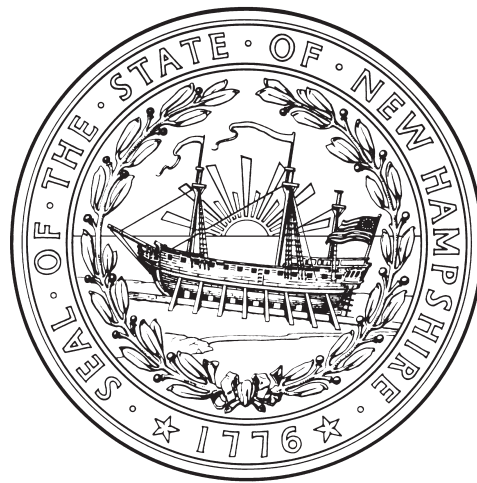


March 12, 2026
Nos. 5-6

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 – MARCH 5, 2026 SESSION
COMMENCEMENT – MARCH 12, 2026 SESSION**

SENATE JOURNAL 5 *(continued)*

March 5, 2026

HOUSE MESSAGE

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

HB 113, relative to OHRV operation on certain highways within the town of Windsor.

HB 1013, (New Title) relative to games wherein the object is to capture a pig.

HB 1019, relative to the composition of the state water well board.

HB 1048-FN, relative to repealing the prohibition on the possession or sale of blackjacks, slung shots, and metallic knuckles except by or to minors.

HB 1051, (New Title) modifying the procedures and requirements for school bus driver criminal history records checks and expanding the personnel subject to such checks.

HB 1078-FN, creating a gold star family and gold star father license plate.

HB 1086-FN, (New Title) creating a committee to study neonicotinoid seed treatments.

HB 1091, relative to the penalty for violations of municipal ordinances related to sleeping or camping outside.

HB 1095, (New Title) relative to the maximum weight of utility terrain vehicles.

HB 1099, establishing a committee to study private businesses providing special education services and issues relative to local school district reimbursement.

HB 1118, increasing the limit for moneys remitted to municipal treasurers.

HB 1134, relative to the town meeting form of local governance.

HB 1135, prohibiting the acquisition of prescriptive rights in private roads through adverse use.

HB 1138, limiting the placement of out-of-state waste going into New Hampshire landfills.

HB 1141, (New Title) relative to permitting and fee authority for mining and prospecting.

HB 1151, relative to conservation commission appropriations.

HB 1175-FN, relative to the offense of use of scanning device or reencoder to defraud.

HB 1186, relative to the sale and labeling of eggs.

HB 1187-FN, relative to the time in which candidates for state representative may file their candidacy for a special election.

HB 1192, exempting certain household pharmaceutical wastes from the definition of hazardous waste.

HB 1204, relative to the grading and use of timber grown in New Hampshire.

HB 1217, permitting classification of individuals based on biological sex under certain limited circumstances.

HB 1225, relative to the definition of adjusted gross income with respect to child support guidelines.

HB 1226, relative to restricting the issuance of identification documents by unauthorized individuals.

HB 1228, relative to the enforcement of alimony orders.

HB 1229, relative to waivers of alimony.

HB 1233, relative to the minutes of non-public sessions.

HB 1236-FN, relative to recordings of custodial interrogations.

HB 1256, removing the authority of the state librarian to award scholarships to students attending graduate library schools.

HB 1260-FN, relative to marriage registration forms and delayed certificates of marriage.

HB 1308-FN, relative to increasing the penalty for passing a stopped school bus.

HB 1309, relative to town meeting warrants.

HB 1318, renewing the committee to study non-pharmacological treatment options for patients with chronic pain.

HB 1331, (New Title) enabling the Derry town council to incorporate the Derry Cooperative School District as a department of the town through a charter amendment.

HB 1348, relative to possession of human remains for law enforcement training purposes.

HB 1361, relative to the procedure concerning search warrant inventories.

HB 1363, relative to employee candidate background checks.

HB 1366-FN, relative to military orders of protection.

HB 1369, relative to the manner of posting the warrant for a special town meeting.

HB 1370, (New Title) repealing the public school identification and accommodation of gifted and talented students reporting requirement.

HB 1381, extending the time of the party filing period.

HB 1425-FN, relative to the development of an online wetlands permit processing system.
 HB 1431-FN, restricting the use of neonicotinoid pesticides.
 HB 1433-FN, creating a child care tax credit for qualifying businesses.
 HB 1442-FN, limiting the use of certain facilities on the basis of sex and redefining the term “gender identity.”
 HB 1495, allowing a reimbursement anticipation note to be used as collateral in certain circumstances.
 HB 1514, requiring the department of education and the department of revenue administration to send school compliance and financial reports to school and school board authorities.
 HB 1535, relative to clarifying eligible renewable energy classes under the renewable portfolio standard.
 HB 1541-FN, requiring the secretary of state to provide all voting precincts with secure containers for storing ballots.
 HB 1573, permitting excused absences for students participating in civic engagement or attending a career or technical education event.
 HB 1577, relative to the disclosure of utility customer data to municipalities for emergency response planning.
 HB 1610, allowing school districts to annually retain year-end unassigned general funds.
 HB 1635, modifying the requirements of suicide prevention education policies in schools.
 HB 1651-FN, establishing sexual assault orders of protection and relative to sexual assault survivors’ rights.
 HB 1676, limiting consumer access to certain high-risk rodenticides.
 HB 1685, (New Title) establishing a commission to study aiding the growth of assistive technology businesses and adoption of assistive technologies in New Hampshire.
 HB 1696-FN, relative to the issuance of a summons instead of arrest.
 HB 1733, relative to default electric service procurement and the recovery of competitive market supply costs.
 HB 1742, (New Title) relative to customer-generators inadvertently enrolled in a municipal or county aggregation program.
 HB 1756-FN, allowing organizations to file for property tax exemptions once and receive those exemptions unless and until a town assessor finds the organization ineligible for an exemption.
 HB 1780, increasing penalties for persons violating laws relative to the sale of seeds, plants, and nursery stock.
 HB 1795-FN, requiring criminal history record checks for the renewal of teaching licenses.
 HB 1815-FN, relative to education financing.
 HB 1818-FN, (New Title) requiring the department of education to use its 10-year school facilities plans to plan and project out building consolidation projects.
 HB 1837-FN, relative to the New Hampshire marine patrol.
 HCR 14, condemning the assassination of Charlie Kirk and reaffirming the state’s commitment to freedom of speech and civil discourse.

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 1815-FN, relative to education financing. (Education Finance)

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION

Senator Birdsell offered the following Resolution:

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

First and Second Reading and Referral

HB 113, relative to OHRV operation on certain highways within the town of Windsor. (Transportation)
 HB 1013, relative to games wherein the object is to capture a pig. (Energy and Natural Resources)
 HB 1019, relative to the composition of the state water well board. (Executive Departments and Administration)
 HB 1051, modifying the procedures and requirements for school bus driver criminal history records checks and expanding the personnel subject to such checks. (Judiciary)
 HB 1078-FN, creating a gold star family and gold star father license plate. (Transportation)
 HB 1086-FN, creating a committee to study neonicotinoid seed treatments. (Energy and Natural Resources)

HB 1091, relative to the penalty for violations of municipal ordinances related to sleeping or camping outside. (Judiciary)

HB 1095, relative to the maximum weight of utility terrain vehicles. (Transportation)

HB 1099, establishing a committee to study private businesses providing special education services and issues relative to local school district reimbursement. (Education)

HB 1118, increasing the limit for moneys remitted to municipal treasurers. (Election Law and Municipal Affairs)

HB 1134, relative to the town meeting form of local governance. (Election Law and Municipal Affairs)

HB 1135, prohibiting the acquisition of prescriptive rights in private roads through adverse use. (Election Law and Municipal Affairs)

HB 1138, limiting the placement of out-of-state waste going into New Hampshire landfills. (Energy and Natural Resources)

HB 1141, relative to permitting and fee authority for mining and prospecting. (Energy and Natural Resources)

HB 1151, relative to conservation commission appropriations. (Election Law and Municipal Affairs)

HB 1175-FN, relative to the offense of use of scanning device or reencoder to defraud. (Judiciary)

HB 1186, relative to the sale and labeling of eggs. (Energy and Natural Resources)

HB 1187-FN, relative to the time in which candidates for state representative may file their candidacy for a special election. (Election Law and Municipal Affairs)

HB 1192, exempting certain household pharmaceutical wastes from the definition of hazardous waste. (Energy and Natural Resources)

HB 1204, relative to the grading and use of timber grown in New Hampshire. (Executive Departments and Administration)

HB 1217, permitting classification of individuals based on biological sex under certain limited circumstances. (Judiciary)

HB 1225, relative to the definition of adjusted gross income with respect to child support guidelines. (Children and Family Law)

HB 1226, relative to restricting the issuance of identification documents by unauthorized individuals. (Transportation)

HB 1228, relative to the enforcement of alimony orders. (Children and Family Law)

HB 1229, relative to waivers of alimony. (Children and Family Law)

HB 1233, relative to the minutes of non-public sessions. (Election Law and Municipal Affairs)

HB 1236-FN, relative to recordings of custodial interrogations. (Judiciary)

HB 1256, removing the authority of the state librarian to award scholarships to students attending graduate library schools. (Education)

HB 1260-FN, relative to marriage registration forms and delayed certificates of marriage. (Judiciary)

HB 1308-FN, relative to increasing the penalty for passing a stopped school bus. (Judiciary)

HB 1309, relative to town meeting warrants. (Election Law and Municipal Affairs)

HB 1318, renewing the committee to study non-pharmacological treatment options for patients with chronic pain. (Health and Human Services)

HB 1331, enabling the Derry town council to incorporate the Derry Cooperative School District as a department of the town through a charter amendment. (Election Law and Municipal Affairs)

HB 1348, relative to possession of human remains for law enforcement training purposes. (Judiciary)

HB 1361, relative to the procedure concerning search warrant inventories. (Judiciary)

HB 1363, relative to employee candidate background checks. (Judiciary)

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HB 1369, relative to the manner of posting the warrant for a special town meeting. (Election Law and Municipal Affairs)

HB 1370, repealing the public school identification and accommodation of gifted and talented students reporting requirement. (Education)

HB 1381, extending the time of the party filing period. (Election Law and Municipal Affairs)

HB 1425-FN, relative to the development of an online wetlands permit processing system. (Energy and Natural Resources)

HB 1431-FN, restricting the use of neonicotinoid pesticides. (Energy and Natural Resources)

HB 1433-FN, creating a child care tax credit for qualifying businesses. (Ways and Means)

HB 1442-FN, limiting the use of certain facilities on the basis of sex and redefining the term "gender identity." (Judiciary)

HB 1495, allowing a reimbursement anticipation note to be used as collateral in certain circumstances. (Education Finance)

HB 1514, requiring the department of education and the department of revenue administration to send school compliance and financial reports to school and school board authorities. (Education)

HB 1535, relative to clarifying eligible renewable energy classes under the renewable portfolio standard. (Energy and Natural Resources)

HB 1541-FN, requiring the secretary of state to provide all voting precincts with secure containers for storing ballots. (Election Law and Municipal Affairs)

HB 1573, permitting excused absences for students participating in civic engagement or attending a career or technical education event. (Education)

HB 1577, relative to the disclosure of utility customer data to municipalities for emergency response planning. (Energy and Natural Resources)

HB 1610, allowing school districts to annually retain year-end unassigned general funds. (Education Finance)

HB 1635, modifying the requirements of suicide prevention education policies in schools. (Education)

HB 1651-FN, establishing sexual assault orders of protection and relative to sexual assault survivors' rights. (Judiciary)

HB 1676, limiting consumer access to certain high-risk rodenticides. (Energy and Natural Resources)

HB 1685, establishing a commission to study aiding the growth of assistive technology businesses and adoption of assistive technologies in New Hampshire. (Health and Human Services)

HB 1696-FN, relative to the issuance of a summons instead of arrest. (Judiciary)

HB 1733, relative to default electric service procurement and the recovery of competitive market supply costs. (Energy and Natural Resources)

HB 1742, relative to customer-generators inadvertently enrolled in a municipal or county aggregation program. (Energy and Natural Resources)

HB 1756-FN, allowing organizations to file for property tax exemptions once and receive those exemptions unless and until a town assessor finds the organization ineligible for an exemption. (Election Law and Municipal Affairs)

HB 1780, increasing penalties for persons violating laws relative to the sale of seeds, plants, and nursery stock. (Energy and Natural Resources)

HB 1795-FN, requiring criminal history record checks for the renewal of teaching licenses. (Education)

HB 1815-FN, relative to education financing. (Education Finance)

HB 1818-FN, requiring the department of education to use its 10-year school facilities plans to plan and project out building consolidation projects. (Education)

HB 1837-FN, relative to the New Hampshire marine patrol. (Energy and Natural Resources)

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON ENROLLED BILLS

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

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

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

Out of Recess. Call the Senate to Order.

MOTION TO ADJOURN FROM LATE SESSION

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

Adopted. Adjournment from the Late Session.

SENATE JOURNAL 6

March 12, 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, Madam President, and good morning, Senators.

Let's pray. Lord, we're very mindful of the extensive work that this chamber does, and yet in the buzz of this room this morning, I sense a spirit of friendship which allows there to be understanding. Differences of perspectives, but unity and purpose, and for that, I'm grateful. Lord, as our Senators continue to work in their committees, I pray they don't listen to the most loudest and most powerful voice, but sometimes the quiet, unassuming voice becomes a solution to the challenges that this state faces. Lord, I pray a blessing over each Senator. They are called. They are here by purpose. And for that, we're grateful for their presence. In your holy name we pray. Amen.

Senator Altschiller led the Pledge of Allegiance.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

(The Chair recognized Senator Ward.)

SENATOR WARD: Madam President and colleagues, I am grateful this morning to present to the Forest Society a Senate resolution celebrating the 125th anniversary. The New Hampshire Senate, a resolution:

Be it known that the New Hampshire Senate extends its congratulations to Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests in recognition of:

Celebrating 125 years of championing the conservation of acreage surrounding the Granite State's most iconic lands and woods, promoting best practices and preserving the scenic beauty and wonder of forests for generations to come.

And be it further known that the New Hampshire Senate extends the best wishes for continued success.

Just a few more remarks. I've had the personal privilege as a land steward to volunteer with the incredible organization to protect and preserve our state's beautiful natural resources. To date, 1,128 properties equal to 215,595 acres of land are under the stewardship of the Forest Society. We all have busy lives, but if you ever have a chance to do some volunteer work for the Forest Society, I highly recommend it. And if you can't volunteer, consider visiting one of the properties that are quite a few of them around here. Thank you very much, Madam President and colleagues.

JACK SAVAGE: Thank you very much, Senator Ward. Thank you, Senator Carson. I appreciate it very much. My name is Jack Savage. I'm the president of the Forest Society. We're very proud that we've been around for 125 years. That's half the history of the 250 years that the U.S.A. has been around. We've been here. We have every intention of being around for another 125 years, and we like to think that we have a little something to do for why New Hampshire is so special, and it is what it is today. Thank you for your support, and thank you for recognizing us today.

