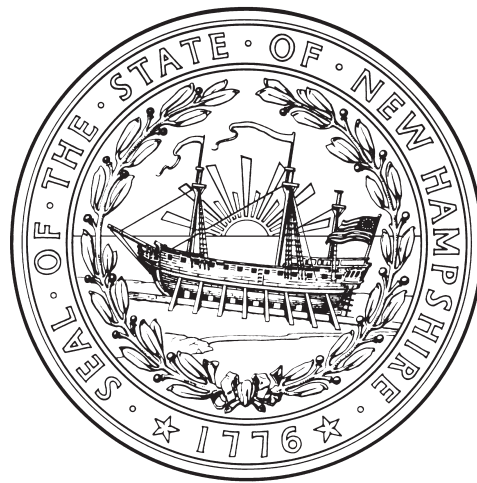


April 16, 2026  
Nos. 8-9

# STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

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



**Second Year of the 169<sup>th</sup> Session of the  
New Hampshire General Court**

**Legislative Proceedings**

## SENATE JOURNAL

**ADJOURNMENT – APRIL 9, 2026 SESSION  
COMMENCEMENT – APRIL 16, 2026 SESSION**

# SENATE JOURNAL 8 *(continued)*

*April 9, 2026*

## HOUSE MESSAGE

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

SB 521-FN, relative to unauthorized camping on private property.

SB 571, relative to the requirements to be issued a certificate as a certified public accountant.

## HOUSE MESSAGE

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

SB 596-FN, prohibiting smoking in Hampton Beach State Park.

## HOUSE MESSAGE

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

HB 1689, (New Title) relative to the term of office for county officers in Belknap and Merrimack counties.

## HOUSE MESSAGE

The House of Representatives has referred for Interim Study the following entitled Bills sent down from the Senate:

SB 410, relative to possession of human remains for law enforcement training purposes.

SB 542, (New Title) limiting the game dates available to charities at gaming facilities.

## HOUSE MESSAGE

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

SB 401-FN, relative to removing an obsolete annual reporting requirement by municipal overseers of public welfare to the department of health and human services and repealing the department of health and human services reporting requirement on 10-year demographic cost projections.

SB 402-FN, eliminating certain non-compete agreements for physician associates.

SB 411, relative to the procedure concerning search warrant inventories.

SB 412, relative to the conditional release of delinquent minors and children in need of services.

SB 413, relative to the detention of a minor attaining the age of 18 during the pendency of a delinquency action.

SB 426, repealing the permissible fireworks advisory committee.

SB 427-FN, relative to the joint committee on employee classification.

SB 428, relative to the maximum amount of terms an individual can serve on the electricians' board.

SB 443, relative to wastewater engineering.

SB 469, (New Title) allowing the director of the division of motor vehicles to adopt administrative rules regarding the use of electronic signatures and relative to signature requirements where ownership of a vehicle is transferred to an insurer after payment of damages.

SB 489, (New Title) altering the appointment process for the board of tax and land appeals.

SB 503, relative to the use of spruce-pine-fir lumber.

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

SB 526, establishing a New Hampshire-Greece trade council.

SB 527, relative to written notice provided by state agencies to municipalities regarding pending applications.

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

SB 598, establishing the cyanobacteria mitigation loan and grant fund task force.

SB 629, renaming the new roundabout on Route 302 at the East Conway Road intersection to "Oliveira Circle."

SB 641-FN, relative to examination requirements for licensure as a chiropractor.

SB 642-FN, repealing the committee for the protection of human subjects institutional review board.  
SB 649-FN, increasing fines for using a hand-held mobile electronic device while driving a motor vehicle.  
SB 652-FN, changing the maximum award of tax credits for overpayment of due taxes.

