating all languages other than English from training and testing materials provided by the Department of Safety and the Division of Motor Vehicles. It would have also prohibited both electronic and in-person translation assistance. The Committee recommended the bill as inexpedient to legislate, citing concerns that its' implementation could compromise road safety by creating barriers to understanding critical driving information.

HB 489, allowing volunteer emergency workers to use a rear facing blue light on their private vehicles when involved in emergency service.

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

This bill would have authorized volunteer emergency personnel to display a rear-facing blue light on their private vehicles while engaged in emergency response activities. The Committee recommended the bill as inexpedient to legislate, expressing concerns that it could be exploited by individuals acquiring blue lights through online retailers, thereby increasing the risk of impersonation of emergency responders.

HB 632, permitting health care providers affiliated with the Veterans Administration to certify medical accommodations on behalf of veterans residing in New Hampshire.

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

This bill would permit health care providers affiliated with the Veterans Administration to certify medical accommodations on behalf of veterans residing in New Hampshire. This legislation would help disabled veterans, who are disproportionately affected by the current law.

HB 713-FN, relative to mile markers along Route 112.

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

This bill would establish mile markers along Route 112, from Conway across the Kancamagus Highway to Bath. This heavily traveled roadway, which passes through rugged and remote terrain, lacks cell coverage. The sponsor and first responders called out this safety concern. The Committee recommends the bill ought to pass, noting that the installation of mile markers would enhance public safety and funding for this will be provided through federal highway safety funds.

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

REGULAR CALENDAR

CHILDREN AND FAMILY LAW

HB 132-FN, relative to liability for familial support under RSA chapter 165, aid to assisted persons.

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

Senate Children and Family Law

May 9, 2025

2025-2046s

11/06

Amendment to HB 132-FN

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

AN ACT eliminating liability for support and recovery over certain indigent relations.

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

1 Aid to Assisted Persons; Recovery of Expenses and Court Costs Limited. Amend RSA 165:20 to read as follows:

165:20 Recovery of Expense. If a town, city, or county acting as agent for a town under RSA 165:34 spends any sum for the support, return to his home, or burial of an assisted person having a residence in another town or city, ~~[or for an assisted person having relations able to support him under RSA 165:19;]~~ such sum may be recovered from the town, city or relation so chargeable or from a county acting as agent for the town under RSA 165:34. ~~[In any civil action brought under this section to recover such sum, the court shall award costs to the prevailing party].~~

2 Repeal. The following are repealed:

I. RSA 165:19, relative to liability for support.

II. RSA 166:12, relative to rights of actions.

III. RSA 166:24, relative to recovery of expense and court costs.

3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect January 1, 2026.

2025-2046s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill repeals the statutory provision requiring that the relation of any poor person in the line of father, mother, stepfather, stepmother, son, daughter, husband, or wife shall assist or maintain such person when in need of relief and limits or eliminates counties' authority to recover costs for public assistance, including legal actions for reimbursement, expense recovery from municipalities and relatives, and claims against estates of deceased recipients.

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

Senator Sullivan offered a Floor Amendment.

Sen. Sullivan, Dist 18
May 13, 2025
2025-2144s
11/08

Floor Amendment to HB 132-FN

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

AN ACT eliminating liability for support and recovery over certain indigent relations.

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

1 Aid to Assisted Persons; Recovery of Expenses and Court Costs Limited. Amend RSA 165:20 to read as follows:

165:20 Recovery of Expense. If a town, city, or county acting as agent for a town under RSA 165:34 spends any sum for the support, return to his home, or burial of an assisted person having a residence in another town or city, ~~[or for an assisted person having relations able to support him under RSA 165:19,]~~ such sum may be recovered from the town[; **or** city~~[or relation]~~ so chargeable or from a county acting as agent for the town under RSA 165:34. ~~[In any civil action brought under this section to recover such sum, the court shall award costs to the prevailing party].~~

2 Repeal. The following are repealed:

I. RSA 165:19, relative to liability for support.

II. RSA 166:12, relative to rights of actions.

III. RSA 166:24, relative to recovery of expense and court costs.

3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect January 1, 2026.

2025-2144s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill repeals the statutory provision requiring that the relation of any poor person in the line of father, mother, stepfather, stepmother, son, daughter, husband, or wife shall assist or maintain such person when in need of relief and limits or eliminates counties' authority to recover costs for public assistance, including legal actions for reimbursement, expense recovery from municipalities and relatives, and claims against estates of deceased recipients.

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.

COMMERCE

HB 577, relative to modifying the definition of ADUs.

Ought to Pass, Vote 5-1. Senator Innis for the committee.

Senator Fenton offered a Floor Amendment.

Sen. Fenton, Dist 10
May 13, 2025
2025-2162s
06/05

Floor Amendment to HB 577

Amend RSA 674:71, II as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

II. "Attached unit" means a unit that is within or attached to the principal dwelling unit, or completely contained within a preexisting detached structure.