(The Chair recognized Senator Reardon.)

SENATOR REARDON: It's my pleasure to introduce Madison Duffy, one of my constituents from here in Concord. She's a junior at Concord High School, and she is a recipient of a Gold Award from the Girl Scouts. If you know anything about the Girl Scouts at each age level, there is the Ultimate Award Bronze, Silver, and Gold, and Madison, of course, has got all of those. I also want to say that you have to do a sustainable impact project in order to do this with a minimum of 80 hours. Madison did 111 hours so far, and counting, and her project is about melanoma awareness for teens. She has a great Instagram site, which is showing off some of her graphic design skills also, but it has a lot of followers already. She's talked to over 80 students, and she's ensured that there is sunscreen at Concord High in all of the first aid bags for sports, too.

Her Instagram site is great and informative. I encourage you to check it out. She's a field hockey player, too. My favorite, at Concord High. I'd like to read a resolution.

Be it known that the New Hampshire Senate extends its congratulations to Madison K. Duffy in recognition of:

Earning a Gold Award with Girl Scout Troop #10162 of Concord, NH, for championing melanoma awareness for teens.

And be it further known that the entire New Hampshire Senate extends its best wishes for your continued success.

MADISON DUFFY: Hello, thank you for having me. I would just like to say a few thank yous. Thank you to my parents and anyone in my troop who has allowed me to do this project. And thank you to Girl Scouts for allowing me to develop my leadership and develop on my future and hoping to be a nurse.

SENATOR REARDON: And you have Madison to thank for the cookies that are on your table.

(The Chair recognized Senator Ricciardi.)

SENATOR RICCIARDI: Thank you, Madam President. So last evening in the State House I had the pleasure of meeting a young man named Travis Brown and he was inspired to come and visit us today and I said you absolutely can and I will introduce you. He's at the New Hampshire Institute of Technology and working two jobs. Welcome to the Senate Chambers Travis.

INTRODUCTION OF PAGES

(The Chair recognized Senator Prentiss.)

SENATOR PRENTISS: Good morning Madam President and colleagues. It is my honor and pleasure to introduce to you Marcus Hamilton. He is going to be paging for us today. Marcus is 17 years old and I've actually known him since he was a baby. He is a, sorry, he was very young. Marcus is from Landaff, New Hampshire. Senator Rochefort's constituents. He is a senior at Profile High School. He's in the Honor Society. He is already civically engaged as the student rep to his local school board. He's an Eagle Scout. He has cross-country and track tennis. He's on the trivia team and as I said he's a school board rep. I knew his, well I know his grandpa who was the fire chief in Littleton for years and both his dad and his grandfather on the other side of his family have both served the state of New Hampshire as state troopers. So we'd like to welcome Marcus here to our chamber and if you need anything he is at your service today. Thank you.

FN Report for March 12, 2026

W/F	Bill	Title	R/C	Committee	Full Name
Waive	SB 669	relative to on-premises licenses for licensed barbershops and salons.	Consent	COM	Commerce
Waive	HB 709	allowing parents or guardians to admit their children into any school district where they pay any property or school district taxes.	Consent	EDU	Education
Finance	HB 1808	establishing the position of academic research and improvement performance data analyst in the department of education and making an appropriation therefor.	Consent	EDU	Education
Waive	SB 449	relative to the participation of large customer-generators in net metering.	Consent	ENR	Energy and Natural Resources
Finance	SB 536	relative to the solid waste facility site evaluation committee.	Consent	ENR	Energy and Natural Resources
Waive	SB 538	extending net metering eligibility terms for municipal energy projects.	Consent	ENR	Energy and Natural Resources
Waive	SB 470	relative to the expungement of certain disciplinary matters.	Consent	EDA	Executive Departments and Administration
Waive	SB 640	relative to the use of artificial intelligence to provide services requiring a professional license.	Consent	EDA	Executive Departments and Administration
Waive	HB 610	relative to repealing the office of the consumer advocate.	Consent	EDA	Executive Departments and Administration
Waive	SB 478	relative to strengthening prescription drug affordability and pharmacy benefits manager accountability.	Consent	HHS	Health and Human Services
Waive	SB 544	limiting changes to prescription drug formularies under health benefit plans.	Consent	HHS	Health and Human Services
Waive	SB 546	relative to health carrier network access monitoring. Services	Consent	HHS	Health and Human
Waive	SB 547	relative to regulation and transparency of pharmacy benefit manager practices.	Consent	HHS	Health and Human Services
Finance	SB 612	relative to clinical eligibility criteria for nursing facility and home and community based care.	Consent	HHS	Health and Human Services
Finance	SB 614	establishing pooled risk management programs for the benefit of child care centers and foster family homes.	Consent	HHS	Health and Human Services
Finance	SB 615	relative to the use and regulation of EBT cards and SNAP eligibility.	Consent	HHS	Health and Human Services

Waive	SB 665	requiring pharmacies to charge consumers the lowest available price for prescription drugs.	Consent	HHS	Health and Human Services
Finance	SB 666	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.	Consent	HHS	Health and Human Services
Waive	SB 670	establishing a developmental services oversight commission; relative to membership and duties of the incapacitated and vulnerable adult fatality review committee; relative to reporting requirements regarding the death of a child in residential care; and relative to the registry of founded reports of abuse, neglect, or exploitation of vulnerable adults.	Consent	HHS	Health and Human Services
Waive	SB 464	relative to civil rights enforcement.	Consent	JUD	Judiciary
Waive	SB 466	relative to the possession of a firearm without a serial number.	Consent	JUD	Judiciary
Finance	SB 485	relative to the licensure, regulation and taxation of hemp-based derivative products.	Consent	JUD	Judiciary
Waive	SB 667	relative to the assault of emergency room personnel.	Consent	JUD	Judiciary
Waive	SB 658	authorizing the department of education to establish a safe and resilient schools advisory council.	Regular	EDU	Education
Finance	SB 597	relative to utility rate increases to inflation-adjusted thresholds and performance incentive metrics for utilities.	Regular	ENR	Energy and Natural Resources
Waive	SB 549	prohibiting the state or local government from distributing or funding organizations that distribute drug paraphernalia.	Regular	HHS	Health and Human Services
Waive	SB 664	limiting hospital executive compensation in communities designated as distressed place-based economies under certain circumstances.	Regular	HHS	Health and Human Services
Waive	SB 512	relative to fees to annul criminal records related to charges that do not result in conviction.	Regular	JUD	Judiciary
Waive	SB 519	relative to the use of unmanned aerial systems.	Regular	JUD	Judiciary
Finance	SB 557	prohibiting the sale of kratom products to anyone under 21 years of age and providing for the regulation of the sale of kratom products.	Regular	JUD	Judiciary
Waive	SB 626	restricting right-to-know requests to persons domiciled or maintaining a permanent residence in New Hampshire and requiring proof of domicile or residency to file right-to-know requests.	Regular	JUD	Judiciary
Waive	SB 657	relative to the oversight of artificial intelligence.	Regular	JUD	Judiciary
Waive	SB 668	authorizing a historic marker on a highway for the purpose of acknowledging the abuse of former residents of the youth development center.	Regular	TRANS	Transportation

Please Note: Senate Rule 4-5 requires every bill and joint resolution appropriating money, and every other bill which is accompanied by a fiscal note pursuant to RSA 14:44, which has been referred to another committee and found Ought to Pass by the Senate, shall be referred to the Senate Finance Committee for review, unless otherwise ordered by the Senate upon recommendation of the Chair of the Senate Finance Committee. Senator Gray has reviewed the bills on the Consent and Regular Calendars to be acted upon by the Senate on March 12, 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

EDUCATION

SB 574, by Senator Altschiller

ELECTION LAW AND MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

HB 317, by Senator Gray

ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

SB 595, by Senator Watters

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION

SB 470, by Senator Gray

FINANCE

HB 639-FN, by Senator Rochefort

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

SB 478, by Senator McGough

SB 612, by Senator Avar

SB 665, by Senator Ricciardi

JUDICIARY

SB 464, by Senator Carson

SB 466, by Senator Gannon

SB 667, by Senator McGough

SPECIAL ORDER

Without objection, the following bills are Special Ordered to Thursday, March 26, 2026. Adopted.

COMMERCE

SB 482-FN, establishing consumer protections for digital access transaction kiosks. SB 482-FN, establishing consumer protections for digital access transaction kiosks.

ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

SB 595, relative to the establishment of a remediation pathway for water systems required to undergo frequent testing.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION

SB 470, relative to the expungement of certain disciplinary matters.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

SB 441, requiring a municipality that intends to transport a person needing substance use disorder treatment and other support services to have a memorandum of understanding with the receiving municipality prior to transport.

SB 476, relative to consumer health care cost transparency.

JUDICIARY

SB 464, relative to civil rights enforcement.

SB 512, relative to fees to annul criminal records related to charges that do not result in conviction.

SB 657, relative to the oversight of artificial intelligence.

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 509, preventing municipalities from limiting dead-end road length if compliant with the state fire code. Inexpedient to Legislate, Vote 6-0. Senator Innis for the committee.

This bill would prohibit municipalities from imposing length restrictions on dead-end roads or cul-de-sacs in subdivision approvals or building permits when the proposed road design complies with applicable State Fire Code requirements. Similar legislation was passed by the Senate; therefore, the Committee felt this bill was no longer necessary.

SB 669-FN, relative to on-premises licenses for licensed barbershops and salons.
Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 6-0. Senator Murphy for the committee.

Barbershops and salons can currently purchase a liquor license for \$100 per year that allows them to give away one free drink to each customer. This bill, as drafted, would raise the fee to \$480. It was the sponsor's intent to allow those hair-service licensees to sell that one drink if they wish, rather than give it away, but the bill as introduced did not accomplish that goal. The committee amendment addresses this error by keeping the existing license unchanged, but would also create a second tier license at \$480 that would meet the sponsor's intent. Licensees would still be limited to one drink per customer, and would face the same training requirement already applied to all other liquor license types.

Senate Commerce
March 3, 2026
2026-1021s
09/07

Amendment to SB 669-FN

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 On-Premises License; Salon or Barbershop. Amend RSA 178:21, III to read as follows:

III. The commission may issue a license to a business currently licensed through the office of professional licensure and certification, pursuant to RSA 313-A:19, as a salon or barbershop, as defined under RSA 313-A:1, to serve one alcoholic beverage to customers who are receiving services from said establishment. ***Such licenses shall be designated either as a tier 1 license or a tier 2 license.***

(a)(1) Notwithstanding the provisions of RSA 179:44, a ***tier 1*** licensee under this paragraph may serve alcoholic beverages and liquor [for free] ***without charge for on-premises consumption***, which shall be limited to one drink per customer in the amount not to exceed one 16-ounce glass of beverage, 6-ounce glass of wine, or 1 1/2 ounces of liquor per person ***per appointment***.

(2) The fee for a tier 1 license under this paragraph shall be \$100.

(3) The licensee shall keep records of the patron served. Such records shall be retained by the licensed facility and shall be made available to the commission upon request.

(b)(1) [~~The fee for the license under this paragraph shall be \$100.~~] ***A tier 2 licensee may sell alcoholic beverages and liquor for on-premises consumption only, which shall be limited to one drink per customer in the amount not to exceed one 16-ounce glass of beverage, 6-ounce glass of wine, or 1 1/2 ounces of liquor per person per appointment.***

(2) The fee for a tier 2 license shall be \$480.

(3) Sales authorized under this paragraph shall be incidental to the provision of barbering or cosmetology services and shall not constitute a standalone bar or restaurant operation.

(4) The licensee shall keep records of alcoholic beverages sold under this paragraph, which shall be retained by the licensed facility and shall be made available to the commission upon request.

(c) Nothing in this section shall allow the commission to issue a license to a salon or barbershop located within a private residence.

(d) For the purposes of this section, persons under the age of 21 years shall be allowed in the salon but shall not be offered nor consume any alcoholic beverage or liquor.

(e) The licensee shall complete the management training seminar offered by the commission.

(f) The liquor commission shall submit an annual report to the speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the senate by November 1 of each year listing the number of licenses applied for, granted, and denied, the number of inspections performed, and the total number of violations which occurred within the reporting year.

2026-1021s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This increases separates the on-premises license for barbershops and salons into two tiers, one which allows for a single sale and one which allows for service without charge, and requires the liquor commission to make an annual report to the legislature regarding the issuance of licenses and the number of violations which occurred.

EDUCATION

SB 403, requiring all schools to start the school year after Labor Day.
Interim Study, Vote 4-1. Senator Abbas for the committee.

SB 403 mandates that all schools start their year after Labor Day. The bill does not allow local school boards to choose the start date; instead, it would be set by the state. The committee concluded that a one-size-fits-all solution created logistical challenges. Therefore, the committee recommended referring the bill to interim study.

HB 709-FN, allowing parents or guardians to admit their children into any school district where they pay any property or school district taxes.
Inexpedient to Legislate, Vote 5-0. Senator Ward for the committee.

This bill allows parents or guardians to admit their children into any school district where they pay any property tax or school district taxes.

HB 1373, relative to background check disqualifications for applicants seeking educator credentials.
Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0. Senator Sullivan for the committee.

House Bill 1373 extends criminal history record checks for applicants seeking educator credentials. The additional crimes include Negligent Homicide, Second Degree Assault, Domestic Violence, Felony Robbery, Felony Forgery, and Felony False Academic Documentation.

HB 1808-FN-A, establishing the position of academic research and improvement performance data analyst in the department of education and making an appropriation therefor.
Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0. Senator Prentiss for the committee.

This bill establishes the position of academic research and performance data analyst in the department of education and makes an appropriation for it. This position will collect and analyze data to: measure student progress, evaluate program and instructional effectiveness, guide curriculum development and resource allocation, and promote accountability.

ELECTION LAW AND MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

HB 244, updating and recodifying the municipal enforcement of the building and fire code.
Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 4-0. Senator Gray for the committee.

HB 244 restructures the state building and fire code by repealing specific sections of the RSA and reenacting them with minor changes elsewhere in the RSA. The bill also includes grammatical and spelling corrections. The amendment simply corrects the bill's incorrect statutory references.

Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs
March 3, 2026
2026-1025s
09/08

Amendment to HB 244

Amend the bill by replacing section 4 with the following:

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

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

Amend the bill by replacing section 7 with the following:

7 Local Amendments; Application. Amend RSA 155-A:3, VII to read as follows:

VII. The state building code established in RSA 155-A shall be effective in all municipalities, as defined in RSA [672:10] **155-A:1, XI**, in the state, without further local modification, except as permitted by this section, and shall be enforced as provided in RSA 155-A:7. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no local legislative body shall enact or enforce any ordinance, adopt or enforce any rule, or implement any regulation

that amends, overrides, or deviates from the state building code, or addresses any subject included in the state building code, except as otherwise permitted by this section or other statute, on or after the effective date of this section. All municipalities with an enforcement mechanism shall enforce and comply fully with the state building code without further local modification, except as otherwise permitted by this section or other statute

Amend the bill by replacing section 8 with the following:

8 Local Amendments; Application. Amend RSA 155-A:3, IX and X to read as follows:

IX. No municipality [~~or local land use board~~], as defined in RSA [672:7] **155-A:1, XI**, shall enforce any ordinance, regulation, code, or administrative practice requiring the installation of automatic fire suppression sprinklers in any new or existing detached one- or two-family dwelling unit in a structure used only for residential purposes, or in existing buildings that contain, or will contain, no more than four dwelling units, unless fire sprinklers are existing or are required by a nonresidential occupancy.

X. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, no municipality, **as defined in RSA 155-A:1, XI**, [~~or local land use board~~] shall enforce any existing ordinance, regulation, code, or administrative practice requiring the installation or use of automatic fire suppression sprinklers in any manufactured housing unit, as defined in RSA 674:31, situated in a manufactured housing park, as defined in RSA 205-A:1, II. Nothing in this paragraph shall affect the ability of an applicant for a local land use permit to include the installation of fire suppression sprinklers pursuant to RSA 674:36, [~~IV~~] **VI**, or affect the validity or enforceability of such inclusion.

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

XII. The building official shall have the authority to order occupants to vacate a building, structure, or other premises if the inspector determines, based on reasonable information and belief, that there is imminent danger of failure or collapse, or the condition of such premises otherwise constitutes a clear and imminent danger to the life or safety of occupants or other persons and that protection of life or safety requires vacating the premises. Such an order shall be subject to the procedures of RSA 147:16-a, which shall supersede inconsistent provisions contained in any local code or code adopted by reference.

XIII. The provisions of paragraph I shall not apply to a residence which is occupied by the owner and his or her immediate family, unless the condition of such premises constitutes a clear and imminent danger to the life or health of persons other than the occupant or occupants.

HB 281, requiring electronic voter checklists to be supplied in a sortable format.

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

HB 281 requires electronic voter checklists to be provided in a sortable format. The amendment removes language that the committee considered potentially burdensome for election officials, while still supporting the bill's main goal of promoting transparency and improving elections.

Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs

March 3, 2026

2026-1020s

07/05

Amendment to HB 281

Amend RSA 657:15, III as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

III. Candidates whose names appear on the ballot for statewide office and persons bearing a notarized request from candidates whose names appear on the ballot for statewide office may obtain a statewide list of absentee voter applicants, excluding voters who have presented to the supervisors of the checklist valid protective orders pursuant to RSA 173-B from the secretary of state. Information on the statewide absentee voter list shall be limited to voter name and address where registered, voter ID number, voter's party, the type of election the absentee ballot was requested in, the date the absentee ballot was requested, the date the absentee ballot was sent or handed to the voter, and the date that the absentee ballot envelope was returned.

HB 463, relative to the composition of the board of recount in elections for the select board and for the school board. Inexpedient to Legislate, Vote 4-0. Senator Lang for the committee.

HB 463 prohibits candidates running for select board or school board from serving on a board of recount in an election where they are on the ballot. The committee expressed concerns about the bill's mechanics, application, and consistency and, as a result, recommends it as Inexpedient to Legislate.

ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

SB 443, relative to wastewater engineering.

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

SB443 grants rulemaking authority to establish requirements for the review and approval of wastewater infrastructure plans and specifications, including the sewer connection permit program. It was introduced at the request of the department of environmental services.

SB 449-FN, relative to the participation of large customer-generators in net metering.

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

SB449 as amended, requires electric distribution utilities to offer alternative net metering tariffs to eligible customer-generators in line with the Public Utility commission's net metering rules. It also authorizes energy storage alongside net metering and directs the Department of Energy to establish rules for the installation and interconnection of such systems.

Senate Energy and Natural Resources

March 3, 2026

2026-1000s

04/05

Amendment to SB 449-FN

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

AN ACT relative to relative to the participation of large customer-generators in net metering and relative to energy storage in connection with net metering.

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

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

II-b. "Eligible customer-generator" or "customer-generator" means an electric utility customer who owns, operates, or purchases power from an electrical generating facility either powered by renewable energy or which employs a heat led combined heat and power system, with a total peak generating capacity, or maximum nameplate rating, of up to and including one megawatt, except as provided for a municipal host as defined in paragraph 11-c and as provided for an industrial customer as defined in paragraph 11-g, that is located behind a retail meter on the customer's premises, provided it is interconnected and operates in parallel with the electric grid, and is used to offset the customer's own electricity requirements. Energy storage, as defined in RSA 374-H:1, III, may be added to and charged solely from such a generation facility without affecting the generation facility's size determination relating to its eligibility meter. Incremental generation added to an existing generation facility, that does not itself qualify for net metering, shall qualify if such incremental generation meets the qualifications of this paragraph and is metered separately from the non-qualifying facility.

2 New Paragraph; Definition; Industrial Customer. Amend RSA 362-A:1-a by inserting after paragraph II-f the following new paragraph:

II-g. "Industrial customer" means a customer generator with a total peak generating capacity of greater than one megawatt and less than 5 megawatts used to offset the electricity requirements of one industrial entity with one or more accounts, provided that all accounts are located within the same utility franchise service territory. In the event of excess annual generation by the industrial customer above the industrial customer's annual electricity use, such net excess exported generation shall be subject to the payment adjustment process within the Puc 900 rules.

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

II-a. Each electric distribution utility shall make available alternative tariffs for net metering to eligible customer-generators in accordance with Order No. 26,029 dated June 23, 2017, and the net metering rules adopted by the commission. Any eligible customer-generator that has submitted an interconnection application

to a distribution utility on or before December 31, 2031 and that is used to offset the electricity requirements of an industrial customer that first receives compensation under an Order No. 26,029 alternative tariff shall remain eligible to receive that tariff for the longer of 20 years from the first year in which compensation is received, or until January 1, 2040. If, during these terms, the commission adopts new net metering tariffs through an adjudicated proceeding, any eligible customer-generator that has submitted an interconnection application to a distribution utility on or before December 31, 2031 and that is used to offset the electricity requirements of an industrial customer that elects to participate in a new net metering tariff shall be eligible to receive that tariff until the date that is 20 years from the first date on which the eligible customer-generator received net metering compensation. Eligible customer-generators on an Order No. 26,029 alternative tariff may opt to transition to a new net metering tariff established in such a proceeding, provided however, once a customer-generator transitions to a new tariff, they may not revert to an Order No. 26,029 alternative tariff. Upon expiration of eligibility under an Order No. 26,029 alternative tariff, an eligible customer generator may transition to the tariff available at that time.

4 New Paragraph; Customer Energy Storage Definitions. Amend RSA 374-H:1 by inserting after paragraph II the following new paragraph:

II-a. "Department" means the department of energy.

5 Customer Energy Storage Systems. Amend the introductory paragraph for RSA 374-H:2, I to read as follows:

I. The ~~commission~~ department shall adopt rules ~~[or approve tariffs]~~ clarifying policy for the installation~~[,]~~ **and** interconnection~~[, and use]~~ of energy storage systems by customers of utilities, ***while the commission may approve tariffs and issue orders in adjudicated proceedings that are consistent with such rules and pertain to the use of and utility compensation for such energy storage systems. The department and the commission*** ~~[and]~~ shall incorporate the following principles into the rules ~~[or approved tariffs]~~ ***and orders, respectively:***

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

XXIV. The PUC may determine terms and conditions for how a customer-generator may use and be compensated for exports to the grid for energy storage added to and charged solely from renewable energy generation sources in conjunction with net metering and related tariff provisions.

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

2026-1000s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill:

I. Directs electric distribution utilities to make available alternative tariffs for net metering to eligible customer-generators in accordance with PUC Order 26,029 and net metering rules adopted by the commission.

II. Authorizes energy storage in connection with net metering and directs the department of energy to adopt rules relative to the installation and interconnection of such energy storage systems.

SB 475, including a determination of the best interest of the animal in the definition of foster home. Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 5-0. Senator Pearl for the committee.

SB475 creates a new definition of foster home to include residential homes that could be in the best interest of an animal. The amendment makes technical changes and includes clarifying language to include "pregnant and lactating animals" as valid recipients of foster care.

Senate Energy and Natural Resources

March 3, 2026

2026-1005s

07/08

Amendment to SB 475

Amend RSA 437:1, VI as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

VI. "Foster home" means a private residence in New Hampshire associated with and inspected by a pet vendor licensed under RSA 437:3 that is used to provide temporary physical custody and care at such private residence for the pet vendor's animals, including pregnant or lactating animals, when it is deemed to be in the best interests of that animal's health, safety, and wellbeing as determined by a New Hampshire licensed veterinarian.

SB 536-FN, relative to the solid waste facility site evaluation committee.
Interim Study, Vote 4-1. Senator Pearl for the committee.

SB536-FN would have established a new process for sighting a landfill and establishing a Solid Waste Sight Evaluation Committee. The committee has other bills in process addressing the same process and decided this bill was not needed.

SB 537, repealing the authorization for the public utilities commission to approve alternative forms of regulation.
Inexpedient to Legislate, Vote 5-0. Senator Avarad for the committee.

Senate Bill 537 proposed to repeal the statutory authority allowing the Public Utilities Commission to implement alternative forms of utility regulation, thereby restricting oversight to the traditional rate-of-return framework. If enacted, the bill would eliminate incentive-based or nonstandard regulatory plans. The committee decided to make a motion of interim study because the legislation was not yet ready for passage.

SB 538-FN, extending net metering eligibility terms for municipal energy projects.
Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 4-0. Senator Watters for the committee.

SB 538-FN will establish long-term eligibility for certain customer-generators to receive net energy metering compensation as approved by the public utilities commission. It also outlines conditions for transitioning to future tariffs. Amendment 1001s would add a deadline for applications requiring they be submitted before December 31st 2031.

Senate Energy and Natural Resources
March 3, 2026
2026-1001s
04/07

Amendment to SB 538-FN

Amend the bill by replacing section 2 with the following:

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

II-a. Each electric distribution utility shall make available alternative tariffs for net metering to eligible customer-generators in accordance with Order No. 26,029 dated June 23, 2017, and the net metering rules adopted by the commission. Any eligible customer-generator that has submitted an interconnection application to a distribution utility on or before December 31, 2031 and that is used to offset the electricity requirements of a group consisting exclusively of one or more customers who are political subdivisions that first receives compensation under an Order No. 26,029 alternative tariff shall remain eligible to receive that tariff for the longer of 20 years from the first year in which compensation is received, or until January 1, 2040. If, during these terms, the commission adopts new net metering tariffs through an adjudicated proceeding, any eligible customer-generator that has submitted an interconnection application to a distribution utility on or before December 31, 2031 and that is used to offset the electricity requirements of a group consisting exclusively of one or more customers who are political subdivisions that elects to participate in a new net metering tariff shall be eligible to receive that tariff until the date that is 20 years from the first date on which the eligible customer-generator received net metering compensation. Eligible customer-generators on an Order No. 26,029 alternative tariff may opt to transition to a new net metering tariff established in such a proceeding, provided however, once a customer-generator transitions to a new tariff, they may not revert to an Order No. 26,029 alternative tariff. Upon expiration of eligibility under an Order No. 26,029 alternative tariff, an eligible customer-generator may transition to the tariff available at that time.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION

SB 640-FN, relative to the use of artificial intelligence to provide services requiring a professional license.
Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 4-0. Senator Pearl for the committee.

SB 640-FN prohibits the use of Artificial Intelligence to provide services that require a professional license. The bill permits the Office of Professional Licensure and Certification to collect fees when enforcing this and establishes the framework for how Artificial Intelligence may be used by licensed professionals in their practice. The amendment narrows the original bill's focus to unlicensed practice and the use of Artificial Intelligence. It also establishes a commission to review the implementation of this statute, so as to understand its effect.

Senate Executive Departments and Administration
March 4, 2026
2026-1051s
09/07

Amendment to SB 640-FN

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

1 Office of Professional Licensure and Certification; Unlicensed Practice. RSA 310:13 is repealed and re-enacted to read as follows:

310:13 Unlicensed Practice; Use of Artificial Intelligence.

I. Whoever, including but not limited to individuals and entities, not being licensed or otherwise authorized to practice according to the laws of this state, advertises oneself as engaging in a profession licensed by the office of professional licensure and certification, engages in activity requiring professional licensure, or in any way holds oneself out as qualified to do so, or calls oneself a licensed professional, or provides goods or services requiring professional licensure, or whoever does such acts after receiving notice that such person's license to practice has been suspended or revoked, is engaged in unlawful practice. The office may, for purposes of verifying licensure, request to see the license of anyone who advertises oneself as engaging in a profession licensed by the office, engages in activity requiring professional licensure, or in any way holds oneself out as qualified to do so, or calls oneself a licensed professional, or whoever does such acts after receiving notice that such person's license to practice has been suspended or revoked, at the place of business, or where such business is being conducted, of such individual. After providing notice and opportunity to be heard in accordance with RSA 310:10, and upon making an affirmative finding of unlawful practice, the office shall impose a civil penalty of \$10,000 per violation. Each violation of unlicensed or unlawful practice shall be deemed a separate offense. The board, the attorney general, or a prosecuting attorney of any county or municipality where the act of unlawful practice takes place may maintain an action to enjoin any person or entity from continuing to do acts of unlawful practice. The action to enjoin shall not replace any other civil, criminal, or regulatory remedy. An injunction without bond is available to any board.

II. For any order issued in resolution of a disciplinary proceeding by the board, where the board has found unlawful practice, the board may require the respondent who is the subject of such finding to pay the office the reasonable cost of investigation and prosecution of the proceeding, but which shall not exceed \$10,000. This sum may be imposed in addition to any otherwise authorized administrative fines levied by the board as part of the penalty. The investigative and prosecution costs shall be assessed by the office and any sums recovered shall be credited to the office's fund and disbursed by the office for any future investigations of complaints and activities that violate this chapter or rules adopted under this chapter.

III. No individual, corporation, or other entity or person may provide, advertise, or otherwise offer mental health services requiring professional licensure to the public in this state through artificial intelligence unless those services are provided by a New Hampshire licensed mental health professional. Artificial intelligence shall not independently provide therapeutic communication directly to a client without the involvement of a New Hampshire licensed mental health professional. This paragraph does not preclude a New Hampshire licensed mental health professional, operating within their scope of practice, from utilizing FDA-authorized and/or HIPPA compliant artificial intelligence tools for a client under their care provided the New Hampshire licensed professional exercises due diligence.

IV.(a) For the purposes of this paragraph:

(1) "Artificial intelligence" means any computer-based system, software, or algorithm designed to perform tasks that typically require human cognitive functions, including but not limited to natural language processing, pattern recognition, decision-making, or predictive analytics.

(2) "Licensed professional" means a person holding a valid license in this state, or through a license compact, to provide therapy or psychotherapy services.