#### HOUSE MESSAGE

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

HB 59-FN, relative to the assault of a firefighter, emergency medical care provider, or law enforcement officer.  
HB 109-FN, relative to false reports to law enforcement.  
HB 126, relative to prescriptions for certain controlled drugs.  
HB 222, (New Title) repealing the requirement for a memorandum of understanding between a chartered public school and school district regarding how students with disabilities will receive special education services and updating the organizational structure of the department of corrections.  
HB 348, relative to eligibility for local assistance.  
HB 481, (New Title) relative to the state primary date.  
HB 610-FN, (New Title) relative to the residential ratepayers advisory board.  
HB 649-FN, (Second New Title) relative to the maintenance obligations of motor vehicle operators.  
HB 1030, relative to licensed practical nurse scope of practice.  
HB 1044, relative to the filling of vacancies in the office of a county commissioner.  
HB 1159, relative to updating the state building code.  
HB 1168, relative to employer documentation requirements.  
HB 1190-FN, (New Title) enabling the division of motor vehicles to create a temporary traditional driver's license for youth operators about to turn 21 and relative to fleet vehicle registration requirements.  
HB 1205, (New Title) prohibiting state and county owned lands from participating in timber carbon sequestration projects.  
HB 1310, relative to state licensed or certified real estate appraisers.

#### HOUSE MESSAGE

The House of Representatives has voted to sustain the Governor's veto on the following entitled Bill(s):

HB 451-FN, establishing the paint product stewardship program.

#### HOUSE MESSAGE

The House of Representatives has voted to sustain the Governor's veto on the following entitled Bill(s):

HB 349-FN, relative to the practice of optometry and authorization to perform ophthalmic laser procedures.

#### REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON ENROLLED BILLS

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

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

HB 1624-FN, relative to the elimination of certain special funds.

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 9

*April 16, 2026*

The Senate reconvened at 9:00 a.m., a quorum being present.

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

Good morning, Madam President, Good morning, senators. Let's pray. Lord, we're grateful for each and every senator in this room. Their lives matter, their work matters, and you have called them to such a time as this. We're grateful for them. We're grateful for their families who have sacrificed so much that they can serve our state in this way. Lord, for those who have differencing of opinions, Lord, I pray that there would be understanding on each side, that there would be sense of hearing as well as understanding.

Lord, I pray that each and every senator would feel your pleasure over their lives. You give them wisdom as they work through these bills that are to serve the people of New Hampshire. We're grateful for this day and we're grateful for their work. Amen.

Senator Watters led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Senator McConkey is excused.

#### INTRODUCTION OF PAGES

(The Chair recognized Senator Pearl.)

SENATOR PEARL: Good morning, everyone, and thank you, President Carson, for inviting me up. I have a very special guest today. This is Kyanna Birch. She is 16 years old. She's a junior at Pembroke Academy. She has a real love for U.S. history and YouTube, gaming, and drawing. I mean, no surprise there.

But she intends to study U.S. History and work in a museum someday. She really has a love of history. But the most special part is this is Heather's and my youngest daughter, and she's going to be our Senate page today. So I want to welcome you. And I have a resolution to present.

So be it known that the New Hampshire Senate extends its congratulations to Kyanna Birch in recognition of serving as a Senate page and gaining valuable insights into New Hampshire's legislative process.

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

And I will say, Kyanna and I have many debates at home about world topics, especially those related to politics and things that are going on in events. She has a great interest, and I see a very bright future for her. I think she will definitely be involved in something really profound when she gets older. So thank you again for the courtesy, and thank you, Madam President.

Recess. Out of recess.

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

#### HOUSE MESSAGE

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

SB 451, amending the title of the position of senior deputy secretary of state.

Senator Pearl moved Concurrence. Adopted.

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

Senator Gray moved Concurrence. Adopted.

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

Senator Rochefort moved Concurrence. Adopted.

SB 620-FN, relative to refusal of consent to testing to determine alcohol concentration and penalties for aggravated driving while intoxicated.

Senator Gannon moved Concurrence. Adopted.

