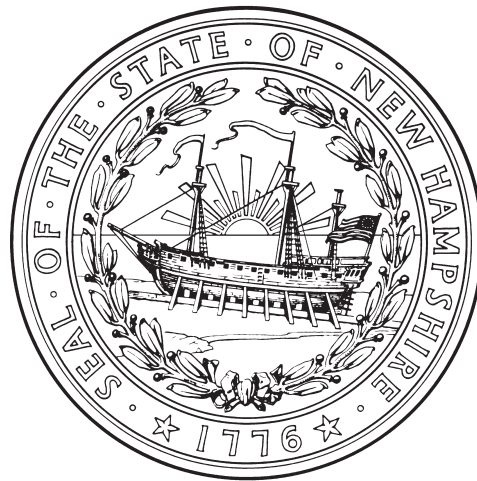


February 5, 2026
Nos. 2-3

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

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



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

Legislative Proceedings

SENATE JOURNAL

**ADJOURNMENT – JANUARY 29, 2026 SESSION
COMMENCEMENT – FEBRUARY 5, 2026 SESSION**

SENATE JOURNAL 2 *(continued)*

January 29, 2026

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION

Senator Birdsell offered the following Resolution:

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

First and Second Reading and Referral

HB 54-FN, allowing alternative treatment centers to operate for-profit. (Judiciary)

HB 121-FN, relative to school district financial requirements and district probation processes. (Education Finance)

HB 131, relative to bullying and cyberbullying prevention. (Education)

HB 158, relative to public inspection of absentee ballot lists. (Election Law and Municipal Affairs)

HB 164-FN, relative to local records retention. (Election Law and Municipal Affairs)

HB 194-FN, relative to the crime of interference with custody. (Children and Family Law)

HB 206-FN, relative to government agent entries into secured premises. (Judiciary)

HB 215-FN, requiring a landfill permit applicant to submit a report listing potential harms and benefits of the project. (Energy and Natural Resources)

HB 219-FN, relative to changes to the minimum electric renewable portfolio standards. (Energy and Natural Resources)

HB 244, updating and recodifying the municipal enforcement of the building and fire code. (Election Law and Municipal Affairs)

HB 246-FN-A, directing the state conservation committee to implement the conservation district climate resilience grant program and making an appropriation therefor. (Finance)

HB 266, relative to structural changes to the department of energy. (Executive Departments and Administration)

HB 281, requiring electronic voter checklists to be supplied in a sortable format. (Election Law and Municipal Affairs)

HB 297-FN, relative to providing self-funded employer health benefit plans access to their claims data. (Commerce)

HB 317, preventing a supervisor of the checklist from verifying a person's identity without identification, even if they personally know that person. (Election Law and Municipal Affairs)

HB 323, requiring the presentation of a government-issued photographic means of identification in order to vote. (Election Law and Municipal Affairs)

HB 360, prohibiting public schools from performing surgical procedures or prescribing pharmaceutical drugs. (Health and Human Services)

HB 396, relative to the processing of beef cows, swine, sheep, and goats at facilities not certified by the United States Department of Agriculture. (Commerce)

HB 463, relative to the composition of the board of recount in elections for the select board and for the school board. (Election Law and Municipal Affairs)

HB 524-FN, relative to disbursement of funds by the New Hampshire vaccine association and establishing a committee to study the efficacy of the New Hampshire vaccine association. (Health and Human Services)

HB 529, relative to the liquor commission. (Commerce)

HB 564, relative to the adoption of school administrative unit budgets. (Education Finance)

HB 565, allowing persons under 21 into veterans' clubs, private clubs, and social clubs under certain conditions. (Commerce)

HB 609-FN, relative to the general court's authority over the sale, purchase, ownership, use, possession, transportation, licensing, permitting, taxation, and other matter pertaining to firearms, stun guns, Tasers, pepper spray devices, knives and other self-defense tools. (Judiciary)

HB 610-FN, relative to the office of the consumer advocate. (Executive Departments and Administration)

HB 656, relative to the authority of local school districts to accept federal grants. (Education Finance)

HB 709-FN, allowing parents or guardians to admit their children into any school district where they pay any property or school district taxes. (Education)

HB 767-FN, expanding requirements for reports to law enforcement by the department of health and human services. (Judiciary)

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION

Senator Birdsell offered the following Resolution:

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

First and Second Reading and Referral

26-3255

SB 653, enabling counties to change the dates of their biennial budgets. (Lang, Dist 2; Election Law and Municipal Affairs)

26-3263

SB 655, relative to employee leasing companies and workers' compensation coverage options. (Innis, Dist 7; Rochefort, Dist 1; Murphy, Dist 16; Pearl, Dist 17; Ward, Dist 8; McGough, Dist 11; Labrie, Hills. 2; Peternel, Carr. 6; Commerce)

26-3260

SB 656-FN, establishing a web-based occupational license application portal for veterans and military spouses. (McGough, Dist 11; Innis, Dist 7; Long, Dist 20; Watters, Dist 4; Ward, Dist 8; Executive Departments and Administration)

26-3270

SB 657-FN, relative to the oversight of artificial intelligence. (Perkins Kwoka, Dist 21; Rosenwald, Dist 13; Prentiss, Dist 5; Long, Dist 20; Watters, Dist 4; Simpson, Rock. 33; Telerski, Hills. 11; Judiciary)

26-3256

SB 658-FN, authorizing the department of education to establish a safe and resilient schools advisory council. (Watters, Dist 4; Rosenwald, Dist 13; Fenton, Dist 10; Long, Dist 20; Perkins Kwoka, Dist 21; Education)

26-3264

SB 659, relative to education financing. (Carson, Dist 14; Avard, Dist 12; Birdsell, Dist 19; Ward, Dist 8; Gray, Dist 6; Innis, Dist 7; Lang, Dist 2; Gannon, Dist 23; McConkey, Dist 3; McGough, Dist 11; Pearl, Dist 17; Rochefort, Dist 1; Murphy, Dist 16; Education Finance)

26-3259

SB 660, relative to photo identification cards issued solely for the purpose of voting. (Gray, Dist 6; Election Law and Municipal Affairs)

26-3262

SB 661-FN, relative to pooled risk management programs. (Carson, Dist 14; Gray, Dist 6; Finance)

26-3267

SB 662-FN-A, making an appropriation to the department of natural and cultural resources for renovations to the Northwood Meadows Lake Dam. (Pearl, Dist 17; McGough, Dist 11; Avard, Dist 12; Watters, Dist 4; Innis, Dist 7; Ward, Dist 8; McConkey, Dist 3; Rochefort, Dist 1; Bryer, Rock. 1; Guzowski, Rock. 1; Tudor, Rock. 1; Finance)

26-3271

SB 663-FN-A, creating a Medicaid methodology working group within the department of health and human services and making an appropriation to the department of health and human services for eligible nursing facilities based on Medicaid reimbursement rates. (Rosenwald, Dist 13; McGough, Dist 11; Lang, Dist 2; Watters, Dist 4; Long, Dist 20; Perkins Kwoka, Dist 21; Prentiss, Dist 5; Fenton, Dist 10; Altschiller, Dist 24; Reardon, Dist 15; Ricciardi, Dist 9; Rochefort, Dist 1; Wallner, Merr. 19; Telerski, Hills. 11; Stringham, Graf. 3; Nagel, Belk. 6; M. Pearson, Rock. 34; Finance)

26-3261

SB 664-FN, limiting hospital executive compensation in communities designated as distressed place-based economies under certain circumstances. (Rochefort, Dist 1; Lang, Dist 2; Gannon, Dist 23; Ward, Dist 8; McConkey, Dist 3; Long, Dist 20; McGough, Dist 11; Korzen, Coos 7; Peternel, Carr. 6; Health and Human Services)

26-3266

SB 665-FN, requiring pharmacies to charge consumers the lowest available price for prescription drugs. (Ricciardi, Dist 9; Long, Dist 20; Watters, Dist 4; Rosenwald, Dist 13; Fenton, Dist 10; Gannon, Dist 23; Reardon, Dist 15; McConkey, Dist 3; Rochefort, Dist 1; Pearl, Dist 17; Carson, Dist 14; Birdsell, Dist 19; Perkins Kwoka, Dist 21; Kuttub, Rock. 17; W. MacDonald, Rock. 16; Rombeau, Hills. 2; L. Foxx, Hills. 2; Health and Human Services)

26-3268

SB 666-FN, relative to consumer protection, transparency, and oversight of certain health care transactions and establishing a study committee to analyze health insurance providers, their practices, policies, premiums, management, and the impact to consumers. (Altschiller, Dist 24; Fenton, Dist 10; Perkins Kwoka, Dist 21; Rosenwald, Dist 13; Reardon, Dist 15; Long, Dist 20; Watters, Dist 4; Prentiss, Dist 5; Health and Human Services)

26-3265

SB 667-FN, relative to the assault of emergency room personnel. (McGough, Dist 11; Pearl, Dist 17; Avard, Dist 12; Gannon, Dist 23; Rochefort, Dist 1; Judiciary)

26-3257

SB 668-FN, authorizing a historic marker on a highway for the purpose of acknowledging the abuse of former residents of the youth development center. (Watters, Dist 4; McGough, Dist 11; Perkins Kwoka, Dist 21; Rosenwald, Dist 13; Fenton, Dist 10; Long, Dist 20; Harriott-Gathright, Hills. 10; A. Murray, Hills. 20; Transportation)

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 3

February 5, 2026

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

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

Good morning senators, if your faith allows let us pray.

Lord we are gathered here today with hearts that are reflective of all the goodness you've given us. An incredible state to call our home, an incredible state that we can serve in. We thank you for these senators who have given tirelessly, their time and their effort to serve so many people in our towns and cities, for their families have given up so much as well. And so Lord we pray a special blessing over each senator and their family today. Let them know that their service is known, and it's felt, and it's seen, and let the people rejoice in their representation through these senators, as they've given us so much time, and good effort. With great integrity, we pray this in your holy name. Amen.

Senator Perkins Kwoka led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Recess. Out of recess.

The Clerk read the following House Message.

HOUSE MESSAGE

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

Senator Birdsell offered the following Resolution:

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

Recess to meet in Joint Convention. Out of recess.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

(The Chair recognized Senator Murphy.)

SENATOR MURPHY: Thank you, Madam President. Please welcome to the Senate Chamber, Ms. Brenda Tennant and Mr. William Franks, who did me the tremendous favor of raising my wife, who joins them in the gallery. Thank you, Madam President.