(3) "Peer support" means nonclinical services provided by individuals with lived experience of mental health conditions or recovery from substance use disorders, intended to offer encouragement, understanding, and guidance without clinical intervention.

(4) "Religious counseling" means faith-based counseling provided by clergy, pastoral counselors, or other religious leaders acting within the scope of their religious duties, provided the services are not represented as clinical therapy or psychotherapy.

(5) “Therapeutic communication” means any verbal, nonverbal, or written interaction intended to diagnose, treat, or address an individual’s mental, emotional, or behavioral health concerns, including but not limited to:

(i) Direct interactions with clients for the purpose of understanding or reflecting their thoughts, emotions, or experiences.

(ii) Providing guidance, therapeutic strategies, or interventions designed to achieve mental health outcomes.

(iii) Offering emotional support, reassurance, or empathy in response to psychological distress.

(iv) Collaborating with clients to develop or modify treatment plans or therapeutic goals.

(v) Delivering behavioral feedback intended to promote psychological growth or address mental health conditions.

(6) “Therapy or psychotherapy services” means services provided to diagnose, treat, or improve an individual’s mental health or behavioral health, but does not include religious counseling or peer support.

(b) No person, corporation, or entity may provide, advertise, or otherwise offer therapy or psychotherapy services or therapeutic communication, including through Internet-based artificial intelligence, to the public in this state unless those services are provided by a New Hampshire licensed mental health professional.

(c) This paragraph does not apply to:

(1) Religious counseling; or

(2) Peer support.

V.(a) A commission is established to continue reviewing the implementation of this section to better understand the impacts of this section.

(b) Notwithstanding RSA 14:49, the commission shall be comprised of:

(1) Two members of the senate, appointed by the president of the senate.

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

(3) A member appointed by the National Association of Social Workers New Hampshire.

(4) A member appointed by the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy.

(5) A member appointed by the New Hampshire Psychological Association.

(6) A member appointed by the New Hampshire Community Behavioral Health Association.

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

(d) The commission shall review the implementation of the policy changes induced by this section to better understand the impacts.

(e) The members of the study commission shall elect a chairperson from among the members. The first meeting of the commission shall be called by the first-named senate member. The first meeting of the commission shall be held within 30 days of the effective date of this section. Five members of the commission shall constitute a quorum.

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

2 Repeal. RSA 310:13, V, relative to commission to study the implementation of the section, is repealed.

3 Effective Date.

I. Section 2 of this act shall take effect November 1, 2026.

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

HB 610-FN, relative to repealing the office of the consumer advocate.
Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 4-0. Senator Pearl for the committee.

HB 610-FN alters both the structure and goals of the Office of the Consumer Advocate. The amendment strikes sections 1-4 of the bill, only retaining the establishment of the Residential Ratepayers Advisory Board which will provide oversight to the Office of the Consumer Advocate.

Senate Executive Departments and Administration
March 4, 2026
2026-1056s
07/09

Amendment to HB 610-FN

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

AN ACT relative to the residential ratepayers advisory board.

Amend the bill by deleting sections 1-4 and renumbering the original sections 5-6 to read as 1-2, respectively.

2026-1056s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill makes changes to the composition and objectives of the residential ratepayers advisory board.

HB 1110, relative to the New Hampshire real estate practice act.
Ought to Pass, Vote 4-0. Senator Reardon for the committee.

HB 1110 makes several clarifications regarding real estate licensing. It specifies that educational requirements for real estate licensure are measured in credit hours. It also states that inactive licensed principal or managing brokers are not required to maintain a surety bond, that annulled convictions are not considered for disciplinary proceedings, and that prohibited discrimination also applies to rental activity and not just sales activity. Lastly, the bill updates statutory cross-references for accuracy and consistency.

HB 1119, relative to the regulation of funeral directors.
Ought to Pass, Vote 4-0. Senator Pearl for the committee.

HB 1119 establishes the state licensing process for the position of associate funeral director, allowing those who hold the position to perform all relevant duties except that of embalming.

HB 1159, relative to updating the state building code.
Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 4-0. Senator Pearl for the committee.

HB 1159 updates the state building code to align with new recommendations from the State Building Code Review Board. The amendment changes the effective date from sixty days after passage to July 1st, 2026.

Senate Executive Departments and Administration
March 4, 2026
2026-1058s
04/07

Amendment to HB 1159

Amend the bill by replacing section 2 with the following:

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

HB 1160, relative to the county-state finance commission.
Ought to Pass, Vote 4-0. Senator Reardon for the committee.

HB 1160 amends the membership of the County-State Finance Commission by allowing the DHHS commissioner the option to appoint a designee, allowing some members to continue serving until a successor is appointed, and providing the Speaker of the House with greater flexibility regarding which members the Speaker may appoint. The bill further clarifies some statutory language and amends duties of the commission.

HB 1310, relative to state licensed or certified real estate appraisers.
Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 4-0. Senator Reardon for the committee.

HB 1310 revises the standards under which New Hampshire certified appraisers may serve as supervisors for apprentice real estate appraisers. The bill also limits the amount of continuing education that appli-

cants for relicensing or recertification may complete as students in certain board-approved educational programs. Additionally, the amendment authorizes the issuance of temporary licenses to individuals licensed in other states and clarifies the applicable statutory authority for disciplinary actions.

Senate Executive Departments and Administration

March 4, 2026

2026-1061s

09/08

Amendment to HB 1310

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 State Licensed or Certified Real Estate Appraisers; Classes of Licensure or Certification. Amend RSA 310-B:6, I(a) to read as follows:

(a) Apprentice. The apprentice real estate appraiser classification shall consist of those persons who do not meet the requirements under subparagraph (b), (c), or (d), but are in the process of completing the requirements for one of the classifications of a real estate appraiser. Apprentice real estate appraisers shall be required to work under the supervision of a New Hampshire certified appraiser who has been certified for at least 2 years ***and has not been subject to any disciplinary action as described in RSA 310-B:5-a within any jurisdiction within the 3 years prior to supervisory approval***, until the requirements for licensure or certification have been met.

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

3 New Section; State Licensed or Certified Real Estate Appraisers; Temporary License or Certificate. Amend RSA 310-B by inserting after section 11 the following new section:

310-B:11-a Temporary License or Certificate.

After application and payment of a fee, the office shall issue a temporary license or certificate to an individual who is either licensed or certified in another jurisdiction if the application complies with rules adopted by the board pursuant to RSA 541-A.

2026-1061s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill:

I. Amends the standard for which New Hampshire certified appraisers can serve as supervisors for apprentice real estate appraisers, and limits how much continuing education for applicants for relicensing or recertification can be as a student in certain educational processes and programs approved by the board.

II. Allows for the issuance of a temporary license or certificate for individuals licensed or certified in another state.

HB 1379, relative to the reporting date for the annual complaint data.

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

HB 1379 modifies the publication date of the annual special education complaint and findings report from July 1st to September 1st of each year.

FINANCE

SB 408-FN, relative to health insurance coverage for prosthetics.

Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 7-0. Senator Rosenwald for the committee.

This bill requires health insurance policies to provide coverage for adult prosthetics, including activity-specific prosthetic devices. Current law requires such coverage for children's prosthetics. The Senate Finance Committee amended SB 408-FN to apply this additional coverage to the State of New Hampshire's Employee Health Benefit Plan under RSA 21-I. It also moves the effective date from January 1, 2027 to January 1, 2028.

Senate Finance

March 4, 2026

2026-1049s

07/09

Amendment to SB 408-FN

Amend RSA 415:18-ff, II as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

II. Each insurer that issues or renews a policy of group or blanket accident or health insurance providing benefits for medical or hospital expenses shall provide coverage for prosthetic devices, including activity-specific prosthetic devices, for individuals over 19 years of age who are residents of this state and covered by such insurance. The insurer may limit coverage for activity-specific prosthetic devices to one activity-specific prosthetic device every 5 years. Medically necessary prosthetic devices shall not be subject to any annual limits. Coverage under this section shall be subject to such other terms and conditions of the policy that may apply. This section shall also apply to the state of New Hampshire's employee health benefit plan under RSA 21-I.

Amend the bill by replacing section 3 with the following:

3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect January 1, 2028.

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

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

SB 491-FN grants authority to the Department of Education to set separate budgets for CTE tuition and transportation. The bill ensures the EFA organization will inform students about CTE.

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, Vote 7-0. Senator Pearl for the committee.

SB 494-FN makes statutory updates relative to the State fire code, makes updates to incident reporting and investigations, and adds additional duties to the State Fire Marshal's Office. The bill also requires the Office of Professional Licensure and Certification (OPLC) to share information for current and past licensees with the State Fire Marshal relating to duties transferred from the OPLC to the Fire Marshal's Office.

SB 511-FN, relative to state park fees for state residents.

Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 7-0. Senator Innis for the committee.

SB 511-FN requires the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources to establish state park entry fees for New Hampshire residents at no more than 50 percent of the fees charged to non-residents. The bill also allows the Department to create separate fee schedules for specific uses within state parks, such as camping, facility rental, parking, and boat rentals, and permits discounted or waived rates for veterans and school or student groups. The Senate Finance Committee amended the title of SB 511-FN to more clearly reflect the bill's intent.

Senate Finance

March 3, 2026

2026-1032s

08/07

Amendment to SB 511-FN

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

AN ACT relative to state park fee discounts for state residents.

SB 540-FN, relative to portable solar generation devices.

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

SB 540-FN defines "portable solar generation devices" and exempts them from interconnection and net-metering requirements. The bill prohibits electric distribution utilities from requiring approval, fees, or additional equipment for these devices, establishes safety and code-compliance standards, limits utility liability, and authorizes the State Building Code Review Board to establish standards.

SB 600-FN, requiring the governor to submit and present a quarterly fiscal year budget report about the general and education trust funds to the general court fiscal committee.

Ought to Pass, Vote 7-0. Senator Gray for the committee.

Beginning October 1, 2026, the Office of the Governor shall submit and present a quarterly fiscal year budget status report regarding the General and Education Trust Funds to the Joint Legislative Fiscal Committee. This report will enable better informed decisions regarding requested off-budget appropriations.

SB 606-FN, relative to insurance coverage for biomarker testing.
Ought to Pass, Vote 7-0. Senator Birdsell for the committee.

SB 606-FN requires the New Hampshire Medicaid Program to provide coverage for biomarker testing under certain circumstances.

SB 608-FN, relative to family caregiver support in certain programs and child care support for kinship caregivers.
Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 6-0. Senator Watters for the committee.

SB 608-FN requires the Department of Health and Human Services to seek approval from the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to include family caregiver support services under the Acquired Brain Disorder (ABD) and Choices for Independence (CFI) waiver programs. In addition, the bill eliminates the child care scholarship cost share for children in kinship care. The Senate Finance Committee amended SB 608-FN to require approval from the Joint Legislative Fiscal Committee, upon receipt of federal approval, for any expenditures pursuant to SB 608-FN.

Senate Finance
March 4, 2026
2026-1050s
05/09

Amendment to SB 608-FN

Amend the bill by inserting after section 5 the following and renumbering the original section 6 to read as 7:

6 Fiscal Committee Approval. Upon receipt of federal approval required by this act, the department of health and human services shall seek approval from the joint legislative fiscal committee at its next scheduled meeting for any expenditures pursuant to sections 1, 3, 4, and 5 of this act.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

SB 453, authorizing advanced practice registered nurses and physician associates to make certain certifications.
Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0. Senator Prentiss for the committee.

This bill would increase access to and efficiency within health care by adding advanced practice registered nurses and physician associates as medical professionals who can document a medical necessity. This includes vehicle equipment waivers for individuals with disabilities. Currently, these standard waivers can only be provided by physicians, which can create delays for individuals with disabilities. This bill also would allow them to exempt a child from certain required immunizations if they find that the immunization may be detrimental to the child's health.

SB 544-FN, limiting changes to prescription drug formularies under health benefit plans.
Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 4-1. Senator Prentiss for the committee.

As introduced, this bill limits modification of prescription drug coverage to the renewal date for the health benefit plan. The bill also provides for continued coverage of certain prescription drugs if they were previously covered under the plan. A committee amendment has been adopted to enhance existing processes in statute to address this issue.

Senate Health and Human Services
March 4, 2026
2026-1038s
09/07

Amendment to SB 544-FN

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

AN ACT relative to managed care laws.

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

1 Managed Care Law; Prescription Drugs. Amend RSA 420-J:7-b, III-IV to read as follows:

III. Every health plan that provides prescription drug benefits shall provide written notice in a conspicuous font and size to covered persons affected by deletions to the plan list or plan formulary, provide an explanation of the exception process by which a covered person can access nonformulary medically necessary prescription drugs, and provide a toll-free telephone number through which a covered person can request additional information. For purposes of this paragraph, covered persons affected by deletions to the plan list or plan formulary shall include those covered persons for whom the health plan has provided coverage for the deleted prescription drugs during the 12-month period immediately prior to the deletion. Upon notification

to covered persons, the health benefit plan shall allow at least [45] **60** days before implementation of any formulary deletions; provided, however, that advance notice shall not be required if the federal Food and Drug Administration has determined that a prescription drug on the health benefit plan's formulary is unsafe. For purposes of this section, "conspicuous font and size" shall mean a font that is at least [12] **14** point in size and in an easily legible font. If a covered person avails himself or herself of the exception process as outlined in 420-J:7-b, II, the medication shall be covered by the health plan until there is a resolution of the exception process. ***Any denial of an exceptions request shall be considered an adverse determination.***

IV. Every health benefit plan that provides prescription drug benefits shall maintain, as part of its records, all of the following information, which shall be made available to the commissioner upon request:

(a) [the] ***The*** complete drug formulary or formularies of the plan, if the plan maintains a formulary, including a list of the prescription drugs on the formulary of the plan by major therapeutic category with an indication of whether any drugs are preferred over the other drugs.

(b) ***Documentation regarding any changes to the formulary including the date the formulary was changed and the reason for the change.***

(c) ***The complete maximum allowable cost list for each pharmacy subject to the maximum allowable cost list.***

(d) ***Documentation regarding any changes to the maximum allowable cost list including, but not limited to, the date the maximum allowable cost list was changed and when impacted pharmacies were notified of the change.***

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

2026-1038s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill amends pharmacy benefits manager reporting and examination requirements.

SB 546-FN, relative to health carrier network access monitoring.

Interim Study, Vote 5-0. Senator Birdsell for the committee.

This bill requires health insurance carriers to adhere to the same standards of timeliness and accessibility that they have to adhere to on the health benefit exchange. The bill directs carriers to adopt network access compliance protocols consistent with the secret shopper audit requirements established by CMS for qualified health plan issuers. In anticipation of rulemaking from the Insurance Department, the Committee believes it is best to refer this bill to interim study at this time.

SB 547-FN, relative to regulation and transparency of pharmacy benefit manager practices.

Interim Study, Vote 5-0. Senator Rochefort for the committee.