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

2 Accessory Dwelling Units. RSA 674:72 is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

674:72 Accessory Dwelling Units.

I. A municipality that adopts a zoning ordinance pursuant to the authority granted in this chapter shall allow accessory dwelling units as a matter of right or by either conditional use permit pursuant to RSA 674:21, or by special exception, in all zoning districts that permit single-family dwellings. The municipality shall allow one accessory dwelling unit without additional requirements for lot size, except as described in this section, setbacks, aesthetic requirements, design review requirements, frontage, space limitations, or other controls beyond what would be required for a single-family dwelling without an accessory dwelling unit. The municipality may not impose greater requirements for a septic system for a single-family home with an accessory dwelling unit than those required by the department of environmental services. The municipality is not required to allow more than one accessory dwelling unit for any single-family dwelling. The municipality may prohibit accessory dwelling units associated with multiple single-family dwellings attached to each other, such as townhouses, and with manufactured housing as defined in RSA 674:31. The municipality may prohibit accessory dwelling units associated with rented or leased land. Subsequent condominium conveyance of any accessory dwelling unit separate from that of the principal dwelling unit shall be prohibited, notwithstanding the provisions of RSA 356-B:5, unless allowed by the municipality.

II. If a zoning ordinance contains no provisions pertaining to accessory dwelling units, then one accessory dwelling unit shall be deemed a permitted accessory use, as a matter of right, to any single-family dwelling in the municipality, and no municipal permits or conditions shall be required other than building permits, if required by municipal ordinance.

III. Attached accessory dwelling units shall have either an independent means of ingress and egress or ingress and egress through a common space shared with the principal dwelling. However, the municipality shall not limit the choice of ingress and egress.

IV. Any municipal regulation applicable to single-family dwellings shall also apply to the combination of a principal dwelling unit and an accessory dwelling unit, including, but not limited to, lot coverage standards and standards for maximum occupancy per bedroom consistent with policies adopted by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. A municipality may require adequate parking to accommodate an accessory dwelling unit; however, such parking requirements shall not be more restrictive for accessory dwelling units than for single-family dwellings in the same zoning district.

V. The applicant for a permit to construct an accessory dwelling unit shall make adequate provisions for water supply and sewage disposal for the accessory dwelling unit in accordance with RSA 485-A:38, but separate systems shall not be required for the principal and accessory dwelling units. In order to comply with this paragraph and prior to constructing an accessory dwelling unit, an application for approval for a sewage disposal system shall be submitted in accordance with RSA 485-A as applicable. The approved sewage disposal system shall be installed if the existing system has not received construction approval and approval to operate under current rules or predecessor rules, or the system fails or otherwise needs to be repaired or replaced.

VI. A municipality may require owner occupancy of one of the dwelling units, but it shall not specify which unit the owner must occupy. A municipality may require that the owner demonstrate that one of the units is his or her principal place of residence, and the municipality may establish reasonable regulations to enforce such a requirement.

VII. A municipality may establish standards for attached accessory dwelling units to maintain aesthetic continuity with the principal dwelling unit as a single-family dwelling. A municipality may also establish minimum and maximum sizes for an attached accessory dwelling unit; however, the size may not be restricted to less than 750 square feet.

VIII. A municipality may apply aesthetic standards to detached accessory dwelling units only if it has also applied such standards to the principal dwelling unit. The total living space of the detached accessory dwelling unit shall not exceed 950 square feet unless otherwise authorized by the municipality. A municipality may not restrict the total living space to less than 750 square feet.

IX. A municipality shall not require a familial relationship between the occupants of an accessory dwelling unit and the occupants of a principal dwelling unit.

X. A municipality shall not limit an accessory dwelling unit to only one bedroom.

XI. An accessory dwelling unit may be deemed a unit of workforce housing for the purpose of satisfying the municipality's regional fair share obligation under RSA 674:59, III if the unit meets the criteria in RSA 674:58, IV for rental units.

XII. A municipality shall allow accessory dwelling units to be converted from existing structures, including but not limited to detached garages, regardless of whether such structures violate current dimensional requirements for setbacks or lot coverage.

XIII. A municipality shall not deny the establishment of a separate electrical panel and separate electrical service to the accessory dwelling unit.

3 Repeal. RSA 674:73, relative to detached accessory dwelling units, is repealed.

4 Effective Date. This act shall take effect June 1, 2026.

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

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

HB 639-FN, relative to the use of and disputes over blockchain and digital currencies.

No Recommendation, Vote 3-3. Senator Innis for the committee.

Senator Innis moved Re-refer to Committee.

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

EDUCATION

HB 90-FN, relative to the definition of part-time teachers.

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

Senate Education

April 23, 2025

2025-1731s

11/11

Amendment to HB 90-FN

Amend RSA 189:39-c, I(d) as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

(d) Is authorized to teach an approved college dual or concurrent enrollment course in the high school that has the same quality and rigor as the courses offered on-campus at the sponsoring college or university.

The question is on the adoption of the Committee Amendment.

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

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

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

The following Senators were excused: Avard.