(The Chair recognized Senator Birdsell.)

SENATOR BIRDSELL: Thank you, Madam President. I'd like to introduce the body to Maria Walsh. Maria was originally born in Boston, but has called the village of Shrulce, County Mayo home since 1994. And between 2017 and 2019, Maria served as a member of the Army Reserve, training with the first ACS Calvary Corps as a trooper based in the Defense Forces Training Center, County Kildare. In 2018, Maria worked as a project coordinator for the national event honoring the survivors and victims of the Magdalene laundries. Maria was first elected in 2019 and re-elected in 2024.

Maria Walsh is serving her second term as a Fine Gael, MEP in the European Parliament. Maria represents the constituency of the Midlands Northwest which spans 15 counties across Ireland and is a member of the European People's Party Group in the European Parliament.

Please welcome Maria Walsh.

MARIA WALSH: Thank you so much. Good morning to you all. I promise I only have about a four hour speech prepared for you, but I'll be short. I want to thank you all for such a hospitable welcome, and a special thank you to Senator Birdsell for allowing me to be here and an opening up for her team. I'm joined here by my mother Noreen and my aunt Sheila. But listening to the Governor's speech, and we stand on the shoulders of the people before us and I often don't think that gets recognized enough.

So, delighted to have my family here and be a representative of a part of Ireland, particularly the west of Ireland that is really scaling and growing, and much of the Governor's speech, and much of the conversation we had this morning really inspired me to continue on.

If we show up for our community, our community will continue to show up for us. So, fantastic to be in your company. I wish you very, very good luck, and of course it would be remiss of me not to welcome you all, céad míle fáilte, at any point, to any part of Ireland, particularly the West of Ireland. Thank you very much.

FN Report for February 5, 2026

W/F	Bill	Title	R/C	Committee	Full Name
Waive	SB 417	requiring state liquor outlets to post warnings relative to the increased risk of cancer and birth defects from drinking alcoholic beverages.	Consent	COM	Commerce
Finance	SB 583	directing the department of education to create an education funding transparency data and reporting system.	Consent	EF	Education Finance
Finance	SB 494	relative to the state fire code, fire incident reporting and investigations, and the duties of the state fire marshal.	Consent	EDA	Executive Departments and Administration
Waive	SB 642	repealing the committee for the protection of human subjects institutional review board.	Consent	EDA	Executive Departments and Administration
Waive	SB 460	relative to the offense of loitering or prowling.	Consent	JUD	Judiciary
Finance	SB 458	relative to the use of toll credits.	Consent	TRANS	Transportation
Waive	SB 630	relative to local authorities' power to declare a reasonable and safe speed limit.	Consent	TRANS	Transportation
Finance	SB 631	installing a sound barrier on Interstate 93 southbound.	Consent	TRANS	Transportation
Finance	HB 639	relative to the use of and disputes over blockchain and digital currencies.	Regular	COM	Commerce

Finance	SB 491	enabling students to utilize education freedom account funds to pay for certain career and technical education funding.	Regular	EF	Education Finance
Finance	SB 582	modifying the base cost of an adequate education.	Regular	EF	Education Finance
Finance	SB 584	increasing the amount of funding provided for students receiving special education services.	Regular	EF	Education Finance
Waive	SB 610	relative to long-term care insurance standards, form approvals, and public hearing procedures.	Regular	HHS	Health and Human Services
Waive	SB 463	relative to possession of firearms in safe school zones.	Regular	JUD	Judiciary
Waive	SB 479	allowing alternative treatment centers to operate for profit.	Regular	JUD	Judiciary
Finance	SB 555	relative to critical risk protection orders.	Regular	JUD	Judiciary
Finance	SB 651	relative to the legalization and regulation of cannabis and making appropriations therefor.	Regular	JUD	Judiciary
Wave	SB 559	reducing the minimum allowable speed limit on locally controlled roads.	Regular	TRANS	Transportation
Waive	SB 627	relative to toll rate adjustments, E-Z Pass customer discounts, and the acquisition and improvement of portions of Interstate Route 93 to support the New Hampshire turnpike system and the 2027-2036 ten year transportation plan.	Regular	TRANS	Transportation
Waive	SB 628	enabling curbside electric-vehicle charging.	Regular	TRANS	Transportation
Waive	SB 633	establishing a voluntary surcharge program and fund for the division of the arts and state council on the arts.	Regular	WM	Ways and Means
Finance	SB 637	relative to certain tax credits for purchase from New Hampshire farms.	Regular	WM	Ways and Means

Please Note: Senate Rule 4-5 requires every bill and joint resolution appropriating money, and every other bill which is accompanied by a fiscal note pursuant to RSA 14:44, which has been referred to another committee and found Ought to Pass by the Senate, shall be referred to the Senate Finance Committee for review, unless otherwise ordered by the Senate upon recommendation of the Chair of the Senate Finance Committee. Senator Gray has reviewed the bills on the Consent and Regular Calendars to be acted upon by the Senate on February 5, 2026, and his recommendations are listed on this FN Report. Bills listed as Waive should be sent to Third Reading. Bills listed as Finance should be sent to the Senate Finance Committee. The recommendations are only applicable to bills found Ought to Pass.

Without objection, the FN Report is adopted.

CONSENT CALENDAR REPORTS REMOVED

CAPITAL BUDGET

SB 497, by Senator Carson.

COMMERCE

SB 524, by Senator Innis.

ELECTION LAW AND MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

SB 495, by Senator McConkey.

TRANSPORTATION

SB 631, by Senator Ricciardi.

SPECIAL ORDER

Without objection, the following bills are Special Ordered to Next Session. Adopted.

ELECTION LAW AND MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

SB 495, increasing the limit for transfers of appropriations in Carroll County.

JUDICIARY

SB 479-FN, allowing alternative treatment centers to operate for profit.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

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

COMMERCE

SB 417-FN, requiring state liquor outlets to post warnings relative to the increased risk of cancer and birth defects from drinking alcoholic beverages.

Inexpedient to Legislate, Vote 4-2. Senator McGough for the committee.

This bill would have required on-premises licensees, off-premises licensees, and state liquor outlets to post warnings relative to the increased risk of cancer and birth defects from drinking alcoholic beverages. A majority of the Committee believed these risks were widely understood, and it should be up to consumers to decide whether they would like to consume these products or not. The industry raised concerns over this bill as well, including the number of posters already required to be posted.

SB 440, relative to the adoption of energy efficient and clean energy districts by municipalities. Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 5-0. Senator Ricciardi for the committee.

This bill would modify the requirements for adoption of energy efficient and clean energy districts, also known as C-PACER, by municipalities. Last session, the Legislature modified the C-PACER statute to help streamline funding to enable the construction of commercial and multi-family housing developments. With its passage, however, only cities and communities with charters could opt in through their town or city council. The Committee Amendment clarified that municipalities could opt in through a select board hearing rather than wait for the annual town meeting. It also clarified notice requirements for meetings, the process for municipalities to opt out, and that county commissioners in unincorporated areas could opt in on their behalf.

Senate Commerce
January 27, 2026
2026-0353s
04/07

Amendment to SB 440

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

1 Definitions; Energy Efficiency and Clean Energy Districts. Amend RSA 53-F:1, VIII to read as follows:

VIII. "Municipality" means any city, town, unincorporated **place**, ~~[town, unorganized place,]~~ or village district, or the designated representative of the city, town, **unincorporated place**, or village district.

2 Towns, Cities, Village Districts, and Unincorporated Places; Energy-Efficient and Clean Energy Districts; Adoption by Municipality. RSA 53-F:2 is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

I. In a municipality that has adopted a charter pursuant to RSA 49-D, the legislative body or governing body may consider and act upon the question in accordance with its municipal charter.

II. In a municipality that has not adopted a charter pursuant to RSA 49-D, or in a village district, the question may be placed on the warrant of an annual meeting only by the governing body, or the governing body has the authority to adopt the provisions of this chapter and create a district after the governing body holds at least one public hearing in accordance with the provisions of this chapter.

(a) Notice of the time and place of each public hearing held under this section shall be at least 10 calendar days before the hearing, excluding the day of posting and the day of the hearing. Notice of each public hearing shall be published in a paper of general circulation in the municipality and shall be posted in at least 2 public places.

(b) In lieu of publication in a paper of general circulation pursuant to subparagraph (a), notice may be posted on the municipality's Internet website, if such exists. If notice is posted on the municipality's website in lieu of publication in a paper of general circulation, the notice shall:

(1) Appear prominently on the municipality's website home page, or provide a clearly labeled link on the home page that directs users to notice;

(2) Be posted at the time stated in subparagraph (a) and shall remain on the website until the conclusion of the hearing; and

(3) Be posted in 2 other public places.

(c) The notice shall include:

(1) An adequate statement describing the area where the district shall be designated and designating the place where a map for the proposed district is on file for public inspection; and

(2) To the greatest extent practicable and in easily understood language, any other information to improve public understanding of the proposed district and this chapter.

(d) Notwithstanding paragraph II, upon receipt of a written petition signed by at least 25 registered voters prior to the governing body's vote, the question of the adoption of this chapter and the creation of a district shall be inserted as an article on the warrant for the next regular annual meeting.

III. In a county with an unincorporated place, the county commissioners shall have the authority to adopt the provisions of this chapter and create one or more districts in one or more unincorporated places by resolution.

IV. The district may cover all or a portion of the area within the municipality, village district, or unincorporated place.

V. A municipality, village district, or county on behalf of an unincorporated place may vote to rescind its action and dissolve the district in the same manner as it may vote to adopt, provided that all agreements entered into with property owners and related legal obligations created prior to its vote to rescind shall remain in effect.

VI. Notwithstanding this section and in accordance with RSA 39:3, a municipality that has not adopted a charter pursuant to RSA 49-D, or a village district, may vote to prohibit the establishment of new districts or dissolve any existing districts. All agreements entered into with property owners and related legal obligations created prior to the vote of the municipality or village district to dissolve a district shall remain in effect.

3 Agreements with Property Owners. Amend RSA 53-F:4, III to read as follows:

III. The municipality shall execute a notice of the assessment and lien, and an assignment of notice of assessment and lien under this chapter for recording in the county registry of deeds. The notice shall consist of the following statement or its substantial equivalent: "This property is subject to a special assessment related to the installation of qualifying **improvements** under RSA 53-F."