This bill amends the definitions of pharmacy benefit manager and rebate and adds additional terms governing pharmacy benefit manager business practices. The bill states that pharmacy benefit managers have a fiduciary duty to the health carrier clients and are prohibited from retaining any portion of spread pricing. While the Committee recognizes the merits of this legislation, we find it best to refer this bill to interim study, as the subject matter is being addressed in a different bill.

SB 614-FN, establishing pooled risk management programs for the benefit of child care centers and foster family homes.

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

As amended, this bill establishes a multiple-caregiver self-insured risk coverage arrangement for nonprofit and for-profit providers and servicers of child care, day care, foster care placement, and behavioral health services. It also establishes reporting requirements for such arrangements. The bill also authorizes the commissioner of the Insurance Department to verify such arrangements, as well as issue penalties and adopt rules relative to such arrangements.

Senate Health and Human Services

March 4, 2026

2026-1044s

12/09

Amendment to SB 614-FN

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

AN ACT establishing multiple-caregiver self-insured risk coverage arrangements for nonprofit and for-profit providers and servicers.

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 New Chapter; Multiple-Caregiver Self-Insured Risk Coverage Arrangements. Amend RSA by inserting after chapter 405-B, the following new chapter:

CHAPTER 405-C

MULTIPLE-CAREGIVER SELF-INSURED RISK COVERAGE ARRANGEMENTS

405-C:1 Purpose. This chapter provides authority for 2 or more nonprofit and for-profit providers and servicers of child care, day care, foster care placement, and behavioral health services to participate in a joint self-insurance risk coverage arrangement covering liability risks. The joint self-insurance arrangements authorized under this chapter permit eligible entities to jointly self-insure liability risks, jointly purchase insurance and reinsurance, and contract for risk management, claims, and administrative and legal services.

405-C:2 Definitions.

I. "Commissioner" means the commissioner of the New Hampshire insurance department.

II. "Covered entity" means a nonprofit or for-profit provider or servicer of child care, day care, foster care placement, and behavioral health services.

III. "Department" means the New Hampshire insurance department.

IV. "Liability risks" mean risk of loss sustained by an entity and the risk of claims arising from the tortious or negligent conduct or any error or omission of the entity, its officers, employees, agents, or volunteers as a result of a claim that may be made against the entity.

V. "Multiple-caregiver self-insured risk coverage arrangement" means a formal arrangement which is established or maintained by or on behalf of 2 or more eligible entities for the purpose of jointly covering liability risk.

VI. "Nonprofit organization" means any entity that is exempt from taxation under Section 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), 501(c)(6) or 501(c)(12) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any subsequent corresponding internal revenue code of the United States, as amended.

VII. "Self-insurance" means a formal arrangement of advance funding and management of entity financial exposure to risk of loss that is not entirely transferred through the purchase of an insurance policy or contract.

405-C:3 Declaration of Status; Tax Exemption.

I. Any arrangement authorized and meeting the standards required under this chapter is not an insurance company, reciprocal insurer, or insurer under the laws of this state, and administration of any activities of the arrangement shall not constitute doing an insurance business for purposes of regulation or taxation. Such self-insurance arrangements shall not be subject to the premium tax under RSA 400-A:32 and shall not be subject to assessment with respect to the administration fund under RSA 400-A:39.

II. Any such arrangement operating under this chapter, whether or not a body corporate, trust, or charter, may sue or be sued, make contracts, hold and dispose of real property, borrow money, contract debts, and pledge assets in its name.

III. Joint self-insurance arrangements shall be governed by this chapter and shall be exempt from this title, except for the provisions of:

- (a) RSA 400-A:16, relative to investigations;
- (b) RSA 400-A:17 through RSA 400-A:24, relative to hearings and appeals;
- (c) RSA 400-A:37, relative to examinations;
- (d) RSA 402-B relative to insurance claims adjusters;
- (e) RSA 402-H relative to third-party administrators;
- (f) RSA 402-J, relative to producer licensing; and

(g) RSA 417:1 through 417:31 relative to unfair trade practices and fraud investigations.

IV. This section does not apply to or provide exemptions for insurance companies issuing policies to cover the arrangement, third-party administrators, insurance producers, or other licensees subject RSA title XXXVII servicing the joint self-insurance arrangement.

405-C:4 Exemptions. This chapter does not apply to a non-profit or for-profit entity that:

I. Individually self-insures for property and liability risks;

II. Participates in a risk pooling arrangement, including a risk retention group or a risk purchasing group, regulated under RSA 405-A, or is a captive insurer authorized in its state of domicile; or

III. Comprises only units of local government or is a group that comprises local governments joined by an interlocal agreement authorized by RSA 5-B.

405-C:5 Agreement to Form; Authorized Activities.

I. A covered entity may join or form a self-insured risk coverage arrangement together with one or more other covered entities and may jointly purchase insurance or reinsurance with one or more other covered entities for liability risks as permitted under this chapter. Covered entities may contract for or hire personnel to provide risk management, claims, and administrative and legal services in accordance with this chapter.

II. The agreement to form a self-insured risk coverage arrangement may include the organization of a separate legal entity with powers delegated to the entity. Any such separate legal entity shall be in compliance with all applicable New Hampshire laws.

III. If provided for in the organizational documents, a joint self-insured risk coverage arrangement may, in conformance with this chapter:

(a) Contract or otherwise provide for risk management and loss control services;

(b) Contract or otherwise provide legal counsel for the defense of claims and other legal services;

(c) Jointly purchase insurance and reinsurance coverage in a form and amount as provided for in the organizational documents;

(d) Obligate the participants to pledge funds or revenues to secure the obligations or pay the expenses of the arrangement, including the establishment of a reserve fund for coverage, and any additional assessment if the reserve fund or the arrangement's revenue or assets are insufficient to cover the liabilities; and

(e) Possess any other powers and perform all other functions reasonably necessary to carry out the purposes of this chapter.

405-C:6 Formation. Before the establishment of a multiple-caregiver self-insured risk coverage arrangement, the covered entities shall obtain the approval of the commissioner. The entity or entities proposing the creation of the arrangement shall submit, as part of the application, a plan of management and operation to the commissioner that provides at a minimum, the following information:

I. The risk or risks to be covered, including any coverage definitions, terms, conditions, and limitations;

II. The amount and method of funding the covered risks, including the initial capital and proposed rates and projected premiums;

III. The proposed claim reserving practices;

IV. The proposed purchase and maintenance of insurance or reinsurance in excess of the amounts retained by the joint self-insurance arrangement;

V. The legal form of the program including, but not limited to, any constitution, articles of incorporation, bylaws, charter, trust, or other agreement among the participating entities;

VI. The agreements with participants in the arrangement defining the responsibilities and benefits of each participant and management;

VII. The proposed accounting, depositing, and investment practices of the arrangement;

VIII. Evidence satisfactory to the commissioner showing that the arrangement will be operated in accordance with sound actuarial principles. The commissioner shall not approve the arrangement unless the commissioner determines that the plan is designed to provide sufficient revenues to pay current and future liabilities, as determined in accordance with sound actuarial principles;

IX. A designation of the individual to whom service of process must be forwarded by the commissioner on behalf of the arrangement, including that individual's name and address;

X. All contracts between the program and private persons providing risk management, claims, or other administrative services;

XI. A professional analysis of the feasibility of the creation and maintenance of the program;

XII. A legal analysis or an Internal Revenue Service opinion on the federal income tax exposure or liability of the program; and

XIII. Such additional information as the commissioner may reasonably require to determine compliance with this chapter.

405-C:7 Minimum General Eligibility; Prohibitions.

I. Each multiple-caregiver self-insured risk coverage arrangement shall meet the following minimum eligibility requirements, and any additional requirements as the commissioner may require:

(a) The arrangement shall qualify as a non-profit or for-profit entity;

(b) The arrangement shall be established or maintained by or on behalf of two or more properly licensed homogeneous entities providing at least one of the services of child care, day care, foster care placement, or behavioral health services, which shall be governed by formal governance documents, which may include any one or more of the following:

(1) A charter;

(2) A constitution,

(3) Bylaws; or

(4) A trust.

(c) The arrangement shall be operated by officers or a board of trustees which shall have complete fiscal control over the arrangement and which shall be responsible for all operations of the arrangement. The officers or trustees selected shall be owners, partners, officers, directors, or employees of participating entities in the arrangement. An officer or trustee may not be an owner, officer, or employee of the administrator or service company of the arrangement. The officers or trustees shall have the authority to approve applications of entities for participation in the arrangement, provided that any entity that terminates its participation shall be prohibited from rejoining for a period a two years.

(d) Appropriate action by ordinance, resolution or other action pursuant to law of the governing bodies of the participating entities shall be necessary before any such agreement may enter into force.

(e) The arrangement shall not be offered nor advertised to the public generally.

(f) The arrangement shall be operated in accordance with sound actuarial principles.

II. The following activities shall be prohibited:

(a) An employee or official of a participating nonprofit corporation in a joint self-insurance arrangement shall not directly or indirectly receive anything of value for services rendered in connection with the operation and management of the arrangement other than the salary and benefits provided by his or her employer or the reimbursement of expenses reasonably incurred in furtherance of the operation or management of the arrangement.

(b) An employee or official of a participating covered entity shall not accept or solicit anything of value for personal benefit or for the benefit of others under circumstances in which it can be reasonably inferred that the employee's or official's independence of judgment is impaired with respect to the management and operation of the arrangement.

(c) No joint self-insurance arrangement approved under this chapter shall require that any civil action or alternative dispute resolution procedure brought in connection to the self-insurance arrangement be brought in a jurisdiction other than New Hampshire.

405-C:8 Filing of Application. The covered entities of a proposed multiple-caregiver self-insurance risk coverage arrangement shall file with the commissioner an application for approval, upon a form furnished by the commissioner, which shall include or have attached the following:

I. A copy of the constitution, bylaws, articles of incorporation, charter, or trust agreement.

II. The names and addresses of the officers or trustees of the arrangement, who are subject to approval by the commissioner upon the presentation of sufficient evidence to:

(a) To be competent;

(b) Have not been found to be guilty of, or to have pled guilty or no contest to a felony, or a crime involving moral turpitude;

(c) Have not had any type of professional license revoked in this or any other state; and

(d) Have not improperly manipulated assets, accounts, or specific excess insurance or to have otherwise acted in bad faith.

III. A copy of a fidelity bond in an amount equal to not less than 10 percent of the funds handled annually and issued in the name of the arrangement covering its officers, trustees, employees, administrator, or other individuals managing or handling the funds or assets of the arrangement. In no case may such bond be less than \$1,000 or more than \$500,000 except that the commissioner may prescribe an amount more than \$500,000 after due notice and opportunity for a hearing.

IV. A plan of management and operation providing the information required in RSA 405-C:6.

V. Such additional information as the commissioner may reasonably require to determine compliance with this chapter.

405-C:9 Approval or Disapproval.

I. Within 120 days of receipt of an application, the commissioner shall either approve or disapprove an application for a license for the formation of the arrangement. If the commissioner denies a request for approval, the commissioner shall specify in detail the reasons for denial.

II. The arrangement shall not engage in an act or practice that in any respect significantly differs from the management and operation plan that formed the basis for the commissioner's approval of the program unless the program first notifies the commissioner in writing and obtains the commissioner's approval. The commissioner shall approve or disapprove the proposed change within 60 days of receipt of the notice. If the commissioner denies a requested change, the commissioner shall specify in detail the reasons for the denial.

405-C:10 Reporting Requirements. Each joint self-insurance arrangement shall file a report verified by the oath of an officer or trustee, annually within 4 months of the end of the fiscal year or within such extension of time as the commissioner for good cause may grant, with the commissioner providing:

I. Details of any changes in the articles of incorporation, bylaws, charter, trust agreement, or other agreement among the participating entities;

II. List of all current officers or trustees;

III. A description of the program structure, including participants' retention, excess insurance or reinsurance limits and attachment points;

IV. An actuarial analysis, performed by a member of the American Academy of Actuaries qualified in the coverage area being evaluated, assessing the adequacy of plan funds and the reserves necessary to be maintained to meet expenses of all incurred and incurred but not reported claims and other projected needs of the arrangement;

V. A list of contractors and service providers;

VI. The financial and loss experience of the arrangement; and

VII. Such additional information as the commissioner may reasonably require to determine compliance with this chapter.

405-C:11 Service of Process Through Insurance Commissioner. Every joint self-insurance program governed by this chapter shall file with the commissioner a written stipulation, agreeing that legal process affecting the arrangement, served on the commissioner shall have the same effect as if served personally on the company within the state. Service of such process shall be made by leaving a copy of the process in the hands of the commissioner or in their office.

405-C:12 Suspension, or Revocation of Program License; Appeal.

I. The commissioner may suspend or revoke the approval of any arrangement for any one or more of the following causes:

- (a) The license issued to the arrangement was obtained by fraud;
- (b) There were one or more material misrepresentations in the application for the license;
- (c) The holder of such license has shown itself untrustworthy or incompetent relative to the management or operation of the arrangement;
- (d) The arrangement has failed to meet the financial requirements of this chapter or has violated any lawful order or rules;
- (e) The arrangement has refused to be examined or to produce its accounts, records and files for examination, or if any of its officers has refused to give information with respect to its affairs or to perform any other legal obligation as to such examination, when so required by the commissioner;
- (f) The arrangement has failed to pay any final judgment rendered against it in this state within 60 days after the judgment became final;
- (g) The arrangement no longer meets the requirements for the authority originally granted; or
- (h) The arrangement has violated any lawful order or rule of the commissioner, provision of this chapter, or other applicable law.

II. Before the commissioner shall suspend or revoke the license of any licensee subject to this chapter, the aggrieved arrangement shall be entitled to a hearing in accordance with RSA 400-A:17.

405-C:13 Termination of Arrangement. If an arrangement is terminated for any reason, it shall pay all outstanding claims, debts, and obligations. The arrangement may retain sufficient funds to provide coverage for such additional period as the officers or trustees of the arrangement consider prudent. In addition, the officers or trustees may purchase such additional insurance as they consider necessary for protection against potential future claims. Any funds remaining in the arrangement after satisfaction of all obligations upon termination shall be paid to participating entities as of the termination date in some equitable manner meeting with the approval of the commissioner, including, without ruling out other alternatives, equally on a per capita basis to each participating entity that is covered under the arrangement as of the effective date of termination.

405-C:14 Financial Condition, Loss Reserves, Reinsurance, or Working Capital; Determination of Inadequacy.

I. The commissioner may, upon reasonable notice, conduct an examination of the loss reserves, financial condition, specific excess insurance, and working capital of a multiple-caregiver self-insured risk coverage arrangement. If the commissioner preliminarily finds that the reserves, specific excess insurance, or financial condition may be inadequate, or that the arrangement does not have a combined working capital in an amount establishing the financial strength and liquidity of the arrangement to pay claims promptly and showing evidence of the financial ability of the arrangement to meet its obligations, the commissioner shall notify the arrangement of such inadequacy. Upon being so notified, the arrangement shall within 30 days file with the commissioner all information which, in the belief of the arrangement, proves the reasonableness and adequacy of the condition noted as being inadequate.