Roll Call, Yeas: 9 - Nays: 14. Failed.

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

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

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

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

President Pro Tempore Abbas presiding.

HB 676, relative to the composition and responsibilities of the parent and education service provider advisory commission, and establishing education freedom account impact and parent satisfaction surveys.

Re-refer to Committee, Vote 3-2. Senator Abbas for the committee.

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

HB 699, relative to special education definitions.

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

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

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

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

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

The following Senators were excused: Avard, Carson.

Roll Call, Yeas: 14 - Nays: 8. Adopted, bill ordered to Third Reading.

HB 768, allowing public schools to contract with any approved private school.

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

Senate Education

May 13, 2025

2025-2149s

06/08

Amendment to HB 768

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

AN ACT allowing public schools to contract with any approved nonpublic school.

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 Duty to Provide Education. Amend RSA 189:1-a, IV to read as follows:

IV. Pursuant to RSA 193:3, VI, a school board may execute a contract with any approved [nonsectarian private] **nonpublic** school approved by the school board as a school tuition program as defined in RSA 193:3, VII to provide for the education of a child who resides in the school district, and may raise and appropriate money for the purposes of the contract, if the school district does not have a public school at the pupil's grade level and the school board decides it is in the best interest of the pupil.

2025-2149s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill allows public schools to enter into contracts with any approved nonpublic school, including religious schools.

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

President Carson presiding.

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

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

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

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

The following Senators were excused: Avard.

Roll Call, Yeas: 15 - Nays: 8. Adopted, bill ordered to Third Reading.

EDUCATION FINANCE

HB 557, relative to the information that appears on the school budget ballot.

Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 4-2. Senator Innis for the committee.

Senate Education Finance

May 1, 2025

2025-1878s

06/11

Amendment to HB 557

Amend RSA 671:20, II(a) as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

(a) The average cost-per-pupil as calculated in accordance with RSA 189:75 I(a).

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

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

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

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

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

The following Senators were excused: Avard.

Roll Call, Yeas: 15 - Nays: 8. Adopted, bill ordered to Third Reading.

HB 718, requiring the state board of education to report the unfunded financial impact to school districts for rules adopted by the board which exceed state or federal minimum standards.

Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 4-2. Senator Murphy for the committee.

Senate Education Finance

May 1, 2025

2025-1880s

06/06

Amendment to HB 718

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

1 Special Education; Rules Exceeding State or Federal Minimum Requirements. Amend RSA 186-C:16-c, I(a) to read as follows:

(a) For each rule or proposed rule contained in the report, ~~[the state board shall include]~~ ***the department of education shall identify*** the rule number, the nature of the rule, any state minimum requirement exceeded, any federal minimum requirement exceeded, ***the unfunded financial impact on local school districts for rules exceeding state or federal minimum requirements, if the rule exceeding state or federal requirements may have an indeterminable fiscal impact on school districts***, and the reasons for exceeding those minimum requirements.

2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect January 1, 2026.

2025-1880s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill requires the department of education to report the out-of-pocket costs that local districts must incur to comply with rules that exceed state or federal special education standards and if certain federal or state requirements may have an indeterminable fiscal impact on school districts.

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

Senator Innis offered a Floor Amendment.

Sen. Innis, Dist 7

May 9, 2025

2025-2080s

06/08

Floor Amendment to HB 718

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

2 New Paragraphs; Session Law 2023, Chapter 109. Amend RSA 2023, 109 by inserting after paragraph X the following new paragraphs:

XI. Session law 2023, Chapter 190, authorized the creation of the Bridgewater-Hebron Groton Special Purpose School District. The district was created by vote of the 3 towns at their 2024 annual meetings and the first operating budget for the new school district was adopted at the March 2025 annual meeting for the district, which is now known as the Pasquaney School District.

XII. Notwithstanding the provisions of RSA 76:15-a and any other provision of law, the Pasquaney School District and its member towns are hereby granted an exception to the requirement that the July 1 taxes by the member towns be limited to the prior year's tax assessed valuation times 1/2 of the previous year's tax rate in setting the tax assessment for the Pasquaney School District. Instead, for the 2025 partial payment tax bill, each of the member towns may apply to the commissioner of revenue administration to adjust the 1/2 of the previous year's local school tax rate by an amount sufficient to collect 1/2 of their individual responsibility of the net assessment as calculated on the school district's 2025 MS-26. The department of revenue administration shall expedite the adjusted rate applications.

XIII. The member towns and the Pasquaney School District are hereby granted such relief from the limitations and deadlines set forth in RSA 76:15-a as is necessary to effectuate paragraph XII.

Recess. Out of recess.

SPECIAL ORDER

Without objection, HB 718 is Special Ordered to Thursday, June 5th. Adopted.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

(The Chair recognized Senator Birdsell.)

SENATOR BIRDSSELL: Thank you Madam President. I just want to welcome members of our New Hampshire National Guard, along with military members of El Salvador, Cyprus, Israel, Paraguay and Caledonia. Welcome to the State Senate. Thank you for your service.