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

EDUCATION FINANCE

SB 507, relative to the financial obligation of a school district concerning students expelled for committing assault against a school staff member.

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

SB 507 as amended establishes a committee to study violence in schools directed at staff members and the obstacles to disciplining or expelling students in such circumstances. The committee must report their findings on or before November 1st, 2026

Senate Education Finance

January 28, 2026

2026-0378s

12/05

Amendment to SB 507

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

AN ACT establishing a committee to study violence in schools directed at staff members and the obstacles to disciplining or expelling students in such circumstances.

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

1 Committee Established. There is established a committee to study violence in schools directed at staff members and the obstacles to disciplining or expelling students in such circumstances.

2 Membership and Compensation.

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

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

(b) Three members of the house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives.

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

3 Duties. The committee shall consider state and federal laws relative to violence in schools directed at staff members, mental health concerns affecting students, potential liabilities for school districts, and the emotional and psychological trauma experienced by staff members who are required to continue interacting with their assailants following an incident.

4 Chairperson; Quorum. The members of the study committee shall elect a chairperson from among the members. The first meeting of the committee shall be called by the senate member. The first meeting of the committee shall be held within 45 days of the effective date of this section. Three members of the committee shall constitute a quorum.

5 Report. The committee shall report its findings and any recommendations for proposed legislation to the president of the senate, the speaker of the house of representatives, the senate clerk, the house clerk, the governor, and the state library on or before November 1, 2026.

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

2026-0378s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill establishes a committee to study violence in schools directed at staff members and the obstacles to disciplining or expelling students in such circumstances.

SB 583-FN, directing the department of education to create an education funding transparency data and reporting system.

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

SB 583-FN directs the department of education to create an education funding transparency data and reporting system and makes an appropriation therefor. The system shall include a longitudinal data system incorporating, at a minimum, data on basic education funding allocations, disbursements, and expenditures over the past 10 years disaggregated at the intermediate unit, district, and school levels. The department shall create data visualization dashboards to simulate changes to the funding formula, including changing weights and measures of funding allocations and distributions of funds based on school characteristics. Data visualization dashboards shall be accessible to the appropriate staff at state entities, including the legislature and governor's office.

ELECTION LAW AND MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

SB 436, relative to zoning board of adjustment membership criteria.

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

SB 436 would amend the current recusal rule for zoning board members by establishing a conflict-of-interest standard that mandates recusal if a member's impartiality might reasonably be doubted. The committee believes this matter should be handled locally and therefore the committee recommends that SB 436 be Inexpedient to Legislate

SB 489, requiring the address column to be the first column on the voter checklist.

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

SB 489, as amended, addresses a previous oversight in HB 2 that failed to specify the appointing authority for the members of the Board of Tax and Land Appeals. This housekeeping bill reestablishes the Governor and the Executive Council as the official appointing authorities for the Board.

Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs
January 27, 2026
2026-0346s
08/07

Amendment to SB 489

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

AN ACT altering the appointment process for the board of tax and land appeals.

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

1 Board of Tax and Land Appeals; Appointment; Term; Chairman. Amend RSA 71-B:2 to read as follows:

71-B:2 Appointment; Term; Chairman. The members of the board shall ***be appointed by and*** serve at the pleasure of the governor and council, rather than fixed terms. The governor and council shall appoint one member as chairman to serve in that capacity for the duration of his or her term. The executive council shall hold a hearing prior to confirmation according to the procedures under RSA 4:44.

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

2026-0346s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill alters the appointment process for the board of tax and land appeals.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION

SB 421, relative to the membership and duties of the trauma medical review committee.

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

SB 421 amends the membership of and adds an additional duty to the trauma medical review committee. The bill ensures representatives from each trauma hospital level of care, that the trauma nurse coordinator representative has a background in trauma performance improvement, as well as adds one injury prevention coordinator and one trauma survivor to the committee. The duty added is an annual report to the Governor on the status of New Hampshire's trauma system. The amendment adds a representative who is a physician or physician designee from a rehabilitation center, specific to the treatment of trauma injuries, as well as a representative from the New Hampshire Office of Highway Safety. The amendment also establishes a study committee to review the membership, duties, and procedures for other boards and an appointment related to emergency medical services.

Senate Executive Departments and Administration
January 28, 2026
2026-0372s
09/05

Amendment to SB 421

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

AN ACT relative to the membership and duties of the trauma medical review committee and establishing a study committee to review the membership and duties of other boards and an appointment related to emergency medical services.

Amend RSA 153-A:8, I as inserted by section 1 of the bill by inserting after subparagraph (m) the following new subparagraphs:

(n) A physician or physician designee from a rehabilitation center in New Hampshire specific to the treatment of physical injuries from trauma.

(o) A representative from the New Hampshire office of highway safety.

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

3 Committee Established. There is established a committee to study the composition, duties, and responsibilities of certain boards.

4 Membership and Compensation.

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

(a) Two members of the house of representatives.

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

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

5 Duties. The committee's study shall include, but not be limited to:

I. The composition and duties of the:

(a) Emergency medical and trauma services coordinating board, as established by RSA 153-A:3.

(b) Emergency medical services medical control board, as established by RSA 153-A:5.

II. The process for the appointment of the state medical director for emergency medical services, as established in RSA 153-A:7, II(c).

6 Chairperson; Quorum. The members of the study committee shall elect a chairperson from among the members. The first meeting of the committee shall be called by the first-named 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.

7 Report. 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 clerk, the senate clerk, the governor, and the state library on or before November 1, 2026.

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

2026-0372s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill amends the membership of and adds an additional duty to the trauma medical review committee and establishes a study committee to review the membership, duties, and procedures for other boards and an appointment related to emergency medical services.

SB 423, reestablishing the commission to study the incidence of post-traumatic stress disorder in first responders.

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

SB 423 re-establishes the commission to study the incidence of post-traumatic stress disorder in first responders. The bill adds one member from the New Hampshire comfort dog community, who is appointed by the Senate President. It also requires the commission to publish interim findings by November 1, 2026, and a final report by November 1, 2027. The amendment adds one member appointed by the New Hampshire Paramedics Association and one member from a community health center, appointed by the Governor. The amendment also sets the quorum at ten members.

Senate Executive Departments and Administration

January 27, 2026

2026-0355s

05/07

Amendment to SB 423

Amend RSA 281-A:17-e, I as inserted by section 1 of the bill by inserting after subparagraph (17) the following new subparagraphs:

(18) A representative of the NH Paramedics Association, appointed by that association.

(19) A representative of a community health center, appointed by the governor.

Amend RSA 281-A:17-e, III as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

III. The members of the 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 within 45 days of the effective date of this section. Ten members of the commission shall constitute a quorum.

SB 494-FN, relative to the state fire code, fire incident reporting and investigations, and the duties of the state fire marshal.

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

SB 494-FN updates the state fire code by adopting the latest version and ratifying approved amendments, revises fire reporting and investigation procedures, expands the duties of the state fire marshal, and authorizes the Office of Professional Licensure and Certification to share information to support fire safety inspections, at the request of the State Fire Marshals office. The amendment specifically tailors the type of information which can be shared by the Office of Professional Licensure and Certification, to protect personal information.

Senate Executive Departments and Administration

January 28, 2026

2026-0371s

09/05

Amendment to SB 494-FN

Amend the bill by replacing sections 5 and 6 with the following:

5 New Paragraph; State Board of Fire Control; Mechanical Licensing; Inspectors. Amend RSA 153:34 by inserting after paragraph IV the following new paragraph:

V. In furtherance of assisting the appointed inspectors in their duties under this section, the executive director of the office of professional licensure and certification, or its designees, shall share with the state fire marshal, or its designees, a data export for current licensees and past licensees of the mechanical safety and licensing board from the official record of the office and the board. The data export shall be sent at such intervals and only include such information as the state fire marshal and executive director agree is necessary for the inspectors to perform their daily responsibilities. Such information shall not include personal information as that term is defined in RSA 359-I, except it may include contact information for current and past licensees of the board. For any shared information that the office is required to hold confidential and exempt from the disclosure requirements of RSA 91-A, the state fire marshal shall also be required to hold confidential and exempt from the requirements of RSA 91-A.

6 New Paragraph; Electricians; Inspectors. Amend RSA 319-C:5 by inserting after paragraph IV the following new paragraph:

IV-a. In furtherance of assisting the appointed inspectors with their duties under this section, the executive director of the office of professional licensure and certification, or its designees, shall share with the state fire marshal, or its designees, a data export for current licensees and past licensees of the electricians' board from the official record of the office and the board. The data export shall be sent at such intervals and only include such information as the state fire marshal and executive director agree is necessary for the inspectors to perform their daily responsibilities. Such information shall not include personal information as that term is defined in RSA 359-I, except it may include contact information for current and past licensees of the board. For any shared information that the office is required to hold confidential and exempt from the disclosure requirements of RSA 91-A, the state fire marshal shall also be required to hold confidential and exempt from the requirements of RSA 91-A.

2026-0371s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill:

I. Updates the version of the fire code and ratifies all amendments reviewed and approved by the board of fire control as of December 31, 2025.

II. Modifies the procedures for the reporting and investigation of fires.

III. Adds additional duties to the state fire marshal.

IV. Requires the office of professional licensure and certification to share with the fire marshal certain information for current licensees and past licensees of the mechanical safety and licensing board and electricians' board to aid certain inspectors appointed by the fire marshal or department of safety.

This bill is a request of the state fire marshal's office.

SB 522, re-establishing the commission to study the economic impact of the arts and culture in New Hampshire. Ought to Pass, Vote 4-0. Senator Altschiller for the committee.

SB 522 re-establishes the commission to study the economic impact of the arts and culture in New Hampshire and directs the commission to recommend how the state may be able to support this economic sector. The commission must report their findings on or before November 1st, 2026.

SB 568, relative to the department of safety's procedures for appointing designees to verify background checks. Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 4-0. Senator Gannon for the committee.

SB 568 authorizes the Commissioner of the Department of Safety to appoint designees for the procedure of verifying employee candidate background checks. The amendment clarifies that the designee must be a department employee who is authorized to receive criminal conviction information, rather being limited to a pre-defined list of positions.

Senate Executive Departments and Administration
January 28, 2026
2026-0384s
12/09

Amendment to SB 568

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

AN ACT relative to the department of safety's procedures for the processing of employee candidate background checks.