II. If the commissioner determines, after reviewing the information filed, that an inadequate condition exists, the arrangement shall implement, within 30 days, a plan to correct the inadequacy and shall file proof of reasonable improvement or adequate condition with the commissioner within 6 months of the implementation of the plan. If the commissioner is satisfied that the plan submitted to improve the inadequate condition of the arrangement is sufficient, they shall so notify the arrangement. The arrangement shall report quarterly to the commissioner until the causes of the inadequate condition have been corrected.

405-C:15 Rehabilitation, Dissolution. Any rehabilitation, liquidation, conservation, or dissolution of an arrangement shall be conducted under the supervision of the commissioner, who shall have all power with respect thereto granted to it under the laws governing the rehabilitation, liquidation, conservation, or dissolution of insurers.

405-C:16 Penalties.

I. Subject to other provisions in this chapter, any arrangement that fails to obtain and maintain a valid approval from the commissioner while operating or maintaining a multiple-caregiver self-insured risk coverage arrangement shall be subject to a fine of not less than \$5,000 or more than \$50,000 for each violation.

II. The commissioner may issue a cease and desist order if they find any person operating or maintaining an arrangement without a currently effective certificate of approval.

405-C:17 Rulemaking Authority. The commissioner may adopt rules, pursuant to RSA 541-A, as may be necessary to effect the purposes of this chapter.

2026-1044s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill:

I. Establishes a multiple-caregiver self-insured risk coverage arrangement for nonprofit and for-profit providers and servicers of child care, day care, foster care placement, and behavioral health services.

II. Establishes reporting requirements for such arrangements.

III. Authorizes the commissioner of the insurance department to verify such arrangements, including whether the arrangements are to be suspended or terminated.

IV. Authorizes the commissioner of the insurance department to issue penalties and adopt rules relative to such arrangements.

SB 615-FN, relative to the use and regulation of EBT cards and SNAP eligibility.

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

As amended, this bill establishes a commission to study the use and regulation of SNAP in New Hampshire. This will allow stakeholders with nuanced perspectives to come together and discuss potential improvements and enhancements that could be made to the SNAP program.

Senate Health and Human Services

March 4, 2026

2026-1045s

07/09

Amendment to SB 615-FN

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

AN ACT establishing a commission to study the use and regulation of SNAP in New Hampshire.

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

1 New Section; Commission to Study the Use and Regulation of SNAP Established. Amend RSA 161 by inserting after section 14 the following new section:

161:15 Commission to Study the Use and Regulation of SNAP Established.

I. There is established a commission to study the use and regulation of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) in New Hampshire.

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

(a) Two members of the senate, where at least one member is a member of the senate health and human services committee, appointed by the president of the senate.

(b) Two members of the house of representatives, where at least one member is a member of the house health, human services, and elderly affairs committee, appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives.

(c) Two people who are currently receiving SNAP benefits, appointed by the governor.

(d) A representative of a family resource center, appointed by Family Support NH.

(e) Two representatives of the department of health and human services, appointed by the commissioner.

- (f) The governor, or designee.
- (g) A representative from the beverage industry, appointed by the president of the senate.
- (h) A representative from the grocers' industry, appointed by the president of the senate.
- (i) A representative from convenience store industry, appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives.
- (j) A representative from the New Hampshire Food Bank, appointed by that organization.
- (k) A representative from the Double Up Food Bucks program, appointed by that program.
- (l) A representative of New Futures, appointed by that organization.
- (m) A representative of the Business and Industry Association, appointed by the association.
- (n) A representative of the New Hampshire Farmers' Market Association, appointed by the association.
- (o) A representative from New Hampshire Hunger Solutions, appointed by that organization.
- (p) A representative of NH Legal Assistance, appointed by that organization.
- (q) A representative from the New Hampshire Medical Association, appointed by that organization.
- (r) One representative from a New Hampshire school, appointed by the NH School Administrator's Association or the New Hampshire School Boards Association.

III. 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.

IV. The commission shall:

- (a) Research the practicality and feasibility of changing SNAP, including potential consequences from the federal government.
- (b) Study how to prioritize SNAP dollars going to healthy food, including the feasibility of healthy eating educational campaigns.
- (c) Study the economic impacts of snap changes to various industries, including costs to grocery stores, liquor stores, New Hampshire food banks, and convenience stores.
- (d) Work with the department of health and human services to examine the prevalence of fraud, waste, and abuse within the SNAP program in New Hampshire, and determine what the department would require to identify fraud, waste, and abuse in the SNAP program.
- (e) Study the impact of a waiver on New Hampshire retailers considering:
 - (1) The cost of compliance with a waiver to individual retailers and the state;
 - (2) The potential impact on retailers and state tax revenues due to decreased cross border sales and economic activity; and
 - (3) The impact to New Hampshire residents of rural areas and cities should the proposed waiver limit the ability of retailers to accept SNAP payments.

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

VI. The commission shall submit an interim 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. The commission shall submit a final report on or before November 1, 2027.

2 Repeal. RSA 161:15, relative to the commission to study SNAP, is repealed.

3 Effective Date.

I. Section 2 of this act shall take effect November 1, 2027.

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

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.

Interim Study, Vote 5-0. Senator Prentiss for the committee.

This bill defines and regulates material health care transactions and requires notice to the Department of Justice of health care transactions that change the control of a health care entity, which may reasonably be expected to affect competition, cost of health care services, or access to care. It also establishes a legislative committee to study health insurance providers, their practices, policies, premiums, management, and the impact to consumers. Given the complexity of this issue and the resources needed by the Charitable Trusts Unit, the Committee believes this bill is not ready at this time.

SB 670-FN-A, establishing a developmental services oversight commission; relative to membership and duties of the incapacitated and vulnerable adult fatality review committee; relative to reporting requirements regarding the death of a child in residential care; and relative to the registry of founded reports of abuse, neglect, or exploitation of vulnerable adults.

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

As amended, this bill establishes a developmental services oversight commission, revises reporting and investigation requirements regarding reports of abuse of vulnerable adults, and revises notification and reporting requirements regarding abuse of minors in institutional residential settings. The intent of this bill is to ultimately strengthen reporting and oversight to prevent such abuse from happening in the future.

Senate Health and Human Services

March 4, 2026

2026-1046s

07/09

Amendment to SB 670-FN-A

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

AN ACT establishing a developmental services oversight commission; relative to reporting requirements regarding the death of a child in residential care; and relative to the registry of founded reports of abuse, neglect, or exploitation of vulnerable adults.

Amend the bill by deleting section 3 and renumbering the original sections 4-7 to read as 3-6, respectively.

Amend the bill by replacing section 3 with the following:

3 New Paragraphs; Elderly and Adult Services; Reports and Investigation of Adult Abuse. Amend RSA 161-F:46 by inserting after paragraph III the following paragraphs:

IV. Any residential service provider caring for vulnerable adults shall notify the commissioner or designee, the bureau of licensing and certification, the attorney general, and the state's federal protection and advocacy agency in cases involving serious bodily injury or death. For purposes of this section, a residential services provider is a provider licensed or certified to provide services to vulnerable adults that are:

(a) Supported by the 1915c home and community-based Medicaid waiver program;

(b) At a state-owned or state-operated facility, including, but not limited to, New Hampshire hospital and Glenclyff home; or

(c) At Hampstead hospital and residential treatment facility.

V. The notification shall be provided within 7 days of the death or serious bodily injury and shall include the following information:

(a) The resident's name, age, and last known address.

(b) The date of death or incident resulting in serious bodily injury.

(c) The name(s) and contact information for the residential services provider and vendor, if applicable.

(d) The name and contact information of the resident's next of kin and, if under guardianship, the guardian's name and contact information.

(e) A description of the injuries sustained, medical care administered, and, if applicable, the suspected cause of death.

VI. The department shall annually notify each area agency as defined in RSA 171-A:2, I-b, community mental health program as defined in RSA 135-C:2, IV, state-owned or operated facility, including, but not limited to, New Hampshire Hospital and Glenclyff Home, Hampstead Hospital and Residential Treatment Facility, and each certified residential services provider of their responsibilities under this section and provide contact information for the agencies to be notified.

VII. The commissioner may adopt rules under RSA 541-A relative to enforcement of this section.

2026-1046s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill establishes a developmental services oversight commission, revises reporting and investigation requirements regarding reports of abuse of vulnerable adults, and revises notification and reporting requirements regarding abuse of minors in institutional residential settings.

JUDICIARY

SB 485-FN, relative to the licensure, regulation and taxation of hemp-based derivative products. Interim Study, Vote 4-0. Senator Gannon for the committee.

Senate Bill 485 as introduced establishes a comprehensive regulatory framework for hemp-derived cannabinoid products, including definitions, licensing requirements for suppliers, wholesalers, and retailers through the Liquor Commission, product testing and labeling standards, restrictions on sales to individuals under 21, and a 5 percent wholesale tax on sales of such products. The committee recommends the bill for Interim Study after determining that the bill's scope and complexity warranted additional time to review the regulatory structure, licensing framework, and tax provisions before moving forward with legislation.

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

REGULAR CALENDAR

EDUCATION

SB 431, relative to violations of the prohibition on teaching discrimination. Ought to Pass, Vote 3-2. Senator Sullivan for the committee.

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

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

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

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

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

SB 658-FN, authorizing the department of education to establish a safe and resilient schools advisory council. Interim Study, Vote 3-2. Senator Ward for the committee.

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

ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

SB 493, relative to cyanobacteria and other emerging environmental water quality issues. Interim Study, Vote 3-2. Senator McConkey for the committee.

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

SB 597-FN, relative to utility rate increases to inflation-adjusted thresholds and performance incentive metrics for utilities.

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

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

FINANCE

SB 404-FN, relative to economic revitalization zone tax credits. Ought to Pass, Vote 7-0. Senator Gray for the committee.

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

Senator Gray moved to Lay on the Table. Adopted.

SB 446-FN, requiring animal care center operators to notify dog owners when a dog will be left unattended and to report injuries to animals or people which occur on the premises of the animal care center. Ought to Pass, Vote 6-0. Senator Birdsell for the committee.

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

Senator Birdsell moved to Lay on the Table. Adopted.

SB 517-FN, relative to the responsibility of local school districts to provide meals to students during school hours, reimbursing schools for meals provided to students at no cost, and making an appropriation therefor. Ought to Pass, Vote 7-0. Senator Lang for the committee.

Senator Lang offered a Floor Amendment.

Sen. Gray, Dist 6
March 10, 2026
2026-1158s
07/09

Floor Amendment to SB 517-FN

Amend the bill by replacing section 2 with the following:

2 Appropriation; Department of Education; Food and Nutrition Program.

I. The amount of \$107,000 is appropriated to the department of education for the biennium ending June 30, 2027, for administrative costs related to providing administrative or technical assistance to school districts establishing an online application for free or reduced-price school meals. The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said sums out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

II. The amount of \$250,000 is appropriated to the department of education for the biennium ending June 30, 2027, for disbursement to school districts to be reimbursed at a 50 percent rate pursuant to RSA 189:11-a, X(a) and to purchase software related to the establishment of an online application for free or reduced-price school meals. The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said sums out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

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.

Senator Lang moved to Lay on the Table. Adopted.

SB 566-FN, relative to recruiting incentive programs for the national guard. Ought to Pass, Vote 7-0. Senator Pearl for the committee.

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

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

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

The following Senators voted No: (None)

Roll Call, Yeas: 24 - Nays: 0. Adopted.

Senator Gray moved to Lay on the Table. Adopted.

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

Ought to Pass, Vote 7-0. Senator Lang for the committee.

Senator Prentiss offered a Floor Amendment.

Sen. Prentiss, Dist 5
March 10, 2026
2026-1135s
07/09

Floor Amendment to SB 583-FN

Amend RSA 186:77-a, I as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

I. The department of education shall create an education funding data and transparency reporting system (system). The system shall include a longitudinal data system incorporating, at a minimum, data on basic education trust fund and other 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.

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

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

Senator Lang moved to Lay on the Table. Adopted.

SB 605-FN, relative to special assessment requests from pooled risk management programs.
Inexpedient to Legislate, Vote 6-1. Senator Gray for the committee.

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

SB 616-FN, relative to reporting requirements under the right to try act.
Ought to Pass, Vote 7-0. Senator Birdsell for the committee.

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

Senator Birdsell moved to Lay on the Table. Adopted.

SB 631-FN, authorizing the sale of toll credits to fund a newly established noise barrier construction fund for the design and construction of noise barrier projects.
Ought to Pass, Vote 7-0. Senator Rosenwald for the committee.

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

Senator Gray moved to Lay on the Table. Adopted.

HB 246-FN-A, directing the state conservation committee to implement the conservation district climate resilience grant program and making an appropriation therefor.
Ought to Pass, Vote 7-0. Senator Pearl for the committee.

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

Senator Gray moved to Lay on the Table. Adopted.

HB 704-FN-A, making an appropriation to the retired senior volunteer program.
Ought to Pass, Vote 7-0. Senator Birdsell for the committee.

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

Senator Gray moved to Lay on the Table. Adopted.

Recess. Out of recess.

Recess. Out of recess.

SPECIAL ORDER

Without objection, SB 665-FN is Special Ordered to March 26, 2026. Adopted.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

SB 549-FN, prohibiting the state or local government from distributing or funding organizations that distribute drug paraphernalia.
Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 5-0. Senator Long for the committee.

Senate Health and Human Services

March 4, 2026

2026-1040s

09/05

Amendment to SB 549-FN

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

AN ACT requiring certain syringe service program entities to provide options for disposal of used syringes and needles.

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

1 New Paragraph; Syringe Service Programs; Authorized. Amend RSA 318-B:43 by inserting after paragraph II the following new paragraph:

II-a.(a) Any entity operating a syringe service program in New Hampshire that involves the provision of sterile needles and syringes shall provide options for the disposal of used syringes, needles, and other related paraphernalia. Such options shall be free to the public.

(b) Any organization required to provide options for the disposal of used syringes, needles, and other related paraphernalia shall undertake an annual marketing campaign to inform the public concerning the free disposal options.

(c) At the time of each quarterly report required by subparagraph II(f), each entity operating a syringe service program in New Hampshire shall report to the department whether they are required to provide options for disposal as outlined in this paragraph, and if so, shall demonstrate their compliance. The department shall adopt rules pursuant to RSA 541-A establishing a fine schedule for failure to comply with this reporting requirement.

(d) No municipality may adopt any local ordinance or other rule to prohibit any activity authorized by this paragraph.

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

2026-1040s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill requires certain syringe service program entities to provide options for disposal of used syringes and needles and establishes reporting requirements. This bill further prohibits local ordinances or rules prohibiting any conduct authorized.

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

Senator Murphy offered a Floor Amendment.