## FN Report for April 16, 2026

| W/F     | Bill    | Title                                                                                                                                                                                         | R/C     | Committee | Full Name                          |
|---------|---------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|-----------|------------------------------------|
| Waive   | HB 194  | relative to the crime of interference with custody.                                                                                                                                           | Consent | CFL       | Children and Family Law            |
| Waive   | HB 257  | (New Title) relative to the crime of endangering the welfare of a child or incompetent.                                                                                                       | Consent | CFL       | Children and Family Law            |
| Finance | HB 1323 | relative to parental alienation.                                                                                                                                                              | Consent | CFL       | Children and Family Law            |
| Waive   | HB 1565 | relative to the penalty for false reports of suspected abuse and neglect made to the division for children, youth, and families.                                                              | Consent | CFL       | Children and Family Law            |
| Waive   | HB 686  | (New Title) prohibiting certain public entities from conducting or sponsoring political surveys, polls, or questionnaires in their official capacities.                                       | Consent | ELMA      | Election Law and Municipal Affairs |
| Finance | HB 1505 | requiring municipalities, towns, and cities to submit documentation to the department of revenue administration proving they are in compliance with local budget and tax caps.                | Consent | ELMA      | Election Law and Municipal Affairs |
| Waive   | HB 1516 | (New Title) allowing municipalities to vote to require that pie charts, bar charts, and QR codes be placed on property tax bills depicting where and how tax dollars are being allocated.     | Consent | ELMA      | Election Law and Municipal Affairs |
| Waive   | HB 1581 | (New Title) allowing municipalities to adopt a requirement that property owners be given notice when the assessed value of their property changes by certain amounts.                         | Consent | ELMA      | Election Law and Municipal Affairs |
| Finance | HB 1756 | 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.             | Consent | ELMA      | Election Law and Municipal Affairs |
| Waive   | HB 1013 | relative to games wherein the object is to capture a pig.                                                                                                                                     | Consent | ENR       | Energy and Natural Resources       |
| Waive   | HB 1153 | (New Title) establishing a committee to study New Hampshire statutes relative to cats and dogs.                                                                                               | Consent | ENR       | Energy and Natural Resources       |
| Waive   | HB 1186 | relative to the sale and labeling of eggs.                                                                                                                                                    | Consent | ENR       | Energy and Natural Resources       |
| Waive   | HB 1431 | restricting the use of neonicotinoid pesticides.                                                                                                                                              | Consent | ENR       | Energy and Natural Resources       |
| Finance | HB 1766 | relative to cruelty to livestock.                                                                                                                                                             | Consent | ENR       | Energy and Natural Resources       |
| Waive   | HB 1833 | creating a special license for non-resident vessel operators participating in tuna tournaments.                                                                                               | Consent | ENR       | Energy and Natural Resources       |
| Waive   | HB 524  | (New Title) relative to disbursement of funds by the New Hampshire vaccine association and establishing a committee to study the efficacy of the New Hampshire vaccine association.           | Consent | HHS       | Health and Human Services          |
| Finance | HB 661  | relative to the department of health and human services management of social security payments, supplemental security income payments, and veterans benefits for children in foster care.     | Consent | HHS       | Health and Human Services          |
| Waive   | HB 1117 | relative to the right of licensed health care providers to freely communicate with patients, colleagues, and the public about medical information, emerging therapies, and treatment options. | Consent | HHS       | Health and Human Services          |

|       |         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |         |      |                                    |
|-------|---------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|------|------------------------------------|
| Waive | HB 1566 | (New Title) directing the department of health and human services to seek clarification from the Administration for Children and Families regarding the use of TANF reserve funds and repealing the requirement that the department of health and human services' biennial budget request include funding for certain child care workforce programs. | Consent | HHS  | Health and Human Services          |
| Waive | HB 1584 | directing the department of health and human services to provide notice of medical and religious exemptions from immunization requirements and relative to the form of such exemption.                                                                                                                                                               | Consent | HHS  | Health and Human Services          |
| Waive | HB 1706 | repealing the refugee resettlement program in the department of health and human services and prohibiting expenditure of state funds on refugee resettlement.                                                                                                                                                                                        | Consent | HHS  | Health and Human Services          |
| Waive | HB 1763 | (New Title) establishing a committee to study siting and maintenance rules regarding certain intellectual and developmental disability (IDD) and acquired brain disorder (ABD) community residences.                                                                                                                                                 | Consent | HHS  | Health and Human Services          |
| Waive | HB 767  | expanding requirements for reports to law enforcement by the department of health and human services.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Consent | JUD  | Judiciary                          |
| Waive | HB 1240 | relative to the apparent use of a deadly weapon during the offense of criminal threatening.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Consent | JUD  | Judiciary                          |
| Waive | HB 1444 | relative to the purchase or acquisition of certain unmanned aircraft systems.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Consent | JUD  | Judiciary                          |
| Waive | HB 1788 | (New Title) holding state contracts with DEI provisions to be void as a matter of law and establishing a right of action for citizens where public entities or state agencies engage with contracts with DEI provisions.                                                                                                                             | Consent | JUD  | Judiciary                          |
| Waive | HB 1066 | relative to warrant articles authorizing lease agreements.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Regular | ELMA | Election Law and Municipal Affairs |
| Waive | HB 1356 | relative to the statute of limitations for bringing a private right of action for violation of the statute prohibiting medical procedures and treatments intended to alter a minor's gender.                                                                                                                                                         | Regular | JUD  | Judiciary                          |
| Waive | HB 1423 | relative to the offense of improper influence.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Regular | JUD  | Judiciary                          |
| Waive | HB 1442 | limiting the use of certain facilities on the basis of sex and redefining the term "gender identity."                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Regular | JUD  | Judiciary                          |
| Waive | HB 1709 | (New Title) prohibiting certain unlawfully present felons from occupying or renting real property.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Regular | JUD  | Judiciary                          |