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 Department of Safety; Employee Candidate Background Checks; Reporting Modified. Amend RSA 21-P:15-c, III to read as follows:

III. To obtain a state records check only, the department shall submit a state criminal history records release form to the division of state police. To obtain both the federal and the state records check, the department shall submit the criminal history records release form and applicant fingerprint card to the division of state police, which shall conduct a criminal history records check through its records and through the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Upon completion of the background investigation, the division of state police shall report any criminal conviction information to the commissioner ***or to a department of safety employee as designated by the commissioner who is authorized to receive criminal conviction information.*** The department may submit fingerprint information electronically, in accordance with procedures established by the division of state police. The department shall maintain the confidentiality and security of all criminal history records information received pursuant to this paragraph.

2026-0384s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill authorizes department of safety employees who are designated by the commissioner and authorized to receive criminal conviction information to obtain such information from state police for the processing of employee candidate background checks.

SB 642-FN, repealing the committee for the protection of human subjects institutional review board. Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 4-0. Senator Reardon for the committee.

SB 642-FN repeals both the committee for the protection of human subjects and the rule-making authority for the Commissioner of Health and Human Services, relative to that committee. The bill was requested by the Department of Health and Human Services, as the committee is considered duplicative with other committees performing the same function. The amendment changes the effective date to January 1st, 2027.

Senate Executive Departments and Administration
January 28, 2026
2026-0383s
12/09

Amendment to SB 642-FN

Amend the bill by replacing section 2 with the following:

2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect January 1, 2027.

FINANCE

HB 649-FN, relative to motor vehicle registration and registration fees pertaining to the rental fleet passenger vehicle registration program and motor vehicle inspections.

Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 8-0. Senator Pearl for the committee.

SB 649-FN eliminates the requirement of a physical safety inspection and on-board diagnostics testing for all private passenger vehicles. The bill was further tweaked in the Senate Finance Committee to amend the title of the bill, add a new section on the operation of an unsafe motor vehicle, and affirms there will be no loss of revenue when the already-passed change in fleet registration procedures is reenacted. The effective date was also changed to upon passage.

Senate Finance
January 27, 2026
2026-0345s
07/09

Amendment to HB 649-FN

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

AN ACT relative to the maintenance obligations of motor vehicle operators.

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

1 New Section; Operation of Unsafe Motor Vehicle. Amend RSA 266 by inserting after section RSA 266:8-a the following new section:

266:8-b Operator Vehicle Maintenance.

I. No person shall drive, or permit to be driven upon any way a motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer:

(a) Which is in such unsafe condition as to endanger the driver, occupants, or any other person or property; or

(b) Any motor vehicle which is not equipped with lamps, brakes, steering, tires, exterior panels, glass, or other equipment as required by law.

II. The operation of a motor vehicle in violation of any condition, defect, or requirement set forth in this section shall constitute prima facie evidence that the vehicle is unsafe for operation upon a public way:

(a) Any defect that permits exhaust gases to enter the passenger or cargo compartment.

(b) Any exterior panel, including doors, hood, fenders, trunk, or bumpers, that are missing; provided, however, that doors may be missing if originally and expressly designed by the manufacturer to be removable.

(c) A frame or unibody that is cracked, broken, or rusted to the extent that structural integrity is compromised.

(d) A windshield containing intersecting cracks or 3 or more star breaks or bullseyes larger than 3 inches within the critical viewing area of the driver on the front windshield.

(1) For purposes of this subparagraph, "critical viewing area" means the portion of the windshield extending 3 inches inward from the left windshield post; 3 inches down from the top edge; 3 inches up from the bottom edge; and, 3 inches to the right of the vertical centerline.

(e) Tires, excluding spare tires.

(f) A fuel system showing evidence of large, obvious leakage.

III. Law enforcement may issue a defective equipment tag for a vehicle it has judged unsafe or not equipped as required under this section. Such tag shall provide a minimum period of 7 calendar days in which the owner of such vehicle is required to repair the defect specified in such tag.

IV. The driver or owner who operates, or permits the operation of, a motor vehicle in violation of this section shall be guilty of a violation. The fine for a violation of this section shall be \$60.

V. Notwithstanding paragraph IV, the director may immediately suspend the registration and plates of a motor vehicle if there is evidence from law enforcement that the vehicle is an immediate hazard to public safety.

2 Sale of Used Motor Vehicles; Examination. Amend RSA 358-F:2 to read as follows:

358-F:2 Inspection. Before selling to any customer any used motor vehicle which is believed by the customer to be unsafe for operation upon the highways pursuant to RSA 266, the dealer shall, upon the request of the customer, conduct or have conducted a safety inspection of such vehicle. If the vehicle is found to be unsafe for operation, the dealer may sell the vehicle to the customer without correcting the defects, but only if the dealer presents to the customer at the time of sale a notice which states: This motor vehicle is unsafe for operation upon the highways pursuant to RSA 266. The following defects must be corrected. The dealer shall list all defects under this statement and specify the date on which the inspection was conducted and the person who performed the inspection. The dealer may make a reasonable charge for conducting the inspection. ***The dealer shall provide the customer with one of the following written statements at the time of sale:***

I. If the dealer has conducted, or had conducted, an examination of the vehicle for compliance with the equipment requirements of RSA 266 and the vehicle is found to be in compliance, the dealer shall present to the customer at the time of sale a notice which states: This motor vehicle has been determined to be in compliance with the equipment requirements pursuant to RSA 266.

II. If the dealer has conducted, or had conducted, an examination of the vehicle for compliance with the equipment requirements of RSA 266 and the vehicle is found not to be in compliance, the dealer shall provide a statement which reads: This motor vehicle has been examined and determined not to be in compliance with the equipment requirements pursuant to RSA 266. The following defects are identified.

III. If the dealer has not conducted an examination of the vehicle for compliance with the equipment requirements of RSA 266, the dealer shall provide a statement which reads: No examination has been conducted to determine whether this motor vehicle is in compliance with the equipment requirements pursuant to RSA 266. The dealer may make a reasonable charge for conducting an inspection ***examination under paragraphs I or II. Each notice or statement provided under this section shall specify the date on which the examination was conducted, if any, and the name of the person who performed it.***

3 Sale of Unsafe Used Motor Vehicles; Remedy. Amend RSA 358-F:4 to read as follows:

358-F:4 Remedy. A failure of any dealer to comply with the provisions of this section, or a concealment by any dealer of any defect which was discovered, or should have been discovered, during the inspection ***examination conducted*** requested under RSA 358-F:2 is an unfair or deceptive act or practice within the meaning of RSA 358-A:2. Any right or remedy set forth in RSA 358-A may be used to enforce the provisions of this chapter.

4 Temporary Permit and Plates Pending Registration. New Paragraphs; Temporary Permit and Plates Pending Registration. Amend RSA 261:56 by inserting after paragraph II the following new paragraphs:

III. Notwithstanding paragraphs I and II, no dealer shall issue a temporary plate or temporary registration certificate to any motor vehicle that fails to meet the requirements set forth in RSA 266.

IV. The director shall adopt rules, pursuant to RSA 541-A, relative to the requirements dealers must follow prior to issuing a temporary plate or temporary registration under this section.

5 Twenty-Day Registration. Amend RSA 261:57, I to read as follows:

I. Any resident of this state who intends to purchase a vehicle in another state or from another person or who is unable to register a vehicle because of limited hours of operation of the town clerk in the town where the person resides may apply to the division or its substation or authorized agent nearest his or her residence for a registration to drive said vehicle on the ways of the state in an unregistered condition. Said resident shall appear in person at the division or substation to obtain such registration and shall sign under penalty of perjury a statement that the vehicle ***is safe for operation upon the highways pursuant to RSA 266*** meets all New Hampshire inspection requirements, and in the case of a person seeking an extension of his or her registration, that he or she was unable to register the vehicle because of the limited hours of the town clerk, before said registration may be issued. Said registration shall be valid for 20 days from the time it is issued. Application blanks and permits in the form prescribed by the director shall be designed, printed, and supplied to the substations by the division. The fee for the issuance of a registration shall be \$20. It shall be unlawful for any person to drive a vehicle on the ways of the state under a registration issued pursuant to this section unless said person has in his or her possession a valid bill of sale for the vehicle he or she is

driving, or in the case of a person whose registration is extended, a copy of the form indicating he or she was unable to register because of the limited hours of the town clerk. No person shall make application for a 20-day registration on the same vehicle more than once within a 12-month period. Only 3 20-day registrations shall be issued on the same vehicle within a 12-month period.

6 Off Highway Recreational Vehicles And Trails; Rental Fleet Passenger Vehicle Registration Program. RSA 261:40-b is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

261:40-b Rental Fleet Passenger Vehicle Registration Program.

I. The division of motor vehicles shall establish a rental fleet registration program, whereby a qualified registrant, according to paragraph II, may register 50 or more in-service rental passenger vehicles as a fleet, elect a common annual expiration date for all vehicles in the fleet, receive registration stickers for each vehicle in the fleet that shall be valid for 2 years, and pay registration fees for each fleet vehicle based on the common 2-year expiration date and according to rates and costs established in existing law. In addition to the registration fees, the registrant shall pay all registration permit fees and municipal fees for each registration year.

II. The rental fleet registration program shall be solely for the registration of a fleet of 50 or more in-service rental passenger vehicles. A rental car company intending to register such a fleet shall submit a current New Hampshire certificate of good standing issued by the secretary of state's office to the division of motor vehicles and receive the division's approval to enroll in the program. Once enrolled in the program, a registrant shall submit a current certificate of good standing at the time of payment of registration fees and costs. Additionally, the division may require a company enrolled in the program to produce a current certificate of good standing at any time during the 2-year period of registration. If a rental car company is not in good standing with the secretary of state or fails to meet other enrollment criteria set by the division of motor vehicles, including maintaining an in-service fleet of 50 or more vehicles, the division shall terminate the registrant's fleet registration and revert any existing registration credentials to those of a non-fleet vehicle.

III. Upon initial registration of a fleet, and at least 60 days prior to the common 2-year expiration date for the fleet, the registrant shall provide an itemized account of all motor vehicles in the fleet in the manner required by the division.

IV. Any vehicle added to the fleet after the initial fleet registration shall receive a registration sticker identical to those of the registered fleet and the registrant shall be required to pay a prorated amount of registration fees and costs for the remainder of the year until the common 2-year expiration date. A registrant may transfer the registration of a permanently retired fleet vehicle to a new in-service fleet vehicle for any remainder period of registration.