Sen. Murphy, Dist 16

March 11, 2026

2026-1162s

09/07

Floor Amendment to SB 549-FN

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

AN ACT requiring certain syringe service program entities to provide options for disposal of used syringes and needles and creating reporting requirements for such entities.

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

1 New Paragraph; Pharmacists and Pharmacies; Regulation of Pharmacies; Syringe Service Programs; Authorized Activities and Funding Sources. Amend RSA 318:43-a by inserting after paragraph II the following new paragraph:

II-a.(a) Any entity operating a syringe service program in New Hampshire that involves the provision of sterile needles and syringes shall provide options for the disposal of used syringes, needles, and other related paraphernalia. Such options shall be free to the public.

(b) Any organization required to provide options for the disposal of used syringes, needles, and other related paraphernalia shall undertake an annual marketing campaign to inform participants of free disposal options.

(c) At the time of a quarterly report, each entity operating a syringe service program in New Hampshire shall report to the department whether they are required to provide options for disposal as outlined in this paragraph and, if so, shall demonstrate their compliance.

(d) At the time of a quarterly report, each entity operating a syringe service program in New Hampshire shall report to the department calculated return rates. In addition to calculated return rates, each

program shall provide a description of methods used in syringe counting or estimation; separation of returns from direct participant exchange versus secondary/community sources; and a narrative of factors affecting performance and improvement efforts. Strengthening syringe services programs (SSPs) shall seek to achieve and maintain a return rate of 95 percent or higher in each calendar quarter. The department shall assess performance over rolling 4-quarter periods. A return rate may exceed 100 percent. If an SSP reports a return rate below 95 percent for 2 consecutive quarters, it must submit a corrective action plan within 30 days. The plan shall include strategies to increase return rate, such as enhanced drop box access, peer outreach, incentives, or community partnerships; a timeline with measurable targets; and a statement of resource or technical needs. Upon request, the department shall provide support, including guidance on data gathering and best practices. The department shall adopt rules pursuant to RSA 541-A establishing a schedule of fines for failure to file required reports or implement corrective action plans.

(e) No municipality shall adopt any local ordinance or other rule to prohibit any activity authorized by this paragraph.

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

2026-1162s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill requires certain syringe service program entities to provide options for disposal of used syringes and needles and creates reporting requirements for such entities.

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 664-FN, limiting hospital executive compensation in communities designated as distressed place-based economies under certain circumstances.

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

Senator Prentiss moved to Lay on the Table. Adopted.

JUDICIARY

SB 519-FN, relative to the use of unmanned aerial systems.

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

Senator Reardon offered a Floor Amendment.

Sen. Reardon, Dist 15

March 9, 2026

2026-1084s

09/08

Floor Amendment to SB 519-FN

Amend RSA 507-J:1, VI as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

VI.(a) "Surveillance" means:

(1) With respect to an owner, tenant, occupant, invitee, or licensee of privately owned real property, the intentional observation of such persons with sufficient visual clarity to be able to obtain information about their identity, habits, conduct, movements, or whereabouts; and

(2) With respect to privately owned real property, the intentional observation of such property's physical improvements with sufficient visual clarity to be able to determine unique identifying features or its occupancy by one or more persons.

(b) "Surveillance" does not include the capture of photographs, electronic images, and associated data by a drone operator that is operating for legitimate business purposes unrelated to surveillance in a manner consistent with applicable FAA rules, licenses, or exemptions.

Amend RSA 507-J:2 and 507-J:3 as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

507-J:2 Prohibition on Use to Violate Privacy.

Neither the state, or any political subdivision thereof, nor any person, shall operate a small unmanned aircraft system that includes an imaging device to conduct surveillance over private property without writ-

ten consent from the property owner, in any situation where a reasonable expectation of privacy exists. For purposes of this section, a reasonable expectation of privacy shall be presumed to exist in any location where a person cannot be observed from a public ground-level position.

507-J:3 Exceptions. RSA 507-J:2 shall not apply to:

I. Law enforcement officers:

- (a) Operating pursuant to a valid warrant;
- (b) Acting pursuant to exigent circumstances involving imminent danger to life or the risk of destruction of evidence;
- (c) Countering a high risk of a terrorist attack by a specific individual or organization if the United States Secretary of Homeland Security determines that credible intelligence indicates that there is such a risk;
- (d) Searching for specifically identified missing persons;
- (e) Searching for specifically identified stolen vehicles; and
- (f) Investigating motor vehicle accidents.
- (g) Performing other law enforcement duties.

II. Inspections by a fire department in accordance with their responsibilities outlined in RSA 154:2, III.

III. Inspections of critical infrastructure as defined in RSA 319-D:1, II, or non-utility-owned electricity generators, by or on behalf of an owner or operator of a critical infrastructure facility for the sole purpose of monitoring, inspecting, or maintaining the facility.

IV. Property appraisal for taxes, provided that:

- (a) Each property owner shall be notified that the surveillance prohibited by RSA 507-J:2 may occur and that the property owner may opt out of that surveillance without cost or other consequence;
- (b) Any images of identifiable persons shall be blurred as soon as practicable; and
- (c) All surveillance images shall be permanently destroyed when they are no longer needed for the purpose for which they were obtained.

V. Environmental emergency assessments authorized by the department of environmental services, provided that:

- (a) Any images of identifiable persons shall be blurred as soon as practicable; and
- (b) All surveillance images shall be permanently destroyed when they are no longer needed for the purpose for which they were obtained.

VI. An employee or contractor of an insurance company who uses a small unmanned aircraft system solely for the purposes of underwriting, claims investigation, claims adjustment, assessment of property damage or investigation of insurance fraud.

VII. Railroad owners and easement holders, for the purpose of monitoring, inspecting, or maintaining the railroad.

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

2 New Subparagraphs; Unlawful Operation or Use of a Small Unmanned Aircraft System. Amend RSA 644:23, I by inserting after subparagraph (d) the following new subparagraphs:

- (e) "Imaging device" means any technology capable of recording or transmitting images, sound, or data.
- (f)(1) "Surveillance" means:

(A) With respect to an owner, tenant, occupant, invitee, or licensee of privately owned real property, the intentional observation of such persons with sufficient visual clarity to be able to obtain information about their identity, habits, conduct, movements, or whereabouts; and

(B) With respect to privately owned real property, the intentional observation of such property's physical improvements with sufficient visual clarity to be able to determine unique identifying features or its occupancy by one or more persons.

(2) "Surveillance" does not include the capture of photographs, electronic images, and associated data by a drone operator that is operating for legitimate business purposes unrelated to surveillance in a manner consistent with applicable FAA rules, licenses, or exemptions.

3 New Paragraph; Unlawful Operation or Use of Small Unmanned Aircraft System. Amend RSA 644:23 by inserting after paragraph IV the following new paragraphs:

IV-a. A person is guilty of a class B felony if such person knowingly operates a small unmanned aircraft system that includes an imaging device to conduct surveillance over private property without written consent from the property owner, in any situation where a reasonable expectation of privacy exists, in violation of RSA 507-J:2, and without being subject to an exception listed in RSA 507-J:3.

IV-b. A person is guilty of a class B felony if such person knowingly distributes or publishes surveillance obtained in violation of paragraph IV-a.

IV-c. Paragraphs IV-a and IV-b shall not apply to any entity exempt under paragraph III.

2026-1084s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill establishes a civil cause of action and a criminal penalty for the use of unmanned aerial systems for certain purposes that violate a reasonable expectation of privacy, subject to certain exceptions.

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 557-FN, prohibiting the sale of kratom products to anyone under 21 years of age and providing for the regulation of the sale of kratom products.

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

Senate Judiciary

March 4, 2026

2026-1052s

07/09

Amendment to SB 557-FN

Amend RSA 318-B:53, I as inserted by section 3 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

I. A person shall not prepare, distribute, sell, possess, or advertise any of the following:

(a) A kratom product that is a conventional food or beverage or labeled as a conventional food or beverage product.

(b) A kratom product that contains any substance that is poisonous, harmful, or injurious to health.

(c) A kratom product that contains a substance other than a non-psychoactive substance necessary for the preparation, processing, or manufacturing of said product.

(d) A kratom product containing 7-hydroxymitragynine at levels of 0.05 percent.

(e) A kratom extract that contains levels of residual solvents higher than is allowed in the U.S. Pharmacopeia 467.

(f) A kratom product containing any synthetic or semi-synthetic alkaloids including synthetic or semi-synthetic mitragynine, synthetic or semi-synthetic 7-hydroxymitragynine, or any other synthetically or semi-synthetically derived compounds of the kratom plant.

(g) A kratom product that contains a heavy metal that exceeds any of the following limits in parts per million:

(1) Arsenic less than 2.

(2) Cadmium less than 0.82.

(3) Lead less than 1.2.

(4) Mercury less than 0.4.

(h) A kratom product in any form that is combustible or intended to be used for vaporization, aerosolization, or injection.

(i) A kratom product in any form that mimics a candy product or is manufactured, packaged, or advertised in a way that can be reasonably considered to appeal to individuals under 21 years of age.

(j) A kratom product not contained in child-resistant packaging that meets the standards set forth in 16 C.F.R 1700.15(b) when tested in accordance with 16 C.F.R 1700.20. All persons holding valid licenses pursuant to this subdivision shall ensure that kratom and/or any kratom product sold by the licensee and intended for human consumption shall meet requirements related to child-resistant packaging.

(k) A kratom product that contains a concentration ratio that is:

- (1) Greater than 150 milligrams of mitragynine per serving;
- (2) Greater than 0.05 milligrams 7-hydroxymitragynine per gram; or
- (3) Greater than 0.5 milligrams 7-hydroxymitragynine per serving.

(l) A kratom product that contains more than one percent of 7-hydroxymitragynine by percentage of total kratom alkaloids.

(m) A kratom or a kratom product that does not provide clearly visible labeling including, but not limited to:

- (1) A recommendation to consult a health care professional prior to use;
- (2) A statement that kratom may be habit forming;
- (3) A statement that kratom is not safe for use while pregnant or breastfeeding;
- (4) A warning that the product may result in dangerous medication interactions;
- (5) The following statement: "These statements have not been evaluated by the United States Food and Drug Administration. This product is not intended to diagnose, treat, cure, or prevent any disease.";
- (6) The net quantity of contents declared in numerical count, such as the number of capsules, or in volume or weight in United States customary system terms;
 - (A) The amount of mitragynine and/or 7-hydroxymitragynine contained in a serving in said kratom product;
 - (B) A recommended amount of the kratom product per serving; and
 - (C) A recommended number of servings that can be safely consumed in a 24-hour period.
- (7) The total amount of mitragynine and 7-hydroxymitragynine contained in the kratom product;
- (8) A statement that this product should be stored safely and out of the reach of children;
- (9) The name and physical non-post office box address of the manufacturer.

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

Senator Abbas offered a Floor Amendment.

Sen. Abbas, Dist 22

March 10, 2026

2026-1159s

07/09

Floor Amendment to SB 557-FN

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

AN ACT making synthetic and semisynthetic kratom illegal.

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

1 New Subdivision; Synthetic Kratom Policy. Amend RSA 318-B by inserting after section 50 the following new subdivision:

Synthetic Kratom Policy

318-B:51 Definitions. In this subdivision, "synthetic kratom" or "semisynthetic kratom" means:

I. An alkaloid or alkaloid derivative that has been created by chemical synthesis or biosynthetic means, including fermentation, recombinant techniques, yeast derived, and enzymatic techniques, rather than traditional food preparation techniques, such as heating or extracting that synthetically alters the composition of any kratom alkaloid or constituent; or

II. An alkaloid or alkaloid derivative contained in kratom that has been exposed to chemicals or processes that would confer a structural change in the alkaloids, resulting in material that has been chemically altered.

318-B:52 Synthetic Kratom Limitations. No person or entity person shall prepare, distribute, manufacture, sell, possess, or advertise synthetic or semisynthetic kratom.

2 New Paragraph; Controlled Drug Act; Scheduling by the Commissioner. Amend RSA 318-B:1-a by inserting after paragraph VIII the following new paragraph:

IX. Notwithstanding paragraph I, synthetic or semisynthetic kratom shall be classified as a schedule II controlled drug.

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

2026-1159s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill makes synthetic and semisynthetic kratom illegal.

Without objection, Senator Avard moved to call the question.

Recess. Out of recess.

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).

SB 626-FN, restricting right-to-know requests to persons domiciled or maintaining a permanent residence in New Hampshire and requiring proof of domicile or residency to file right-to-know requests.

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

Senate Judiciary

March 4, 2026

2026-1055s

07/09

Amendment to SB 626-FN

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

AN ACT restricting right-to-know requests to New Hampshire citizens.

Amend the bill by replacing sections 1 and 2 with the following:

1 New Paragraph; Public Officers and Employees; Access to Government Records and Meetings; Definitions. Amend RSA 91-A:1-a by inserting after paragraph I the following new paragraph:

I-a. "Citizen" means a person who is domiciled or owns property, or both, in this state and in any city, town, or other political subdivision of this state, which can be demonstrated by reasonable proof of domicile or property ownership analogous to the documents allowed to prove domicile pursuant to RSA 654:12, I(c). Media requestors, as defined in RSA 91-A:4, IX, attorneys licensed to practice law in New Hampshire requesting on behalf of a client, and employees of businesses with their principal place of business in New Hampshire acting on behalf of their employer are exempt from the domicile requirements of this paragraph, except that an attorney licensed to practice law in New Hampshire who submits a request shall represent a citizen of New Hampshire.

2 Public Officers and Employees; Access to Government Records and Meetings; Minutes and Records Available for Public Inspection. Amend RSA 91-A:4, IV(a) to read as follows:

(a) Each public body or agency shall, upon request **by a citizen** for any governmental record reasonably described, make available for inspection and copying any such governmental record within its files when such records are immediately available for such release.

2026-1055s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill restricts right-to-know requests to New Hampshire citizens, subject to certain exceptions, and defines a citizen as a person domiciled or owning property in the state.

Senator Gannon moved to Lay on the Table. Adopted.

TRANSPORTATION

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.

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

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

CONSENT CALENDAR REPORTS REMOVED

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

EDUCATION

SB 574, establishing a commission to study the efficiency and structure of school administrative units.

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

Senate Education

March 3, 2026

2026-1011s

12/09

Amendment to SB 574

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

1 New Section; School Administrative Unit Study Commission. Amend RSA 194-C by inserting after section 12 the following new section:

194-C:13 School Administrative Unit Study Commission.

I. There is established a commission to study the efficiency of existing school system structures. The commission shall be administratively attached to the department of education.

II. Notwithstanding RSA 14:49, the commission shall consist of the following members:

- (a) Two members 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.
- (c) The commissioner of the department of education, or designee.
- (d) A superintendent, appointed by the New Hampshire School Administrators Association.
- (e) A member of a local school board, appointed by the New Hampshire School Boards Association.
- (f) A business office administrator, appointed by the New Hampshire Association of School Business Officials.