Senator Gray recommends the waiver of referral to the Finance Committee, Senate Rule 4-5, for the following bill which is still in its respective committee:

| W/F   | Bill    | Title                                             | Committee | Full Name |
|-------|---------|---------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Waive | HB 1726 | relative to the sale of surplus state-owned land. | COM       | Commerce  |

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 April 16, 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

## CHILDREN AND FAMILY LAW

HB 194-FN, by Senator Abbas and Senator Birdsell

HB 1323-FN, by Senator Long and Senator Perkins Kwoka

HB 1565-FN, by Senator Abbas and Senator Birdsell

## ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

HB 1186, by Senator Carson and Senator Birdsell

HB 1766-FN, by Senator Carson and Senator Birdsell

## HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

HB 1566-FN, by Senator Perkins Kwoka and Senator Prentiss

HB 1584-FN, by Senator Abbas and Senator Birdsell

## SPECIAL ORDER

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

## CHILDREN AND FAMILY LAW

HB 1323-FN, relative to parental alienation.

## ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

HB 1766-FN, relative to cruelty to livestock.

## SPECIAL ORDER

Without objection, the following bills are Special Ordered to Thursday, May 14, 2026. Adopted.

## CHILDREN AND FAMILY LAW

HB 194-FN, relative to the crime of interference with custody.

HB 1565-FN, relative to the penalty for false reports of suspected abuse and neglect made to the division for children, youth, and families.

## HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

HB 1584-FN, directing the department of health and human services to provide notice of medical and religious exemptions from immunization requirements and relative to the form of such exemption.

## JUDICIARY

HB 1356-FN, relative to the statute of limitations for bringing a private right of action for violation of the statute prohibiting medical procedures and treatments intended to alter a minor's gender.

HB 1423-FN, relative to the offense of improper influence.

HB 1709-FN, prohibiting certain unlawfully present felons from occupying or renting real property.

## CONSENT CALENDAR

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

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

## CHILDREN AND FAMILY LAW

HB 257-FN, relative to the crime of endangering the welfare of a child or incompetent.

Interim Study, Vote 3-0. Senator Abbas for the committee.

HB 257 changes both the "knowingly" and "purposefully" standards for endangering the welfare of a child or incompetent and violating a duty of care respectfully to the "recklessly" standard, which is easier to fulfill. The committee had concerns about how different interpretations of "reckless" behavior could make the standard too easy to meet.

HB 1039, relative to the contents of parenting plans.

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

HB 1039 enables a parenting plan to include an agreement regarding the sharing of the child's images digitally on social media.

HB 1228, relative to the enforcement of alimony orders.

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

HB 1228 requires that orders for the payment of past due amounts of alimony shall be enforced according to their terms unless modified by an agreement or statute. The committee amendment adds the bill text for HB 1229 to the end of the bill, which requires waivers of alimony to be enforced unless the waiver is found invalid. This is due to the numbering of the bills being in conflict if they both were to pass.