EDUCATION FINANCE

HB 771-FN, relative to funding for open enrollment schools.

Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 4-2. Senator Innis for the committee.

Senate Education Finance

May 1, 2025

2025-1881s

06/05

Amendment to HB 771-FN

Amend RSA 194-D:5, II as inserted by section 2 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

II. In accordance with current department of education standards, the funding and educational decision-making process for children with disabilities attending a chartered public or open enrollment school shall be the responsibility of the **sending** school district and shall retain all current options available to the parent and to the school district.

Amend RSA 194-D:6 as inserted by section 3 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

194-D:6 Budgets. ***Each school district shall establish a line item in their operating budget, on an annual basis, reflecting estimated expenditures for open enrollment school tuition and offsetting revenue estimates from sending school districts*** [That portion of a school district's estimated expenditures on open enrollment school tuition shall be shown as a separate line item in a school district's budget].

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

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

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

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

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

The following Senators were excused: Avarid.

Roll Call, Yeas: 15 - Nays: 8. Adopted, bill ordered to Third Reading.

Recess. Out of recess.

ELECTION LAW AND MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

HB 217, relative to absentee ballots.

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

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

HB 356, enabling school districts to adopt partisan school district elections.

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

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

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

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

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

The following Senators were excused: Avard.

Roll Call, Yeas: 10 - Nays: 13. Failed.

Senator Lang moved Ought to Pass.

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

HB 613, relative to enabling local political subdivisions to vote and set a reduced default budget option. Ought to Pass, Vote 3-2. Senator Gray for the committee.

Senator Gray moved to Lay on the Table. Adopted.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION

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

Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 3-1. Senator Pearl for the committee.

Senate Executive Departments and Administration

April 23, 2025

2025-1723s

09/06

Amendment to HB 85-FN

Amend RSA 326-E:3-a, II as inserted by section 3 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

II. A student who has obtained a temporary student license and who is employed in a healthcare setting may render respiratory care services only under the direct supervision of a licensed respiratory care practitioner for a period of 2 months following the date of issuance. After the 2 months have expired, only general supervision by a licensed respiratory care practitioner of the employed student at that healthcare setting shall be required. The scope of practice of the student respiratory therapist is limited to those activities for which there is documented evidence of competency and under conditions specified by rule, pursuant to RSA 541-A.

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

Senator McGough offered a Floor Amendment.

Sen. McGough, Dist 11

Sen. Prentiss, Dist 5

May 14, 2025

2025-2180s

06/08

Floor Amendment to HB 85-FN

Amend the bill by replacing section 3 with the following:

3 New Section; Respiratory Care Practice; Temporary Licensure for Student Respiratory Therapists. Amend RSA 326-E by inserting after section 3 the following new section:

326-E:3-a Temporary Licensure for Student Respiratory Therapists.

I. A student enrolled in a respiratory care educational program may apply for a temporary student license in accordance with rules adopted by the executive director, in consultation with the advisory board, pursuant to RSA 541-A. The student may only apply for licensure if he or she has fulfilled the didactic and clinical practicum educational requirements for his or her first full year. Such license shall only be valid for a maximum of 18 months from the date of issue or 6 months from the date of graduation, whichever is shorter.

II. The scope of practice of the student respiratory therapist is limited to those activities for which there is documented evidence of competency and only noncritical care procedures as defined by rule in consultation with and approval by the advisory board, pursuant to RSA 541-A.

III. A student who has obtained a temporary student license and who is employed in a healthcare setting may render respiratory care services only under the direct supervision of an on-site licensed respiratory care practitioner for a period of 2 months following the date of hire. After the 2 months of direct supervision have been completed, the student may render respiratory care services under the supervision of an on-site licensed physician, licensed respiratory care practitioner, advanced practice registered nurse, or physician assistant, as defined by rule in consultation with and approval by the advisory board, pursuant to RSA 541-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.

FINANCE

HB 282-FN, increasing the maximum benefits for first responders critically injured in the line of duty. Ought to Pass, Vote 8-0. Senator Pearl for the committee.

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

Senator Gray moved to Lay on the Table.

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

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

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

The following Senators were excused: Avard.

Roll Call, Yeas: 14 - Nays: 9. Adopted.

HB 653-FN, establishing a pilot program within the department of education to implement alternatives to restraint and seclusion of students.

Ought to Pass, Vote 8-0. Senator Birdsell for the committee.

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

Senator Gray moved to Lay on the Table. Adopted.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

HB 731-FN, relative to supportive housing options for individuals with developmental disabilities. Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 5-0. Senator Avard for the committee.

Senate Health and Human Services

April 16, 2025

2025-1632s

05/11

Amendment to HB 731-FN

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

2 Department of Health and Human Services; Community Living Facilities. Amend RSA 126-A:19 to read as follows:

126-A:19 Community Living Facilities.