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

IV. The commission shall:

- (a) Review existing demographic and enrollment shifts statewide;
- (b) Identify the number of school administrative units (SAUs) statewide, the cost per pupil in each SAU, and how SAUs can adjust their resource allocations to help reduce property taxes;
- (c) Identify states that have consolidated or restructured their school systems;
- (d) Examine impediments to consolidations and potential school closures; and
- (e) Solicit testimony from any person or organization with relevant information or expertise.

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

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

2 Prospective Repeal. RSA 194-C:13, relative to the school administrative unit study commission, is repealed.

3 Effective Date.

I. Section 2 of this act shall take effect on November 1, 2026.

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

2026-1011s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill establishes a commission within the department of education to study the efficiency and structure of school administrative units (SAUs) for the purposes of identifying opportunities for SAU consolidation and restructuring as well as property tax relief.

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

Senator Altschiller offered a Floor Amendment.

Sen. Altschiller, Dist 24

March 9, 2026

2026-1093s

12/05

Floor Amendment to SB 574

Amend RSA 194-C:13, IV(b) as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

(b) Identify the number of school administrative units (SAUs) statewide, the cost per pupil in each SAU, how SAUs can adjust their resource allocations to help reduce property taxes, and how the state can better meet its responsibility to provide the opportunity for an adequate education to help reduce local property taxes;

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

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

ELECTION LAW AND MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

HB 317, preventing a supervisor of the checklist from verifying a person's identity without identification, even if they personally know that person.

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

Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs

March 3, 2026

2026-1015s

07/09

Amendment to HB 317

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

AN ACT allowing a supervisor of the checklist to verify a person's identity, with identification, if they personally know that person.

Amend RSA 659:13, I(c) as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

(c)(1) If the voter does not have a valid photo identification, the ballot clerk shall direct the voter to see the supervisor of the checklist.

(2) A moderator, clerk, or supervisor may verify a voter's identity if such moderator, clerk, or supervisor personally knows the voter.

(3) The supervisor of the checklist shall review the voter's qualifications and determine if the voter's identity can be verified. If the supervisor of the checklist determines that the voter's qualifications and identity are established, the voter shall be allowed to vote. If the supervisor of the checklist determines that the voter's qualifications and identity have not been established, the voter shall not be allowed to vote. A voter not allowed to vote as a result of the determination of the supervisor of the checklist may take an immediate appeal to the superior court as provided in RSA 654:12, V.

(4) A moderator, clerk, or supervisor of the checklist that verifies a voter's identity pursuant to subparagraph (2) shall be required to complete and retain the following form:

Attestation Of Identity For A Registered Voter On Election Day

(Note: the voter must be listed on the checklist at the voting location.)

I _____ (Printed Name), in accordance with the authority granted to me in RSA 659:13, I(c) as a moderator, clerk, supervisor of the checklist (circle one) do attest under the penalty of perjury that:

_____ (Printed Name of Voter) _____ (NH Voter Identification Number)

Is known to me as stated here:

_____ Signature _____ Office

I _____, in accordance with the authority granted to me in RSA 659:13, I(c) as a moderator or clerk (circle one) do attest under the penalty of perjury that I have witnessed the above attestation and believe it to be true and in accordance with the provisions of RSA 659:13, I(c).

_____ Signature _____ Office

2026-1015s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill allows a supervisor of the checklist to verify a person's identity, with identification, if they personally know that person.

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

Senator Gray offered a Floor Amendment.

Sen. Gray, Dist 6

March 6, 2026

2026-1083s

08/07

Floor Amendment to HB 317

Amend RSA 659:13, I(c)(2) as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

(2) A moderator, clerk, supervisor, or selectman may verify a voter's identity if such moderator, clerk, supervisor, or selectman personally knows the voter.

Amend RSA 659:13, I(c)(4) as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

(4) A moderator, clerk, supervisor, or selectman of the checklist that verifies a voter's identity pursuant to subparagraph (2) shall be required to complete and retain the following form:

Attestation Of Identity For A Registered Voter On Election Day

(Note: the voter must be listed on the checklist at the voting location.)

I _____ (Printed Name), in accordance with the authority granted to me in RSA 659:13, I(c) as a moderator, clerk, supervisor, or selectman of the checklist (circle one) do attest under the penalty of perjury that:

_____ (Printed Name of Voter) _____ (NH Voter Identification Number)

Is known to me as stated here:

_____ Signature _____ Office

I _____, in accordance with the authority granted to me in RSA 659:13, I(c) as a moderator or clerk (circle one) do attest under the penalty of perjury that I have witnessed the above attestation and believe it to be true and in accordance with the provisions of RSA 659:13, I(c) and that I did not make the attestation above.

_____ Signature _____ Office

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

2 Verification of Identity for Purposes of Voting. Amend RSA 654:12, I(d)(4) to read as follows:

(4) Any other evidence that reasonably establishes that it is more likely than not that the person is who they claim to be[, ~~including verification of the person's identity by the moderator or another election official~~]. **Notwithstanding any law to the contrary**, [Residents] **residents** of a nursing home or similar facility may prove their identity through verification of identity by the administrator of the facility or by his or her designee. For the purposes of this section, the application of a person whose identity has been verified by an official of a nursing home or similar facility shall be treated in the same manner as the application of a person who proved his or her identity with a photo identification.

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

Recess. Out of recess.

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

FINANCE

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

Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 6-1. Senator Innis for the committee.

Senate Finance

March 4, 2026

2026-1048s

07/09

Amendment to HB 639-FN

Amend RSA 359-V:1, V as inserted by section 3 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

V. "Digital asset exchange" means any platform or network established for purchasing, selling, staking, or exchanging digital assets.

Amend RSA 359-V:3, IV and V as inserted by section 3 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

IV. A person engaging in the act of digital asset mining or staking solely with that person's own funds or digital assets and not the funds or digital assets of another, shall not be deemed to be offering or selling a security pursuant to RSA 421-B.

V. A digital asset exchange that offers to provide staking as a service to any person shall not be deemed to be offering or selling a security pursuant to RSA 421-B provided that:

(a) The digital assets staked do not leave the control of the digital asset exchange; or

(b) The digital assets remain under the control of the person who owns them. Nothing in this chapter shall preclude the secretary of state or the secretary of state's designee from instituting appropriate proceedings against a person or digital asset exchange that falsely claims to be offering digital asset staking as a service under RSA 421-B.

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

Senator McGough offered a Floor Amendment.

Sen. McGough, Dist 11

March 11, 2026

2026-1169s

07/09

Floor Amendment to HB 639-FN

Amend the bill by replacing section 5 with the following:

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

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

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

Recess. Out of recess.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

SB 478-FN, relative to strengthening prescription drug affordability and pharmacy benefits manager accountability.

Interim Study, Vote 4-1. Senator Prentiss for the committee.

Senator Rochefort moved to Lay on the Table. Adopted.

SB 612-FN, relative to clinical eligibility criteria for nursing facility and home and community based care. Interim Study, Vote 5-0. Senator Avarad for the committee.

Senator Avarad moved to Lay on the Table. Adopted.

JUDICIARY

SB 466-FN, relative to the possession of a firearm without a serial number.

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

Senate Judiciary

March 4, 2026

2026-1043s

09/08

Amendment to SB 466-FN

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 Public Safety and Welfare; Changing Marks on a Firearm. Amend RSA 159:13 to read as follows:

159:13 Changing Marks. No person shall change, alter, remove, or obliterate the name of the maker, model, manufacturer's number, or other mark of identification on any pistol or revolver, ***or any other firearm, except for an antique firearm as defined in 18 U.S.C. section 921(a)(16)***. Possession of any such firearms upon which the same shall have been changed, altered, removed, or obliterated shall be presumptive evidence that such possessor has changed, altered, removed, or obliterated the same. Any person who violates the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a ~~misdemeanor~~ ***class A felony***.

2026-1043s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill makes it a class A felony to change, alter, remove or obliterate the name of the maker, model, manufacturer's number, or other mark of identification on a firearm other than an antique firearm.

Senator Gannon moved to Lay on the Table. Adopted.

SB 667-FN, relative to the assault of emergency room personnel.

Interim Study, Vote 4-1. Senator Gannon for the committee.

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

Senator McGough moved Ought to Pass.

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

LIST OF IN FAVOR/OPPOSITION FORMS FOR THE DAY

Senator Birdsell: HB 639-FN: In opposition to the motion of Ought to Pass with Amendment.

Senator Birdsell: SB 566-FN: In opposition to the motion to Lay on the Table.

Senator McGough: SB 478-FN: In opposition to the motion to Lay on the Table.

Senator McGough: SB 616-FN: In opposition to the motion of Ought to Pass.

Senator McGough: SB 668-FN: In opposition to the motion of Lay on the Table.

Senator Rochefort: SB 664-FN: In opposition to the motion of Lay on the Table.

MOTION TO ADJOURN FROM EARLY SESSION

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

Adopted. Adjournment from the Early Session.

LATE SESSION
ANNOUNCEMENTS

(The Chair recognized Senator Pearl.)

SENATOR PEARL: Thank you, Madam President. A couple of things I'd like to bring up. We're not going to meet next week, so I was going to do this announcement next week, but the 21st, 22nd of March is Maple Weekend. I want to encourage you all, and you're all welcome, Heather and I would welcome you all to come by our farm, but I would encourage you to go out around the state and enjoy this rite of passage into spring and visit some of your local sugar houses and enjoy the wonderful opportunities to see their farms and to enjoy the products that they make.

Secondly, if I may continue, tomorrow is my wife's birthday. and I just want to recognize her she's been a real blessing to me and the main reason that I can be here is the support that she gives me at home so I want to give a shout out and recognize her on a day before her birthday but since we're not here tomorrow I'll do it today so thank you.

(The Chair recognized Senator Gray.)

SENATOR GRAY: Thank you Madam President a personal privilege. I would like to thank two people our Girl Scouts who donated the cookies to us today. Remember that is a fundraiser according to what I looked up on the internet, those boxes are usually given to you for \$6 and I'd also like to thank the senator from District 15 who has agreed to extend our congratulations our thanks and if there is any other thing that you want to provide to her such as a maybe a monetary donation she will convey that to the proper person. Thank you.

(The Chair recognized Senator Sullivan.)

SENATOR SULLIVAN: Thank You. Today is part of the acceptance of the consent calendar we voted to make SB 615 also known as the SNAP bill into a commission. The soda and candy industry spend millions of dollars to target our most vulnerable citizens each month at a time when they know they will receive these benefits. It's not just the poor but it's those in active addiction, who are all spent, and those who are also mentally disabled. They target them to subsidize their industry it's the tune of over \$20 billion per year collectively. These are taxpayer dollars that were intended to provide nutritional supplementation to help our most needy.

Now it's a subsidy for industries that perpetuate poor health and to purchase products that deliver zero nutritional value. Many of the same folks who depend on SNAP also rely on Medicaid. People on SNAP have higher obesity and metabolic illness rates like diabetes than people in the same income bracket who do not use SNAP benefits.

I have recently been inundated with requests for GLP-1 obesity medications to be included in Medicaid benefits. I'm sure my colleagues have received the same. The cycle of fueling illness with taxpayer dollars and then asking the taxpayers to fund the prescriptions to help fight those illnesses is a cycle that we must break.

I do not support SB 615 to punish the poor. I grew up pretty poor. I think many people in this room likely did. I sponsored it to fight the industries that are preying on the poor and to help lift those people into a better life.

I also wanted to ensure that our tax dollars are being spent properly. As we know, there is currently an error rate with this program that is going to cost our taxpayers millions of dollars. I also put it in to uncover any fraud that is actively taking place.

Although, do not agree with the decision to turn the bill into a study commission, I am entrusting my colleagues to do what is right for those who depend on SNAP benefits and for the taxpayers who have money taken from their households and ultimately their families' tables to feed other families.

I believe there is a path forward to do both. It's my hope that the commission will be able to find that path. My disappointment lies in the fact that people will continue to be betrayed by these industries and taxpayers will have to continue to fund that betrayal until that path is found.

It's my understanding that we have two additional bills coming to this body that may address these issues. It's my hope that my colleagues in these chambers will come together to protect both our most vulnerable who rely on this program and the taxpayers who make the sacrifices in their own household budgets to fund it. Thank you, Madam President.

SENATOR CARSON: I would just like to wish all of you a Happy St. Patrick's Day, which is next Tuesday. I've recently learned that the Irish do not really celebrate one day they call March St. Patrick's Day month and they begin starting the first of March and they finish at the end. So as you well know we're not going to be in session next week so I would just like to wish everybody a very happy St. Patrick's Day. I got to put a word in for Senator Murphy. He serves a mean corned beef dinner at his restaurant so if you're looking for some corned beef please head over to his place. But that's about it. Enjoy the wearing of the green as well.

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 244, updating and recodifying the municipal enforcement of the building and fire code.

HB 281, requiring electronic voter checklists to be supplied in a sortable format.

HB 317, preventing a supervisor of the checklist from verifying a person's identity without identification, even if they personally know that person.

HB 610-FN, relative to the residential ratepayers advisory board.

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

HB 1110, relative to the New Hampshire real estate practice act.

HB 1119, relative to the regulation of funeral directors.

HB 1159, relative to updating the state building code.

HB 1160, relative to the county-state finance commission.

HB 1310, relative to state licensed or certified real estate appraisers.

HB 1373, relative to background check disqualifications for applicants seeking educator credentials.

HB 1379, relative to the reporting date for the annual complaint data.

SB 408-FN, relative to health insurance coverage for prosthetics.

SB 431, relative to violations of the prohibition on teaching discrimination.

SB 443, relative to wastewater engineering.

SB 449-FN, relative to the participation of large customer-generators in net metering and relative to energy storage in connection with net metering.

SB 453, authorizing advanced practice registered nurses and physician associates to make certain certifications.

SB 475, including a determination of the best interest of the animal in the definition of foster home.

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

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

SB 511-FN, relative to state park fee discounts for state residents.

SB 519-FN, relative to the use of unmanned aerial systems.

SB 538-FN, extending net metering eligibility terms for municipal energy projects.

SB 540-FN, relative to portable solar generation devices.

SB 544-FN, relative to managed care laws.

SB 549-FN, requiring certain syringe service program entities to provide options for disposal of used syringes and needles and creating reporting requirements for such entities.

SB 574, establishing a commission to study the efficiency and structure of school administrative units.

SB 600-FN, requiring the governor to submit and present a quarterly fiscal year budget report about the general and education trust funds to the general court fiscal committee.

SB 606-FN, relative to insurance coverage for biomarker testing.

SB 608-FN, relative to family caregiver support in certain programs and child care support for kinship caregivers.

SB 640-FN, relative to the use of artificial intelligence to provide services requiring a professional license.

SB 667-FN, relative to the assault of emergency room personnel.

SB 669-FN, relative to on-premises licenses for licensed barbershops and salons.

SB 670-FN-A, establishing a developmental services oversight commission; relative to reporting requirements regarding the death of a child in residential care; and relative to the registry of founded reports of abuse, neglect, or exploitation of vulnerable adults.

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.