Senate Children and Family Law

April 3, 2026

2026-1340s

09/05

#### Amendment to HB 1228

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

AN ACT relative to the enforcement of alimony orders and relative to waivers of alimony.

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 New Paragraphs; Term and Reimbursement Alimony. Amend RSA 458:19-a by inserting after paragraph VI the following new paragraphs:

VII. Orders for the payment of past due amounts of alimony shall be enforced according to their terms unless modified by an agreement of the parties or pursuant to RSA 458:19-aa.

VIII. Agreements in which the parties waive any and all rights to past, present, or future alimony, or any portion thereof, shall be given full force and effect unless the agreement is found by a preponderance of the evidence to be invalid due to coercion, deceit, duress, fraud, mutual mistake, material misrepresentation, supervening illegality, or where such enforcement would be unconscionable or the facts and circumstances have changed since the agreement was executed so as to make the agreement unenforceable.

2026-1340s

#### AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill:

I. Requires that orders for the payment of past due amounts of alimony shall be enforced according to their terms unless modified by an agreement or statute.

II. Requires waivers of alimony to be enforced unless the waiver is found invalid.

HB 1229, relative to waivers of alimony.

Interim Study, Vote 3-0. Senator Abbas for the committee.

HB 1229 requires waivers of alimony to be enforced unless the waiver is found invalid. Due to a conflict with their numbering, both HB 1229 and HB 1228 could not simultaneously be passed. To alleviate this, the text from HB 1229 was added to the end of HB 1228 as a committee amendment.

#### EDUCATION

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

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

HB 1099, as amended, establishes a study committee to examine the costs and liabilities associated with providing educational services to students placed in residential facilities, including determining which entities bear financial responsibility. Because the issue spans multiple state departments, the legislation calls for a study committee to ensure a comprehensive review.

Senate Education

April 7, 2026

2026-1390s

12/09

#### Amendment to HB 1099

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

AN ACT establishing a committee to study the cost and liability of providing educational services to students placed in residential facilities.

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

1 Committee to Study the Cost and Liability of Providing Educational Services to Students Placed in Residential Facilities.

I. There is established a committee to study the cost and liability of providing general education and special education services to New Hampshire students who are placed in residential facilities in the state as an episode of treatment or under a court ordered placement under RSA 169-B, RSA 169-C, and RSA 169-D.

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

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

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

III. The committee shall study:

(a) Who is financially responsible for educating students (both students who have been identified and those who have not) who are placed by someone other than their resident district, into a residential facility, and how are those costs being paid by local school districts, the state (either through the division for children, youth, and families or the department of education), federal sources, and other sources.

(b) Any other pertinent or relevant issue deemed necessary by the committee.

IV. The first named member of the house of representatives shall serve as chairperson of the committee. The first meeting of the committee shall be called by the first-named member of the house of representatives. The first meeting of the committee shall be held within 60 days of the effective date of this section. Three members of the committee shall constitute a quorum.

V. The committee shall report its findings and any recommendations for proposed legislation to the president of the senate, the speaker of the house of representatives, the senate clerk, the house clerk, and the chairperson of the education policy and administration standing committee on or before November 1, 2026.

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

2026-1390s

#### AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill establishes a committee to study the cost and liability of providing educational services to students placed in residential facilities, and specifically what entities are financially responsible for such costs.

HB 1267, prohibiting school district attorneys and non-school personnel from questioning students without their parent or guardian present.

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

HB 1267 requires school boards to develop and adopt a policy to prevent the questioning of minor students by non-school employees and certain school employees without prior written permission of the parents or guardians, and such policy shall require that an adult student be asked if they want their parents or guardians notified before any such questioning.

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.

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

HB 1514, as amended, requires the Department of Education and the Department of Revenue Administration to provide school monitoring and financial reports to school officials and local school board authorities.

Senate Education

April 8, 2026

2026-1402s

07/09

#### Amendment to HB 1514

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

AN ACT requiring the department of education and the department of revenue administration to send school monitoring and financial reports to relevant school and school board authorities.

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

1 New Section; The State and Its Government; Department of Education; Required Annual Reports. Amend RSA 21-N by inserting after section 13 the following new section:

21-N:14 Required Annual Reports.