V. The director of the division of motor vehicles shall adopt rules pursuant to RSA 541-A regarding enrollment and cancellation of enrollment.

VI. No later than 60 days after the effective date of this paragraph, the commissioner of the department of safety shall make rules under RSA 541-A relative to the establishment and administration of the rental fleet passenger vehicle program established in RSA 261:40-b.

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

2026-0345s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill:

- I. Establishes a duty for motorists to maintain vehicles.
- II. Defines specific mechanical and structural defects that render a vehicle unsafe.
- III. Empowers law enforcement to conduct limited safety inspections.
- IV. Restricts the sale and registration of vehicles that fail to meet safety standards.

JUDICIARY

SB 460-FN, relative to the offense of loitering or prowling.
Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0. Senator Reardon for the committee.

Senate Bill 460-FN was a request of the Department of Safety and prohibits certain registered offenders who are required to register due to a sexual offense against a child under 13 years of age from appearing within 1,000 feet of certain locations under circumstances that would warrant alarm.

SB 461, relative to the definition of hemp.

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

SB 461 as introduced amended RSA 439-A:2, V to include the total tetrahydrocannabinol concentration in the definition of hemp. The Judiciary Committee adopted an amendment to alter this definition of hemp to match the federal definition and correct a spelling error in the word “tetrahydrocannabinolic”.

Senate Judiciary
January 28, 2026
2026-0369s
08/07

Amendment to SB 461

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 Hemp; Definitions. RSA 439-A:2, V is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

V. “Hemp” means the plant *Cannabis sativa* L. and any part of that plant, including the seeds thereof and all derivatives, extracts, cannabinoids, isomers, acids, salts, and salts of isomers, whether growing or not, with a delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol concentration of not more than 0.3 percent on a dry weight basis. Total THC concentration shall include the sum of all THC, including tetrahydrocannabinolic acid (THCA).

TRANSPORTATION

SB 458-FN, relative to the use of toll credits.

Interim Study, Vote 4-0. Senator Fenton for the committee.

This bill would allow New Hampshire to use toll credits for eligible municipal, county, and nonprofit projects beyond highways—subject to federal law—to support in-state transportation, tourism, and economic development projects like the Merrimack Greenway Trail. The committee has referred this bill for interim study, citing concerns about the lack of funding mechanisms to successfully implement this legislation.

SB 499, relative to the duties and reporting requirements of the traffic safety commission.

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

SB 499 would expand the Traffic Safety Commission’s duties to collect and report data on the causes of traffic collisions—such as speeding, wrong-way driving, and vehicle factors—to improve accident prevention in New Hampshire. As amended, this bill will also add a member from the Trauma Medical Review Committee to the commission.

Senate Transportation
January 27, 2026
2026-0349s
09/07

Amendment to SB 499

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

AN ACT relative to the membership, duties, and reporting requirements of the traffic safety commission.

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

1 New Subparagraph; Traffic Safety Commission; Membership. Amend RSA 21-P:64, I(b) by inserting after subparagraph (11) the following new subparagraph:

(12) A member of the trauma medical review committee established under RSA 153-A:8, appointed by the committee.

2 New Paragraph; Traffic Safety Commission; Duty Added. Amend RSA 21-P:64 by inserting after paragraph II the following new paragraph:

II-a. The commission shall review and analyze any available and relevant information and data related to the cause of traffic collisions in New Hampshire.

3 Traffic Safety Commission; Reports. Amend RSA 21-P:64, V to read as follows:

V. The commission shall report annually, beginning November 1, 2018, to the speaker of the house of representatives, the president of the senate, and the governor. The reports shall describe the activities and

findings of the commission and any recommendations for proposed legislation. ***Beginning November 1, 2026, the reports shall include aggregated data on the causes of traffic collisions in New Hampshire for that year and recommendations on how to address these causes.***

4 Effective Date. This act shall take effect January 1, 2027.

2026-0349s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill adds an additional member and an additional duty and reporting requirement for the traffic safety commission.

SB 560, modernizing the New Hampshire coordinate system.
Ought to Pass, Vote 4-0. Senator Ricciardi for the committee.

SB 560 modernizes New Hampshire's land surveying and mapping framework by adopting the latest coordinate standards released by the National Geodetic Survey. By aligning state law with these updated federal definitions, the bill ensures that property boundaries and public works projects remain precise as GPS technology improves. This transition would maintain New Hampshire's eligibility for federal funding while allowing our mapping systems to update automatically with future national advancements.

SB 630-FN, relative to local authorities' power to declare a reasonable and safe speed limit.
Interim Study, Vote 4-0. Senator Ward for the committee.

SB 630-FN would give municipalities the authority to reduce the speed minimum from 25 mph to 20 mph in municipalities to help reduce the risk of serious injury and death by vehicles going too fast. This bill has been referred for interim study in favor of passing SB 559-FN, a similar bill that will provide the same safe speed limits for municipalities.

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

Recess. Out of recess.

COMMERCE

HB 639-FN, relative to the use of and disputes over blockchain and digital currencies.
Interim Study, Vote 4-2. Senator Ricciardi for the committee.

The question is on the adoption of the motion of Interim Study. Failed.

Senator Innis moved Ought to Pass.

Senator Innis offered a Floor Amendment.

Sen. Innis, Dist 7

January 26, 2026

2026-0291s

07/09

Floor Amendment to HB 639-FN

Amend RSA 359-V as inserted by section 3 of the bill by deleting RSA 359-V:3 and renumbering the original RSA 359-V:4 to 359-V:6 to read as RSA 359-V:3 to 359-V:5, respectively.

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

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

EDUCATION FINANCE

SPECIAL ORDER

Without objection, SB 582-FN and SB 584-FN are Special Ordered to after lunch. Adopted.

SB 491-FN, enabling students to utilize education freedom account funds to pay for certain career and technical education funding.

Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 5-1. Senator Murphy for the committee.

Senate Education Finance
January 28, 2026
2026-0379s
07/09

Amendment to SB 491-FN

Amend the bill by deleting sections 2 and 3 and renumbering the original sections 4-6 to read as 2-4, respectively.

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).

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

SB 610-FN, relative to long-term care insurance standards, form approvals, and public hearing procedures. Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 5-0. Senator Rochefort for the committee.

Senate Health and Human Services
January 14, 2026
2026-0111s
05/09

Amendment to SB 610-FN

Amend the introductory paragraph of RSA 415-D:12, I as inserted by section 3 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

I. The commissioner shall, within 30 days after the filing of any such form, disapprove such form if:

Amend the bill by replacing section 4 with the following:

4 New Paragraph; Confidentiality; Forms and Rates. Amend RSA 400-A:15-f by inserting after paragraph III the following new paragraph:

IV. After a public comment period, the commissioner shall hold a public hearing prior to approving or denying any form or rate filing. Notwithstanding any other law in title XXXVII, the filing in whole or in part may be subject to disclosure as the commissioner may determine necessary in the course of holding a public hearing.

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

Senator Rochefort offered a Floor Amendment.

Sen. Rochefort, Dist 1
January 30, 2026
2026-0431s
05/07

Floor Amendment to SB 610-FN

Amend the introductory paragraph of RSA 415-D:12, I as inserted by section 3 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

I. The commissioner shall, within 30 days after the filing of any such form, disapprove such form if:

Amend the bill by replacing section 4 with the following:

4 New Paragraph; Confidentiality; Forms and Rates. Amend RSA 400-A:15-f by inserting after paragraph III the following new paragraph:

IV. After a public comment period, the commissioner shall hold a public hearing prior to approving or denying any form or rate filing for long-term care insurance. The commissioner may hold a public hearing prior to approving or denying any form or rate filing for other forms of insurance. Notwithstanding any other law in title XXXVII, the filing in whole or in part may be subject to disclosure as the commissioner may determine necessary in the course of holding a public hearing.

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

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

SPECIAL ORDER

Without objection, SB 559-FN is Special Ordered to the present time. Adopted.

TRANSPORTATION

SB 559-FN, reducing the minimum allowable speed limit on locally controlled roads.
Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 5-0. Senator Ricciardi for the committee.

Senate Transportation

January 27, 2026

2026-0343s

05/09

Amendment to SB 559-FN

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

2 New Paragraph; Alteration of Limits; Reference to Definitions of Urban Residence District and Business District Added. Amend RSA 265:63 by inserting after paragraph VI the following new paragraph:

VII. In this section, "urban residence district" shall have the same meaning as in RSA 259:118 and "business district" shall have the same meaning as in RSA 259:8.

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

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

SPECIAL ORDER

Without objection, SB 628-FN is Special Ordered to the present time. Adopted.

TRANSPORTATION

SB 628-FN, enabling curbside electric-vehicle charging.
Interim Study, Vote 4-0. Senator Ricciardi for the committee.

The question is on the adoption of the motion of Interim Study. Adopted.

SPECIAL ORDER

Without objection, the bills with House Messages for Concurrence and Nonconcurrence are Special Ordered to the present time. Adopted.

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

The Clerk read the following House Message.

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 27-FN, relative to dwellings over water.
Senator Innis moved Concurrence. Adopted.

SB 182, relative to the maternal mortality review committee.
Senator Pearl moved Concurrence. Adopted.

SB 94, repealing municipal amendments to technical requirements of the state building code in certain circumstances.
Senator Pearl moved Concurrence. Adopted.

SB 103-FN-LOCAL, relative to the number of polling stations that are available for certain towns and cities during a general election which includes the election for the office of President of the United States.
Senator Gray moved Concurrence. Adopted.

SB 134-FN, relative to work requirements under the state Medicaid program.
Senator Rochefort moved Concurrence.

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

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

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

Roll Call, Yeas: 15 - Nays: 9. Adopted.

SB 36, relative to the collection and reporting of abortion statistics by health care providers and medical facilities.

Senator Rochefort moved Concurrence. Adopted.

SB 49-FN, relative to the unlawful operation or use of unmanned aircraft systems.

Senator Gannon moved Concurrence. Adopted.

SB 83-FN, relative to licenses for primary and secondary game operators.

Senator Lang moved Concurrence. 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 186, (New Title) preventing portraits depicting persons from being hung in certain places in the statehouse, unless the subject of the portrait has been dead for at least 10 years and provided exemplary and noteworthy services to the citizens of this state.

Senator Pearl moved Nonconcurrence. Adopted.

SB 33-FN, relative to the regulation of public school materials.

Senator Ward moved Nonconcurrence. Adopted.