I. The commissioner shall develop a statewide program of community living facilities for persons with developmental disabilities or mental illnesses. The commissioner shall be responsible for the selection, certification, and monitoring of such community living facilities in accordance with rules adopted by the commissioner pursuant to RSA 541-A.

II. The commissioner shall also be responsible for prior approval of all individual residential placements and shall adopt rules relative to monitoring the care, treatment, and habilitation provided to all residents of community living facilities.

(a) Rates for enhanced family care residents shall be set according to the severity of the resident's disability.

(b) Placements of children shall be consistent with RSA 170-A, 170-C, and 170-E, as appropriate.

(c) Approval by the commissioner of an individual for placement in a community living facility shall be based on a finding by the commissioner that the community living facility is the least restrictive environment appropriate to the needs of the individual. "Least restrictive environment" means the facility, program, or service which least inhibits a person's freedom of movement, freedom of choice, and participation in the community, while achieving the purposes of habilitation and treatment.

III. No community living facility certified under this section shall be exempt from state or local zoning ordinances, or exempt from state or local safety ordinances.

2025-1632s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill provides a limited license exemption for certain supportive housing options for individuals with disabilities located within a larger facility or apartment building. The bill also clarifies that community living facilities certified by the department of health and human services are not exempt from state and local zoning and safety ordinances.

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

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

JUDICIARY

HB 71-FN, prohibiting the use of the facilities of a public elementary school, a public secondary school, or an institution of higher education to provide shelter for aliens who have not been admitted into the United States and relative to department of health and human services contracts.

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

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

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

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

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

The following Senators were excused: Avard.

Roll Call, Yeas: 15 - Nays: 8. Adopted, bill ordered to the Committee on Finance (Rule 4-5).

WAYS AND MEANS

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

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

Senate Ways and Means

April 30, 2025

2025-1848s

07/09

Amendment to HB 328

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

1 Racing and Charitable Gaming; Study Commission Established. RSA 284:6-c is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

284:6-c Study Commission Established. There is established a charitable gaming oversight commission.

I. Seven voting members of the commission shall be as follows:

(a) The chairperson of senate ways and means committee, or their designee who is a senate ways and means committee member.

(b) The ranking minority member of the senate ways and means committee, or their designee who is a senate ways and means committee member.

(c) One senate member appointed by the president of the senate.

(d) The chairperson of house ways and means committee, or their designee who is a house ways and means committee member.

(e) The ranking minority member of the house ways and means committee, or their designee who is a house ways and means committee member.

(f) One house member appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives.

(g) One public member appointed by the governor.

II. (a) Eight non-voting members of the commission shall be as follows:

(1) Four New Hampshire citizens with no financial interest in charitable gaming and no governing board responsibilities for charitable gaming entities shall be selected as follows: one shall be appointed by the president of the senate; one shall be appointed by the minority leader of the senate; one shall be appointed by the speaker of the house; and one shall be appointed by the minority leader of the house.

(2) Two New Hampshire citizens shall be appointed by the governor, provided that one shall be representative of gaming operators and one shall be representative of charities participating in charitable gaming.

(3) The executive director of the lottery commission, or designee.

(4) The attorney general, or designee.

(b) Non-voting members shall have no vote in commission matters but shall be eligible to participate in all other commission proceedings.

III. Voting and non-voting members of the commission shall serve until replaced by their respective appointing authority, until no longer meeting the conditions on which their original appointment was based, or until resignation.

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

V. The commission shall review charitable gaming laws, including historical horse race gaming, shall consider the issues identified in the November 1, 2024, final report of the commission to study the effect of recent changes made to charitable gaming laws, including the newly authorized historical horse races established in 2023, 79:583, and shall make from time to time such recommendations for administrative and legislative changes to charitable gaming law and rules as it deems necessary and appropriate. The commission may upon a majority vote of the commission take-up any such topics it deems relevant; however, it shall start with priority consideration of:

(a) Any possible changes needed to address problem gambling.

(b) Any possible changes needed to restructure or modify systems for allocating and overseeing the use of funds granted to the state and to charities and gaming operators participating in games of chance and in historical horse race gaming.

(c) Any possible changes needed to prevent undue concentration or proliferation of gaming locations, facilities, and ownership, including a municipal option to opt into or out of components of charitable gaming.

VI. The voting members of the study commission shall elect a chairperson from among the voting members. The first meeting of the commission shall be called by the first-named house member. The first meeting of the commission shall be held within 60 days of the effective date of this section. Four voting members of the commission shall constitute a quorum.

VII. The commission shall submit a report on or before November 1, 2026, and on or before September 1 of each year thereafter, to the general court including findings, recommendations, and any corrective or technical improvements that charitable gaming may require.

VIII. The commission shall be administratively attached to the lottery commission.

2 Study Commission Established; Prospective Repeal. Amend 2023, 79:587 to read as follows:

79:587 Effective Date. Section 586 of this act shall take effect July 1, [2025] **2035**.

3 Appropriation; Charitable Gaming Oversight Commission. The sum of \$100,000 for the biennium ending June 30, 2027, is appropriated to the lottery commission to support the work of the charitable gaming oversight commission established pursuant to RSA 284:6-c. The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said sum out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated. Such funds shall be nonlapsing.