I. The department of education shall annually send all school monitoring and financial reports to every relevant elected school board official, school superintendent, and school business administrator. Electronic communication shall be acceptable. The department shall provide annual notifications to school board officials, superintendents, and business administrators of what reports the department expects to send each year.

II. For the purpose of this section, "monitoring report" means any formal report authored by the department of education that identifies a compliance concern or deviation from industry standards and recommends the local education agency take corrective action.

2 New Section; The State and Its Government; Department of Revenue Administration; Required Annual Reports. Amend RSA 21-J by inserting after section 49 the following new section:

21-J:50 Required Annual Reports.

I. The department of revenue administration shall annually, by July 10, create and send a school district audit compliance report to the department of education for distribution to every relevant elected school board official, school superintendent, and school business administrator.

II. For the purpose of this section, "compliance report" means any formal report authored by the department of education that identifies a compliance concern or deviation from industry standards and recommends the local education agency take corrective action.

2026-1402s

#### AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill requires the department of education and the department of revenue administration to send school monitoring and financial reports to relevant school and school board authorities.

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

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

HB 1635 proposed reducing the suicide prevention training requirements for school districts and chartered public schools from annually to once every two years, while also eliminating the two-hour minimum training requirement. Testimony at the hearing underscored the critical importance of equipping school staff with this training and highlighted the benefits of providing it on an annual basis.

#### ELECTION LAW AND MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

HB 590, relative to cooperative school district school board elections.

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

If passed as written, this bill would void and re-write local by-laws and articles of agreement already agreed upon by local communities. The committee felt this was a local issue between local communities, and many cooperative school districts have processes in place to review and amend those agreements if they so choose. For this reason, the committee recommends inexpedient to legislate.

HB 686-FN, prohibiting certain public entities from conducting or sponsoring political surveys, polls, or questionnaires in their official capacities.

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

Because of the broad language in this bill, it has a significant impact on the ability to do things like traffic surveys, Master Plan questionnaires, etc. For this reason, the committee feels the bill needs more work and recommends interim study.

HB 1062, authorizing the secretary of state to conduct random audits of the citizenship qualification of registered voters.

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

This bill, as amended, authorizes the Secretary of State to use state sources to conduct random, statistically sound audits of citizenship only for registered voters who originally used a qualified voter affidavit, requires a public report of the findings, and mandates that confirmed citizens be flagged in the statewide database to exempt them from future audits.

Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs  
April 7, 2026  
2026-1383s  
07/08

Amendment to HB 1062

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

1 New Section; Random Citizenship Audits. Amend RSA 654 by inserting after section 45 the following new section:

654:45-a Random Citizenship Audits.

I. In addition to reviewing records contained in state databases, the secretary of state may conduct audits of the citizenship qualifications of registered voters who submitted a qualified voter affidavit as proof of citizenship.

II. The secretary of state shall ensure a random, statistically sound audit of such voters and publish a public report of the findings of that audit.

III. Where the citizenship of a voter is confirmed through either the use of available state sources or an investigation supporting the audit, such confirmation shall be noted in the statewide voter registration database, and that voter shall not be subject to further audit of his or her citizenship.

IV. If the audits reveal information of any potential non-citizens on the checklist, such information shall be submitted to the attorney general for further review and appropriate action.

V. To carry out paragraph I of this section, the secretary of state may use data regarding individual voters with persons or entities that are not agencies of the state only if the secretary and the person or entity enter into a legally binding agreement that:

(a) Permits retention of the data only as long as necessary to carry out the purpose of the sharing or for one year, whichever is shorter;

(b) Prohibits further sharing or disclosure of the data without written authorization by the secretary;

(c) Requires minimum reasonable security measures to protect the data from unauthorized access; and

(d) Provides the state with ownership of, and direct control over, the data unless otherwise required by state or federal law.

VI. The secretary of state shall permanently destroy all data gathered under this section that relates to an identifiable individual whose citizenship is confirmed by an audit upon such confirmation and whose citizenship is not so confirmed when the matter is finally resolved.