SB 34, relative to parental consent for student participation in Medicaid to schools program.

Senator Ward moved Nonconcurrence. Adopted.

SB 15-FN, relative to incorporating hard labor as a sentencing option for capital murder and serious sexual assaults on children, defining hard labor, establishing medical exemptions and penalties for abuse thereof, providing alternative punitive measures for legitimate medical exemptions, and authorizing jury determination of hard labor in qualifying cases.

Senator Gannon moved Nonconcurrence. Adopted.

Recess. Out of recess.

EDUCATION FINANCE

SB 582-FN, modifying the base cost of an adequate education.

Inexpedient to Legislate, Vote 4-2. Senator Ward for the committee.

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

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

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

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

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

SB 584-FN, increasing the amount of funding provided for students receiving special education services.

Inexpedient to Legislate, Vote 4-2. Senator Murphy for the committee.

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

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

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

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

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

JUDICIARY

SB 463-FN, relative to possession of firearms in safe school zones.
Inexpedient to Legislate, Vote 3-2. Senator Abbas for the committee.

Deputy President Pro Tempore Murphy Presiding

Recess. Out of recess.

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

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

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

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

SB 555-FN, relative to critical risk protection orders.
Inexpedient to Legislate, Vote 3-2. Senator Abbas for the committee.

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

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

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

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

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

President Carson presiding.

SB 651-FN-A, relative to the legalization and regulation of cannabis and making appropriations therefor.
Inexpedient to Legislate, Vote 3-2. Senator Gannon for the committee.

Senator Abbas moved to Lay on the Table.

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

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

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

Roll Call, Yeas: 15 - Nays: 9. Adopted.

TRANSPORTATION

SB 627-FN, relative to toll rate adjustments, E-Z Pass customer discounts, and the acquisition and improvement of portions of Interstate Route 93 to support the New Hampshire turnpike system and the 2027-2036 ten year transportation plan.

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

Senate Transportation

January 27, 2026

2026-0341s

04/05

Amendment to SB 627-FN

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

AN ACT relative to toll rate adjustments and periodic inflation-based toll reviews for the New Hampshire turnpike system to support the 2027-2036 ten-year transportation plan.

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

1 Tolls. Amend RSA 237:9 to read as follows:

I. The commissioner of transportation, with the approval of the governor and council, shall establish toll rates and other charges for use of the New Hampshire turnpike system or any part of the right-of-way and other property acquired in connection therewith. The governor and council shall approve or reject the commissioner's proposed toll rates and other charges within 90 days of receiving them. The tolls collected shall be deposited with the state treasurer who shall keep the same in a separate account to be used exclusively for purposes of the New Hampshire turnpike system including, without limitation, the operating expenses, construction, reconstruction, and maintenance of the New Hampshire turnpike system. All operating expenses and maintenance costs shall be paid from said account. From the balance remaining after the payment of operating expenses and maintenance costs, there shall be paid the interest and principal on the bonds issued to finance the system. No part of such revenues shall, by transfer of funds or otherwise, be diverted to any other purpose whatsoever. Fourteen days previous to the time any interest or principal is payable, on any general obligation bonds issued to finance the system, the state treasurer shall examine the existing balance and, except as otherwise provided in RSA 237:10, if such balance is insufficient to make the payment, then he shall notify the governor who shall immediately draw his warrant on the highway fund to cover any deficit and if the funds in both of the above accounts are insufficient, the governor shall draw his warrant upon the state's general fund to the amount necessary to meet the payments. Any funds paid out from the state's highway fund or general fund for the above purposes shall be reimbursed from the collection of tolls as soon as such funds are available. Any funds that have been or may be expended for any portion of the system by the department of transportation shall be repaid to said department when, in the opinion of the governor and council, sufficient funds are available. Any excess income may be used for further system extensions in accordance with RSA 237:5, II(m). No provision of this chapter shall constitute a covenant with bondholders with respect to the charging, collection or disposition of tolls.

II. Notwithstanding paragraph I of this section, RSA 237:24, and any other provision of law to the contrary, to support the turnpike projects included in the 2027-2036 ten year transportation plan and to cover associated operating expenses and maintenance costs for the central New Hampshire turnpike, the eastern New Hampshire turnpike, and the New Hampshire turnpike system, the toll rates for cash transactions and for vehicles not registered to a funded New Hampshire E-Z pass account shall be increased based on the toll plaza and vehicle classification as defined in Tra 701.02(j) of the New Hampshire administrative rules. For purposes of this section, "class" shall mean the vehicle classification established under Tra 701.02(j), which categorizes vehicles by type, number of axles, and dual tires. The toll rates shall be as follows:

(a) Hooksett Main:

- (1) Class 1: \$2.00**
- (2) Class 2: \$2.25**
- (3) Class 3: \$2.50**
- (4) Class 4: \$2.75**
- (5) Class 5: \$4.00**
- (6) Class 6: \$4.50**
- (7) Class 7: \$5.00**
- (8) Class 8: \$5.50**
- (9) Class 9: \$6.00**
- (10) Class 10: \$6.50**
- (11) Class 11: \$7.00**
- (12) Class 12: \$ 7.50**

(b) Hooksett Ramp:

- (1) Class 1: \$1.00**
- (2) Class 2: \$1.25**
- (3) Class 3: \$1.50**
- (4) Class 4: \$1.75**
- (5) Class 5: \$2.00**
- (6) Class 6: \$2.50**
- (7) Class 7: \$3.00**
- (8) Class 8: \$3.50**
- (9) Class 9: \$4.00**
- (10) Class 10: \$4.50**
- (11) Class 11: \$5.00**
- (12) Class 12: \$5.50**

(c) Bedford Main:

- (1) Class 1: \$2.00**
- (2) Class 2: \$2.25**
- (3) Class 3: \$2.50**
- (4) Class 4: \$2.75**
- (5) Class 5: \$4.00**
- (6) Class 6: \$4.50**
- (7) Class 7: \$5.00**
- (8) Class 8: \$5.50**
- (9) Class 9: \$6.00**
- (10) Class 10: \$6.50**
- (11) Class 11: \$7.00**
- (12) Class 12: \$7.50**

(d) Hampton Main:

- (1) Class 1: \$4.00**
- (2) Class 2: \$4.25**
- (3) Class 3: \$4.50**
- (4) Class 4: \$4.75**
- (5) Class 5: \$8.00**
- (6) Class 6: \$8.50**
- (7) Class 7: \$9.00**
- (8) Class 8: \$9.50**
- (9) Class 9: \$10.00**
- (10) Class 10: \$10.50**
- (11) Class 11: \$11.00**
- (12) Class 12: \$11.50**

(e) Hampton Side:

- (1) Class 1: \$1.50***
- (2) Class 2: \$1.75***
- (3) Class 3: \$2.00***
- (4) Class 4: \$2.25***
- (5) Class 5: \$3.00***
- (6) Class 6: \$3.50***
- (7) Class 7: \$4.00***
- (8) Class 8: \$4.50***
- (9) Class 9: \$5.00***
- (10) Class 10: \$5.50***
- (11) Class 11: \$6.00***
- (12) Class 12: \$6.50***

(f) Dover:

- (1) Class 1: \$1.50***
- (2) Class 2: \$1.75***
- (3) Class 3: \$2.00***
- (4) Class 4: \$2.25***
- (5) Class 5: \$3.00***
- (6) Class 6: \$3.50***
- (7) Class 7: \$4.00***
- (8) Class 8: \$4.50***
- (9) Class 9: \$5.00***
- (10) Class 10: \$5.50***
- (11) Class 11: \$6.00***
- (12) Class 12: \$6.50***

(g) Rochester:

- (1) Class 1: \$1.50***
- (2) Class 2: \$1.75***
- (3) Class 3: \$2.00***
- (4) Class 4: \$2.25***
- (5) Class 5: \$3.00***
- (6) Class 6: \$3.50***
- (7) Class 7: \$4.00***
- (8) Class 8: \$4.50***
- (9) Class 9: \$5.00***
- (10) Class 10: \$5.50***
- (11) Class 11: \$6.00***
- (12) Class 12: \$6.50***

III. Notwithstanding paragraph I of this section, RSA 237:24, and any other provision of law to the contrary, the toll rates for vehicles listed on a funded New Hampshire E-Z Pass account using the New Hampshire electronic toll collection system shall remain current as of the effective date of this statute and at a minimum as follows, based on toll plaza and vehicle classification as defined in Tra 701.02(j) of the New Hampshire administrative rules:

(a) Hooksett Main:

- (1) Class 1: \$0.70***
- (2) Class 2: \$0.88***
- (3) Class 3: \$1.05***
- (4) Class 4: \$1.23***
- (5) Class 5: \$1.80***
- (6) Class 6: \$2.25***
- (7) Class 7: \$2.70***
- (8) Class 8: \$3.15***
- (9) Class 9: \$3.60***
- (10) Class 10: \$4.05***
- (11) Class 11: \$4.50***
- (12) Class 12: \$4.95***

(b) Hooksett Ramp:

- (1) Class 1: \$0.35***
- (2) Class 2: \$0.53***
- (3) Class 3: \$0.70***
- (4) Class 4: \$0.88***
- (5) Class 5: \$0.90***
- (6) Class 6: \$1.35***
- (7) Class 7: \$1.80***
- (8) Class 8: \$2.25***
- (9) Class 9: \$2.70***
- (10) Class 10: \$3.15***
- (11) Class 11: \$3.60***
- (12) Class 12: \$4.05***

(c) Bedford Main:

- (1) Class 1: \$0.70***
- (2) Class 2: \$0.88***
- (3) Class 3: \$1.05***
- (4) Class 4: \$1.23***
- (5) Class 5: \$1.80***
- (6) Class 6: \$2.25***
- (7) Class 7: \$2.70***
- (8) Class 8: \$3.15***

(9) Class 9: \$3.60

(10) Class 10: \$4.05

(11) Class 11: \$4.50

(12) Class 12: \$4.95

(d) Hampton Main:

(1) Class 1: \$1.40

(2) Class 2: \$1.58

(3) Class 3: \$1.75

(4) Class 4: \$1.93

(5) Class 5: \$3.60

(6) Class 6: \$4.05

(7) Class 7: \$4.50

(8) Class 8: \$4.95

(9) Class 9: \$5.40

(10) Class 10: \$5.85

(11) Class 11: \$6.30

(12) Class 12: \$6.75

(e) Hampton Side:

(1) Class 1: \$0.53

(2) Class 2: \$0.70

(3) Class 3: \$0.88

(4) Class 4: \$1.05

(5) Class 5: \$1.35

(6) Class 6: \$1.80

(7) Class 7: \$2.25

(8) Class 8: \$2.70

(9) Class 9: \$3.15

(10) Class 10: \$3.60

(11) Class 11: \$4.05

(12) Class 12: \$4.50

(f) Dover:

(1) Class 1: \$0.53

(2) Class 2: \$0.70

(3) Class 3: \$0.88

(4) Class 4: \$1.05

(5) Class 5: \$1.35

(6) Class 6: \$1.80

(7) Class 7: \$2.25

(8) Class 8: \$2.70

(9) Class 9: \$3.15

(10) Class 10: \$3.60

(11) Class 11: \$4.05

(12) Class 12: \$4.50

(g) Rochester:

(1) Class 1: \$0.53

(2) Class 2: \$0.70

(3) Class 3: \$0.88

(4) Class 4: \$1.05

(5) Class 5: \$1.35

(6) Class 6: \$1.80

(7) Class 7: \$2.25

(8) Class 8: \$2.70

(9) Class 9: \$3.15

(10) Class 10: \$3.60

(11) Class 11: \$4.05

(12) Class 12: \$4.50

2 New Paragraph; Statewide Transportation Improvement Program; Toll Rate Comparison to Inflation Rate. Amend RSA 228:99 by inserting after paragraph II the following new paragraph:

II-a. The statewide transportation improvement program shall include a comparison of the current toll rates against the department of transportation's project inflation rate for consideration by the governor's advisory commission on intermodal transportation and the legislature.

3 Repeal. RSA 237:11, V, relative to the E-Z Pass discount on established tolls on any of the New Hampshire turnpike system, is repealed.

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

2026-0341s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill:

I. Provides for toll rate adjustments at specified turnpike plazas to support projects in the 2027–2036 ten year transportation plan.

II. Provides for periodic toll adjustments tied to the New Hampshire department of transportation's projected inflation index as part of the statewide transportation improvement program.

Recess. Out of recess.

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

Senator Rosenwald offered a Floor Amendment.

Sen. Rosenwald, Dist 13

February 4, 2026

2026-0533s

04/05

Floor Amendment to SB 627-FN

Amend RSA 237:9, I as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

I. The commissioner of transportation, with the approval of the governor and council, shall establish toll rates and other charges for use of the New Hampshire turnpike system or any part of the right-of-way and

other property acquired in connection therewith. The governor and council shall approve or reject the commissioner's proposed toll rates and other charges within 90 days of receiving them. The tolls collected shall be deposited with the state treasurer who shall keep the same in a separate account to be used exclusively for purposes of the New Hampshire turnpike system including, without limitation, the operating expenses, construction, reconstruction, and maintenance of the New Hampshire turnpike system. All operating expenses and maintenance costs shall be paid from said account. From the balance remaining after the payment of operating expenses and maintenance costs, there shall be paid the interest and principal on the bonds issued to finance the system. No part of such revenues shall, by transfer of funds or otherwise, be diverted to any other purpose whatsoever. Fourteen days previous to the time any interest or principal is payable, on any general obligation bonds issued to finance the system, the state treasurer shall examine the existing balance and, except as otherwise provided in RSA 237:10, if such balance is insufficient to make the payment, then he *or she* shall notify the governor who shall immediately draw his *or her* warrant on the highway fund to cover any deficit and if the funds in both of the above accounts are insufficient, the governor shall draw his *or her* warrant upon the state's general fund to the amount necessary to meet the payments. Any funds paid out from the state's highway fund or general fund for the above purposes shall be reimbursed from the collection of tolls as soon as such funds are available. Any funds that have been or may be expended for any portion of the system by the department of transportation shall be repaid to said department when, in the opinion of the governor and council, sufficient funds are available. Any excess income may be used for further system extensions in accordance with RSA 237:5, II(m). No provision of this chapter shall constitute a covenant with bondholders with respect to the charging, collection or disposition of tolls.

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

Senator Birdsell moved to Lay on the Table. Adopted.

WAYS AND MEANS

SB 633-FN, establishing a voluntary surcharge program and fund for the division of the arts and state council on the arts.

Interim Study, Vote 3-2. Senator Sullivan for the committee.

The question is on the adoption of the motion of Interim Study. Failed.

Senator Lang moved Ought to Pass.

Senator Lang offered a Floor Amendment.

Sen. Lang, Dist 2

Sen. Watters, Dist 4

February 3, 2026

2026-0517s

07/05

Floor Amendment to SB 633-FN

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

AN ACT relative to donations received by the granite patron of the arts fund.

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

1 Council on the Arts; State Art Fund; Granite Patron of the Arts Fund. Amend RSA 19-A:9, II to read as follows:

II. The division and the council are authorized to institute programs to solicit and receive any gifts, grants, donations, or to receive federal matching funds made for the encouragement of the arts and to deposit such gifts, grants, or donations in the New Hampshire council on the arts fund under this section. The division and the council shall acknowledge receipt of any gifts, grants, or donations within 15 days of receipt on a form provided by the commissioner of the department of revenue administration. ***Donations greater than or equal to \$50,000 shall require the approval of the governor and executive council. Expenditures greater than or equal to \$50,000, and expenditures on employees of the division, shall require the approval of the governor, executive council, and the fiscal committee of the general court.***

III. Quarterly expenditure reports shall be filed with the governor, executive council, and the fiscal committee of the general court.

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

2026-0517s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill authorizes the granite patron of the arts fund to accept donations and make expenditures under \$50,000 without approval and requires filing of quarterly financial reports.

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.

SB 637-FN, relative to certain tax credits for purchase from New Hampshire farms.

Interim Study, Vote 3-2. Senator Sullivan for the committee.

The question is on the adoption of the motion of Interim Study. Adopted.

CONSENT CALENDAR REPORTS REMOVED

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

CAPITAL BUDGET

SB 497, amending the capital budget.

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

Senate Capital Budget

January 22, 2026

2026-0239s

07/08

Amendment to SB 497

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

AN ACT removing a reference to procurement through the department of administrative services for certain capital appropriations to the community college system of New Hampshire and changing a reference regarding spaces assigned for use for members of the legislature.

Amend the bill by inserting after section 1 the following and renumbering the original sections 2 and 3 to read as 3 and 4:

2 Legislative Officers and Proceedings; Office Space and Parking Facilities. Amend RSA 14:14-b, IV to read as follows:

IV. All rooms and other spaces of the state house annex designated and assigned for use by the speaker of the house and the president of the senate, including but not limited to the ~~[west wing of the second]~~ **fourth** floor; and

2026-0239s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill removes a reference to procurement through the department of administrative services for certain capital appropriations to the community college system of New Hampshire and changes a reference regarding spaces assigned for use for members of the legislature.

Recess. Out of recess.

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

Senator McConkey offered a Floor Amendment.

Sen. Carson, Dist 14

February 2, 2026

2026-0447s

07/08

Floor Amendment to SB 497

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

AN ACT removing a reference to procurement through the department of administrative services for certain capital appropriations to the community college system of New Hampshire and changing a reference regarding spaces assigned for use for members of the legislature.

Amend the bill by inserting after section 1 the following and renumbering the original sections 2 and 3 to read as 3 and 4:

2 Legislative Officers and Proceedings; Office Space and Parking Facilities. Amend RSA 14:14-b, IV to read as follows:

IV. All rooms and other spaces of the state house annex designated and assigned for use by the speaker of the house and the president of the senate, including but not limited to the west wing of the [second] ***fourth*** floor, ***as well as shared access to the break room and lactation room adjacent to the west wing***; and
2026-0447s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill removes a reference to procurement through the department of administrative services for certain capital appropriations to the community college system of New Hampshire and changes a reference regarding spaces assigned for use for members of the legislature.

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

SB 524, enabling on-premises licensees to deliver liquor to customers who order a meal for home delivery. Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 6-0. Senator Reardon for the committee.

Senate Commerce
January 27, 2026
2026-0348s
05/08

Amendment to SB 524

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

AN ACT enabling on-premises licensees to deliver liquor to customers who order a meal for home delivery and establishing a commission to develop a regulatory framework for tincture products containing alcohol.

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

2 New Section; Commission Established. Amend RSA 175 by inserting after section 11 the following new section:

175:12 Commission Established. There is established a commission to develop a regulatory framework for tincture products containing alcohol.

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

- (a) One member of the senate, appointed by the president of the senate.
- (b) Two members of the house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives.
- (c) A liquor enforcement official, appointed by the liquor commission.
- (d) A representative of the department of health and human services, appointed by the commissioner.

II. Members of the commission shall service without compensation, except that legislative members of the commission shall receive mileage at the legislative rate when attending to the duties of the commission.

III. The commission shall develop a regulatory framework for tincture products containing alcohol, including appropriate requirements for licensing, testing, inspections, and auditing. The commission shall identify any existing federal or state laws that regulate such products, including age restrictions on such products. In the performance of its duties, the commission may solicit information and testimony from individuals and agencies with experience or expertise relevant to the study.

IV. The members of the 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 within 45 days of the effective date of this section. Three members of the commission shall constitute a quorum.

V. The commission shall report its findings and any recommendations for proposed legislation to the president of the senate, the speaker of the house of representatives, the senate clerk, the house clerk, the governor, and the state library on or before November 1, 2026.

3 Repeal. RSA 175:12, relative to the commission to develop a regulatory framework for tincture products containing alcohol, is repealed.

4 Effective Date.

I. Section 1 of this act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

II. Section 3 of this act shall take effect November 1, 2026.

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

2026-0348s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill enables on-premises licenses to deliver liquor to customers who order a meal for home delivery. The bill also establishes a commission to develop a regulatory framework for tincture products containing alcohol.

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

Senator Innis offered a Floor Amendment.

Sen. Innis, Dist 7

February 4, 2026

2026-0530s

07/08

Floor Amendment to SB 524

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

AN ACT enabling on-premises licensees to deliver liquor to customers who order a meal for home delivery and establishing a commission to develop a regulatory framework for tincture products containing alcohol.

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

2 New Section; Commission Established. Amend RSA 175 by inserting after section 11 the following new section:

175:12 Commission Established. There is established a commission to develop a regulatory framework for tincture products containing alcohol.

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

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

(b) Two members of the house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives.

(c) A liquor enforcement official, appointed by the liquor commission.