4 Effective Date.

I. Section 1 of this act shall take effect June 30, 2025.

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

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

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

CONSENT CALENDAR REPORTS REMOVED

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

COMMERCE

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

Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 6-0. Senator Fenton for the committee.

Senate Commerce

May 6, 2025

2025-1963s

07/05

Amendment to HB 225-FN

Amend RSA 110-C:1-a, I(b) as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

(b) "Employer" means any person, company, corporation, or organization that employs 50 or more individuals at the same location in New Hampshire. For the purpose of calculating the number of employees, the employee count of separate employers shall not be combined, regardless of common ownership.

Amend RSA 110-C:1-a, VII as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

VII. The employer may choose not to reemploy the employee if the employer certifies that its circumstances have so changed as to make reemployment impossible or unreasonable as defined by 20 C.F.R. Section 1002.139.

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

Senator Innis offered a Floor Amendment.

Sen. Innis, Dist 7

May 12, 2025

2025-2086s

07/05

Floor Amendment to HB 225-FN

Amend RSA 110-C:1-a, V-IX as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

IV. Employees shall notify their employers of their spouse's involuntary mobilization within 30 days of their spouse receiving official notice of such mobilization. Employers shall provide the employees with written acknowledgment of the notice of deployment, explicitly confirming adherence to the terms of this section.

V. Upon the spouse's completion of mobilization, the employee is required to report to or submit a timely application for reemployment to his or her employer.

VI. The employer may choose not to reemploy the employee if the employer certifies that its circumstances have so changed as to make reemployment impossible or unreasonable as defined by 20 C.F.R. Section 1002.139.

VII.(a) Employees who believe they have been subjected to a violation of this statute may file a complaint with the New Hampshire department of labor as provided under RSA 110-C within 180 days of the alleged violation.

(b) If a violation is found, the employer shall be liable for reinstatement, back pay, and any benefits lost due to the violation. The department of labor or local court, or both, may also award the employee reasonable attorney's fees and costs.

(c) The department of labor shall adopt rules pursuant to RSA 541-A to govern complaint and hearing procedures under this section.

VIII. This section shall be construed in conjunction with the federal Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) and shall not limit any rights or protections provided under federal law.

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.

HB 276, establishing a liquor license where beverages, wine, and liquor can be sold without food. Ought to Pass, Vote 6-0. Senator Innis for the committee.

Senator Innis moved to Lay on the Table. Adopted.

EDUCATION

HB 235, relative to amending the educator code of ethics and code of conduct to include responsibility to parents.

Ought to Pass, Vote 3-1. Senator Abbas for the committee.

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

HB 324-FN, relative to prohibiting obscene or harmful sexual materials in schools.

Ought to Pass, Vote 3-1. Senator Abbas for the committee.

Senator Perkins Kwoka offered a Floor Amendment.

Sen. Perkins Kwoka, Dist 21

May 14, 2025

2025-2190s

11/11

Floor Amendment to HB 324-FN

Amend RSA 189:81, II as inserted by section 2 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

II. Any petitioner, if successful, shall be awarded special or general damages of not less than \$1,000 for each violation, and costs and reasonable legal fees. Such damages, costs, and fees shall be in addition to equitable relief awarded. If the court determines that the action was brought in bad faith or with the purpose to harass or unduly burden school officials or administration, it may award costs and reasonable attorneys' fees to the defendant.

The question is on the adoption of the Floor Amendment.

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

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

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

The following Senators were excused: Avard.

Roll Call, Yeas: 8 - Nays: 15. Failed.

Senator Birdsell moved the question.

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

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

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

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

The following Senators were excused: Avar.

Roll Call, Yeas: 15 - Nays: 8. Adopted, bill ordered to Third Reading.

Recess. Out of recess.

ELECTION LAW AND MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

HB 67-FN-A, relative to agreements with the secretary of state for the use of accessible voting systems. Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 4-0. Senator Gray for the committee.

Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs

May 6, 2025

2025-1962s

07/05

Amendment to HB 67-FN-A

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

1 Elections; Voting Procedure; Accessible Voting Systems. RSA 659:20-b is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

659:20-b Accessible Voting Systems.

I. Every city, every town, and every school district which has adopted an official ballot system shall:

(a) Ensure that each polling place has at least one accessible voting system.

(b) Bear the cost of programming for the city, town, or school district election with the vendor chosen and contracted with by the secretary of state.

(c) Follow guidance from the secretary of state to upload programmed files to the accessible voting system, test the programming, and set up the accessible voting system for each election.

II. The city or town clerk shall:

(a) Enter into an agreement with the secretary of state for the use of the state's provided accessible voting systems in local elections.

(b) Store and maintain the state's accessible voting system in a secure manner following election security guidance issued by the secretary of state.

(c) For school elections held in the clerk's city or town, share the state's accessible voting system with the school clerk for use in the school district's elections.