2 Repeal. RSA 654:45-a, relative to random citizenship audits, is repealed.

3 Effective Date.

I. Section 2 of this act shall take effect July 1, 2029.

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

HB 1076, relative to authorizing or rescinding the use of electronic ballot counting devices.  
Interim Study, Vote 4-1. Senator Lang for the committee.

This bill seeks to move the decision to rescind or offer the use of ballot counting machines to a ballot question versus the current law, which leaves the decision to the governing body. The bill proposes to use a 'Special Ballot' for the question, but per the Secretary of State, he has no idea what a special ballot even is. For this reason, the committee recommends Interim Study.

HB 1125, enabling school districts to adopt partisan school district elections.  
Inexpedient to Legislate, Vote 4-0. Senator Lang for the committee.

This bill seeks to expand the options to make school district elections partisan. This option is already available to the districts. Any candidate can already disclose the candidate's party affiliation if the candidate feels it will better inform the voter. For this reason, the committee recommends inexpedient to legislate.

HB 1266, allowing election moderators access to the area designated for counting votes during the performance of their duties.

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

This bill allows election moderators access inside the guard rails while performing their duties after the polls are closed. The Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee amended HB 1266 to clarify the election official, which includes the moderator, may be within the guard rails and perform other duties of their office as assigned, not related to the tabulation of votes. The committee recommends passage of HB 1266 as amended.

Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs

April 2, 2026

2026-1324s

07/05

#### Amendment to HB 1266

Amend RSA 659:58 as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

659:58 Disqualification of Officials. Any election official who is also a candidate for office, other than a position of an election official, shall not be allowed to remain in the area designated for the counting of votes within the guardrail during the counting of ~~[votes for an office for which he is a candidate]~~ **ballots for which he or she is a candidate for an office other than an election official**. Such official shall disqualify himself **or herself** from election duties relating to the tabulation of votes; and the moderator shall appoint an assistant who shall take the same oath as, serve in the same capacity as, and have all the powers of the election official who is disqualified until such official may properly return. The **election official, which includes the moderator, may be within the guard rails and perform other duties of their office, or other duties** the moderator may assign ~~[any]~~ **to the** election official disqualified pursuant to this section ~~[to other duties]~~, not related to the tabulation of votes.

HB 1272, providing an option for each candidate's party affiliations to be printed on the town or school district ballot.

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

HB 1272 would enable municipalities or school districts to decide whether to adopt partisan town or school elections. If a municipality decides to adopt this option, candidates would then have the option to display their party affiliation next to their names on the ballot. RSA 669:12 already authorizes municipalities to implement partisan elections if they choose to do so, and voters may access the voter checklist to verify any candidate's party. Therefore, the committee considers this bill unnecessary and recommends Inexpedient to Legislate.

HB 1309, relative to town meeting warrants.

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

HB1309 requires that each warrant article to clearly convey its intent and effect. The intent and effect of each warrant article shall be stated clearly, and without commentary or ambiguity in addition to the already required subject matter.

HB 1325, enabling supervisors of the checklist to correct the checklist on any day of the week.

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

HB1325 allows the supervisors of the checklist to hold a meeting to correct the checklist on any day of the week. This changes the current requirement that such a meeting be held on a Saturday 6 to 13 days prior to the election.

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

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

This bill originally sought to streamline the posting of special town meetings warrants. As amended, the committee gave municipalities three options: 1) newspaper of general distribution, 2) posting on a town website in a prominent position, and 3) posting in 2 physical locations in town, and the municipalities can decide to use any two of these three options. For this reason, the committee recommends ought to pass with amendment.

Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs  
 April 2, 2026  
 2026-1323s  
 09/08

#### Amendment to HB 1369

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

AN ACT relative to the manner of posting the warrant for town meetings.

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

1 Time for Holding Town Meetings and Warning Thereof; Posting Warrant; Special Meetings. RSA 39:4 is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

#### 39:4 Special Meetings.

I. The selectmen shall post the warrant for a special meeting using at least 2 of the 3 following methods:

- (a) Published once in a newspaper of general circulation in said town at least 7 days before the meeting.
- (b) Posted at the place of meeting and a like copy at one other public place in the town at least 14 days before the meeting.
- (c) Posted on the town's Internet website, if such exists, at least 14 days before the meeting.