(d) A representative of the department of health and human services, appointed by the commissioner.

II. Members of the commission shall serve without compensation, except that legislative members of the commission shall receive mileage at the legislative rate when attending to the duties of the commission.

III. The commission shall develop a regulatory framework for tincture products containing alcohol, including appropriate requirements for licensing, testing, inspections, and auditing. The commission shall identify any existing federal or state laws that regulate such products, including age restrictions on such products. In the performance of its duties, the commission may solicit information and testimony from individuals and agencies with experience or expertise relevant to the study.

IV. The members of the 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 within 45 days of the effective date of this section. Three members of the commission shall constitute a quorum.

V. The commission shall report its findings and any recommendations for proposed legislation to the president of the senate, the speaker of the house of representatives, the senate clerk, the house clerk, the governor, and the state library on or before November 1, 2026.

3 Repeal. RSA 175:12, relative to the commission to develop a regulatory framework for tincture products containing alcohol, is repealed.

4 Effective Date.

I. Section 1 of this act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

II. Section 3 of this act shall take effect November 1, 2026.

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

2026-0530s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill enables on-premises licenses to deliver liquor to customers who order a meal for home delivery. The bill also establishes a commission to develop a regulatory framework for tincture products containing alcohol.

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.

TRANSPORTATION

SB 631-FN, installing a sound barrier on Interstate 93 southbound.

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

Senate Transportation

January 27, 2026

2026-0350s

05/09

Amendment to SB 631-FN

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

AN ACT installing a sound barrier on Interstate 93 southbound and authorizing the sale of toll credits to fund a newly established noise barrier construction fund for the design and construction of noise barrier projects.

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

2 New Section; Noise Barrier Construction Fund. Amend RSA 228 by inserting after section 228:12-a the following new section:

228:12-b Noise Barrier Construction Fund.

I. Provided there are sufficient turnpike toll credits for the state match for the federal apportionment totals for 5 years based on the current federal fiscal year and the preceding 4 federal fiscal years, the commissioner is authorized in his or her discretion to sell up to \$10,000,000 per year in turnpike toll credits in compliance with federal rules and regulations and turnpike covenants, said sale being subject to the approval of the fiscal committee of the general court and the joint legislative capital project overview committee.

II. The revenue from the sale of the turnpike toll credits shall be deposited into a restricted fund to be established and known as the noise barrier construction fund, said revenue to be nonlapsing and continually appropriated to the department of transportation. Expenditures from the noise barrier construction fund made by the commissioner being subject to the approval of the fiscal committee of the general court and the joint legislative capital project overview committee.

III. The commissioner is authorized to use said revenue for the design and construction of noise barrier projects that meet the Type II noise barrier criteria set forth in the department's Policy and Procedural Guidelines for the Assessment and Abatement of Highway Traffic Noise for Type I & Type II Projects, as updated and amended. The commissioner may consider additional authorized adjustment factors for the determination of eligibility after consultation with an affected community concerning impacts to the community.

3 New Subparagraph; Dedicated Account; Noise Barrier Construction Fund. Amend RSA 6:12, I(b) by inserting after subparagraph (410) the following new subparagraph:

(411) Moneys in the noise barrier construction fund, established in RSA 228:12-b.

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

2026-0350s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill:

I. Directs the department of transportation to install sound barriers along the southbound side of Interstate 93, between Pillsbury Road and the Exit 4 Southbound off-ramp.

II. Authorizes the sale of toll credits to fund a newly established noise barrier construction fund for the design and construction of noise barrier projects, provided that there are sufficient turnpike toll credits for the state match for certain federal apportionment totals.

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

Senator Ricciardi offered a Floor Amendment.

Sen. Ricciardi, Dist 9

February 3, 2026

2026-0487s

05/09

Floor Amendment to SB 631-FN

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

AN ACT authorizing the sale of toll credits to fund a newly established noise barrier construction fund for the design and construction of noise barrier projects.

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

1 New Section; Noise Barrier Construction Fund. Amend RSA 228 by inserting after section 228:12-a the following new section:

228:12-b Noise Barrier Construction Fund.

I. Provided there are sufficient turnpike toll credits for the state match for the federal apportionment totals for 5 years based on the current federal fiscal year and the preceding 4 federal fiscal years, the commissioner is authorized in his or her discretion to sell up to \$10,000,000 per year in turnpike toll credits in compliance with federal rules and regulations and turnpike covenants, said sale being subject to the approval of the fiscal committee of the general court and the joint legislative capital project overview committee.

II. The revenue from the sale of the turnpike toll credits shall be deposited into a restricted fund to be established and known as the noise barrier construction fund, said revenue to be nonlapsing and continually appropriated to the department of transportation. Expenditures from the noise barrier construction fund made by the commissioner being subject to the approval of the fiscal committee of the general court and the joint legislative capital project overview committee.

III. The commissioner is authorized to use said revenue for the design and construction of noise barrier projects that meet the Type II noise barrier criteria set forth in the department's Policy and Procedural Guidelines for the Assessment and Abatement of Highway Traffic Noise for Type I & Type II Projects, as updated and amended. The commissioner may consider additional authorized adjustment factors for the determination of eligibility after consultation with an affected community concerning impacts to the community.

2 New Subparagraph; Dedicated Account; Noise Barrier Construction Fund. Amend RSA 6:12, I(b) by inserting after subparagraph (410) the following new subparagraph:

(411) Moneys in the noise barrier construction fund, established in RSA 228:12-b.

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

2026-0487s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill authorizes the sale of toll credits to fund a newly established noise barrier construction fund for the design and construction of noise barrier projects, provided that there are sufficient turnpike toll credits for the state match for certain federal apportionment totals.

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

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

MOTION TO REMOVE FROM THE TABLE

Senator Birdsell moved to remove SB 406-FN-A from the Table. Adopted.

FINANCE

SB 406-FN-A, making an appropriation to the city of Nashua for the purpose of purchasing the former Daniel Webster College property.

The pending motion is Inexpedient to Legislate.

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

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

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

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

The following Senators were excused: Watters.

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

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.

LIST OF RULE 6-25'S FOR THE DAY

Senator Fenton: HB 649

Senator Reardon: HB 649

LIST OF IN FAVOR/OPPOSITION FORMS FOR THE DAY

Senator Altschiller: SB 94: In opposition of the Motion of Concurrence.

Senator Birdsell: SB 639: In opposition to the Motion of Ought to Pass with Amendment.

LATE SESSION ANNOUNCEMENTS

(The Chair recognized Senator Rosenwald.)

SENATOR ROSENWALD: Thank you. As you all know, on Monday, Nashua experienced a gas explosion and a fire that could have ended in tragedy, but didn't thanks to the professionalism and fast, well-prepared response of Nashua Fire and Rescue, our EMS services, and the assistance of firefighters from Hollis, Merrimack, Hudson, Manchester, and Londonderry, and other towns as well. Three firefighters were injured, but fortunately it seems they're all going to be okay. We're lucky to have such brave, well-trained men and women working these tough jobs, and we owe them a huge debt of gratitude, so I just wanted to express that sentiment. Thank you, Madam President.

PRESIDENT CARSON: Thank you, Senator. I'd like to add a few words if I may. On behalf of the Senate, I really would just like to wish our heartfelt gratitude to the first responders who responded to this tragedy and send out prayers and best wishes to those that were injured.

(The Chair recognized Senator Rochefort.)

SENATOR ROCHEFORT: Yes, thank you, Madam President. I asked a question of my colleague from Senate District 2 during the debate of Senate Bill 582. After I asked the question, I sat down, and I just want to say there was no disrespect given to you or any member of the body, and I apologize.

(The Chair recognized Senator Abbas.)

Thank you, Madam President. I just want to rise and say let's go Patriots, right? That was easy to get that ovation, but just understand this team set a record for the most road victories all year, so everyone calls them the road warriors. And people want to say they're a team, they're lucky, whatever. Listen, that defense in three games gave up 26 points to three playoff teams. This is going to be a good game, so please watch it, enjoy it. Some teams win three games over the span of fifty years, so let's go Patriots.

(The Chair recognized Senator Lang.)

SENATOR LANG: So, as the guy in charge of revenues, as much as I want the Patriots to win, they need to lose so we make some money.

PRESIDENT CARSON: No, no, see what you started now, Senator Abbas.

SENATOR ABBAS: What a bad omen.

SENATOR CARSON: Okay, well, hopefully we can end on a happier note. We will not be in session next Thursday. We currently only have five bills on the Consent Calendar, so I'm going to ask our Chairs to please use this extra time, hold public hearings if you need to, but really start exec'ing those fiscal note bills so we can get them over to Senator Gray and Finance.

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.

LATE SESSION

Third Reading and Final Passage

HB 649-FN, relative to the maintenance obligations of motor vehicle operators.

SB 421, relative to the membership and duties of the trauma medical review committee and establishing a study committee to review the membership and duties of other boards and an appointment related to emergency medical services.

SB 423, reestablishing the commission to study the incidence of post-traumatic stress disorder in first responders.

SB 440, relative to the adoption of energy efficient and clean energy districts by municipalities.

SB 460-FN, relative to the offense of loitering or prowling.

SB 461, relative to the definition of hemp.

SB 489, altering the appointment process for the board of tax and land appeals.

SB 497, removing a reference to procurement through the department of administrative services for certain capital appropriations to the community college system of New Hampshire and changing a reference regarding spaces assigned for use for members of the legislature.

SB 499, relative to the membership, duties, and reporting requirements of the traffic safety commission.

SB 507, establishing a committee to study violence in schools directed at staff members and the obstacles to disciplining or expelling students in such circumstances.

SB 522, re-establishing the commission to study the economic impact of the arts and culture in New Hampshire.

SB 524, enabling on-premises licensees to deliver liquor to customers who order a meal for home delivery and establishing a commission to develop a regulatory framework for tincture products containing alcohol.

SB 559-FN, reducing the minimum allowable speed limit on locally controlled roads.

SB 560, modernizing the New Hampshire coordinate system.

SB 568, relative to the department of safety's procedures for the processing of employee candidate background checks.

SB 610-FN, requiring an opportunity for public comment prior to proposed long-term care rate increases under certain circumstances.

SB 633-FN, relative to donations received by the granite patron of the arts fund.

SB 642-FN, repealing the committee for the protection of human subjects institutional review board.

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 forming committees of conference and when we recess, we recess to the Call of the Chair.

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