III. The secretary of state shall:

(a) Enter into an agreement with city and town clerks to provide accessible voting systems for use in city, town, and school elections.

(b) Provide guidance to city, town, and school clerks on uploading programmed files to the accessible voting systems.

(c) Provide security guidance for the local storage and maintenance of the accessible voting system or systems used for city, town, and school district elections.

(d) Bear the cost of programming for state and federal elections.

2 Repeal. 2024, 123:4, relative to the repeal of certain authority for cities, towns, and school districts to enter into pilot agreements with the secretary of state regarding the use of accessible voting systems.

3 Effective Date.

I. Section 2 of this act shall take effect June 29, 2025.

II. The remainder of this act shall take effect December 31, 2025.

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

Senator Gray offered a Floor Amendment.

Sen. Gray, Dist 6
May 9, 2025
2025-2068s
05/08

Floor Amendment to HB 67-FN-A

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

2 Change to Effective Date of Prospective Repeal. Amend 2024, 123:5, I to read as follows:

I. Section 4 of this act shall take effect ~~[June 30]~~ **December 31**, 2025.

3 Effective Date.

I. Section 2 of this act shall take effect June 29, 2025.

II. The remainder of this act shall take effect January 1, 2026.

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.

HB 151, relative to the term for supervisors of the checklist.

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

Senator Gray moved to Lay on the Table. Adopted.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION

HB 118, repealing certain committees and commissions.

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

Senate Executive Departments and Administration
May 7, 2025
2025-1992s
09/05

Amendment to HB 118

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

AN ACT repealing certain committees and commissions and relative to the membership of the New Hampshire rare disease advisory council.

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

2 New Hampshire Rare Disease Advisory Council Established. Amend RSA 126-A:79, III to read as follows:

III. Terms of office shall be for 3 years, except that legislative members shall serve the terms coterminous with their terms of office. ~~[No member shall serve more than 2 full consecutive terms.]~~

3 Repeal. The following are repealed:

I. RSA 4:9-p through 4:9-r and the subdivision heading preceding RSA 4:9-p, relative to the New Hampshire recovery monument commission.

II. RSA 10:5 through 10:10 and the subdivision heading preceding RSA 10:5, relative to the lakeshore redevelopment planning commission.

III. RSA 12-P:7-b, II(b), relative to the office of offshore wind industry development and energy innovation supporting the offshore wind commission.

IV. RSA 12-O:55-a, relative to the commission on demographic trends.

V. RSA 17-J:5, relative to the joint legislative parking garage oversight committee.

VI. RSA 72:8-f, relative to the study commission on the assessing of power generation.

VII. RSA 105-D:2-a, relative to the commission to develop recommendations for legislation to establish a single statewide entity to receive complaints alleging misconduct regarding all sworn and elected law enforcement officers.

VIII. RSA 126-A:17, II(a) and II(b), relative to the house and senate members of the advisory council on child care.

IX. RSA 127:12, relative to the commission to study the delivery of public health services through regional public health networks.

X. RSA 276-B, relative to the task force on work and family.

XI. RSA 284:6-c, relative to the study commission to study the effect of recent changes made to charitable gaming laws.

XII. RSA 329:1-f and the subdivision heading preceding it, relative to the commission to study telehealth services.

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

XIV. 2022, 278:2, relative to the repeal of the commission to study the delivery of public health services through regional public health networks.

XV. 2023, 79:463, relative to the repeal of the housing champion advisory program.

XVI. 2023, 79:586, relative to the repeal of the study commission to study the effect of recent changes made to charitable gaming laws.

XVII. 2023, 192:5 and 192:6, relative to the repeal of the joint legislative parking garage oversight commission.

XVIII. 2024, 318:2, relative to the repeal of the study commission on the assessing of power generation.

4 Effective Date.

I. Paragraphs V and XVII of section 3 of this act shall take effect January 1, 2026.

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

2025-1992s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill repeals various committees and commissions, and removes the house and senate members of the advisory council on child care. This bill further removes the restriction that members of the New Hampshire rare disease advisory council not serve more than 2 full consecutive terms.

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

Senator Perkins Kwoka offered a Floor Amendment.

Sen. Perkins Kwoka, Dist 21

May 14, 2025

2025-2186s

08/06

Floor Amendment to HB 118

Amend the bill by replacing paragraphs XV through XVIII as inserted by section 3 with the following:

XV. 2023, 79:586, relative to the repeal of the study commission to study the effect of recent changes made to charitable gaming laws.

XVI. 2023, 192:5 and 192:6, relative to the repeal of the joint legislative parking garage oversight commission.

XVII. 2024, 318:2, relative to the repeal of the study commission on the assessing of power generation. 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.

JUDICIARY

HB 616-FN, relative to the confiscation of animals from persons suspected of or charged with abuse of animals and establishing a committee to study the animal cruelty statutes. Inexpedient to Legislate, Vote 5-0. Senator Gannon for the committee.

Senator Gannon moved to Lay on the Table. Adopted.

COMMERCE

HB 649-FN, removing the requirement for physical safety inspections and on-board diagnostic tests for passenger vehicles and eliminating funding for the motor vehicle air pollution abatement fund. No Recommendation, Vote 3-3. Senator McGough for the committee.

Senator Innis moved to Re-refer to Committee.

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

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

The following Senators voted Yes: Rochefort, Lang, McConkey, Watters, Prentiss, Gray, Innis, Ward, Ricciardi, Rosenwald, Reardon, Pearl, Birdsell, Long, Perkins Kwoka, Abbas, Gannon, Altschiller, Carson.

The following Senators voted No: McGough, Murphy, Sullivan.

The following Senators filed a Declaration of Intent: Fenton.

The following Senators were excused: Avard.

Roll Call, Yeas: 19 - Nays: 3. Adopted.

LIST OF RULE 6-25'S FOR THE DAY

Senator Fenton: HB 649
Senator Murphy: HB 276
Senator Reardon: HB 649

LIST OF IN FAVOR/OPPOSITION FORMS FOR THE DAY

Senator Altschiller: HB 276: In opposition to the motion of Ought to Pass.
Senator Birdsell: HB 577: In opposition to the motion of Ought to Pass.
Senator McGough: HB 217: In opposition to the motion of Inexpedient to Legislate.
Senator McGough: HB 276: In opposition to the motion to table.
Senator McGough: HB 282: In opposition to the motion to table.
Senator McGough: HB 639: In opposition to the motion of Refer to Committee.
Senator Pearl: HB 577: In opposition to the motion of Ought to Pass.
Senator Prentiss: HB 577: In favor of the Floor Amendment #2162.
Senator Ricciardi: HB 577: In opposition to the motion of Ought to Pass.
Senator Rochefort: HB 577: In opposition to the motion of Ought to Pass with Amendment.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRESIDENT CARSON: I would like to announce that the Judiciary Committee is going to be meeting at 3:30.

LATE SESSION

Third Reading and Final Passage

HB 67-FN-A, relative to agreements with the secretary of state for the use of accessible voting systems.

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

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

HB 82, relative to the regulation of various occupations.

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

HB 90-FN, relative to the definition of part-time teachers.

HB 118, repealing certain committees and commissions and relative to the membership of the New Hampshire rare disease advisory council.

HB 132-FN, eliminating liability for support and recovery over certain indigent relations.

HB 142, relative to Gold Star Mother's Day.

HB 156, relative to the duties of the advisory committee on state procurement.

HB 187-FN, relative to restraining orders sought by a parent on behalf of a minor child.

HB 189, relative to the department of energy's 10-year state energy strategy and removing references to the energy efficiency and sustainable energy board.

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

HB 235, relative to amending the educator code of ethics and code of conduct to include responsibility to parents.

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

HB 273, relative to a parent's access to their minor child's library records.

HB 310, establishing a commission to study the creation of a regulatory framework for stable tokens, tokenized real-world assets, and blockchain-based trusts in New Hampshire.

HB 320-FN, relative to enforcement of marital property settlements.

HB 324-FN, relative to prohibiting obscene or harmful sexual materials in schools.

HB 354, relative to alternate certification pathways for career and technical education instructors.

HB 356, enabling school districts to adopt partisan school district elections.

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

HB 373-LOCAL, relative to the management and regulation of town real property.

HB 413, relative to subdivision regulations on the completion of improvements and the regulation of building permits.

HB 416-FN, prohibiting the intentional disposal of yard waste into the surface waters of the state.

HB 421-FN, relative to notice of tax exempt-status filing procedures by town officials or offices.

HB 428-LOCAL, relative to the state building code.

HB 467, defining "social districts" and enabling municipalities to create social districts.

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

HB 505-FN, allowing the sale of freeze dried foods produced in homestead food operations.

HB 511-FN, relative to cooperation with federal immigration authorities.

HB 557, relative to the information that appears on the school budget ballot.

HB 577, relative to modifying the definition of ADUs.

HB 606, relative to a patient's right to appropriate reproductive care for medical conditions.

HB 632, permitting health care providers affiliated with the Veterans Administration to certify medical accommodations on behalf of veterans residing in New Hampshire.

HB 633-FN, creating a legislative study committee to investigate the implementation of housing investment trusts in New Hampshire.

HB 634, relative to the New Hampshire council on autism spectrum disorders.

HB 658-FN, raising the cap on certain reimbursements from the oil discharge and disposal cleanup fund.

HB 699, relative to special education definitions.

HB 731-FN, relative to supportive housing options for individuals with developmental disabilities.

HB 752, relative to procedures for the closing of a charter school.

HB 763-FN, relative to school emergency plans for sports related injuries.

HB 771-FN, relative to funding for open enrollment schools.

HB 768, allowing public schools to contract with any approved nonpublic school.

HB 780, relative to the director of the division of archives and records management of the department of state.

HB 781-FN, requiring school districts to adopt policies establishing a cell phone-free education.

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.