II. If the warrant for a special meeting is posted on the town's Internet website, it shall appear prominently on the website's home page, or a link directly to the notice shall appear prominently on the home page.

III. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit towns from posting the warrant for a special meeting in additional places.

2 Time for Holding Town Meetings and Warning Thereof; Posting Warrant. Amend RSA 39:5 to read as follows:

#### 39:5 Posting Warrant.

**I.** The selectmen may address their warrant to the voters of the town, in which case they shall post an attested copy of such warrant at the place of meeting, ~~and~~ a like copy at one other public place in the town, **and a like copy of the town's Internet website, if such exists**, at least 14 days before the day of meeting. The 14 days shall not include the day of posting nor the day of the meeting, but shall include any Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays within the said period.

**II. If the warrant is posted on the town's Internet website, it shall appear prominently on the website's home page, or a link directly to the notice shall appear prominently on the home page.**

**III. This section shall not apply to special meetings held pursuant to RSA 39:1. Special meetings shall be noticed in accordance with RSA 39:4.**

**IV. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit towns from posting the warrant in additional places.**

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

2026-1323s

#### AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill amends the requirements for the posting of warrants for town meetings, including special meetings.

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

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

This bill allows a political party to provide candidates for offices not filled during the filing period for 10 days following the deadline for filing for an election. The Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee (ELMA) placed amended language into RSA 655:32 rather than RSA 655:14 as requested by the Deputy Secretary of State. The ELMA Committee recommends passage of HB 1381 as amended.

Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs  
April 2, 2026  
2026-1325s  
07/05

Amendment to HB 1381

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

1 Candidate Filing; No Declaration Filed. Amend RSA 655:32, I to read as follows:

I. In case no declaration shall be filed by a candidate for any nomination to be voted for at a primary, the nomination may be made by the appropriate party committee as provided in this section. The ***chairperson of the*** appropriate party committee shall notify the secretary of state in writing of a person it designates to fill the vacancy. The person so designated may accept the nomination by ~~on or before the Wednesday following the expiration of the period for filing declarations of candidacy as provided in RSA 655:14,~~ filing with the secretary of state a declaration of candidacy as provided in RSA 655:17 ***within 10 business days following the close of the candidate filing period established by RSA 655:14.*** Any candidate accepting a nomination under this paragraph who has already filed for an incompatible office as defined in RSA 655:10 shall withdraw the prior filing. Any vacancy created by the withdrawal of a filing may be filled pursuant to this section. If the candidate is designated for the office of governor, councilor, state senator, or state representative, he or she shall also file on or before the Wednesday following the period for filing declarations of candidacy the appropriate affidavit as provided in RSA 655:29. Any candidate so designated by a party committee who has not filed all the forms required by this section within the required period of time shall not have his or her name printed on the state primary election ballot for that office.

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

HB 1388, relative to the form of ballot for amendments to the constitution.  
Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0. Senator Rochefort for the committee.

HB1388 limits the form of ballot for amendments to the constitution to one amendment per question. This bill makes clear that the voter is making a single choice on a single constitutional amendment.

HB 1505-FN, requiring municipalities, towns, and cities to submit documentation to the department of revenue administration proving they are in compliance with local budget and tax caps.  
Interim Study, Vote 4-0. Senator Lang for the committee.

This bill would have required the department of revenue administration to review all town approved spending, see if it exceeds a municipal tax cap, and if so, make changes to the approved spending. The committee heard that the enforcement provisions in the bill were unworkable. The committee felt the bill needed more work and recommended interim study.

HB 1516-FN, allowing municipalities to vote to require that pie charts, bar charts, and QR codes be placed on property tax bills depicting where and how tax dollars are being allocated.  
Interim Study, Vote 4-0. Senator Lang for the committee.

This would require municipalities to include pie charts, bar charts, and QR codes on property tax bills to illustrate how tax revenue is allocated. Currently, this information is available on municipal websites or in town reports for any taxpayer who wishes to access it. Implementing this requirement would increase costs for towns and cities, which would likely be passed on to taxpayers.

HB 1581-FN, allowing municipalities to adopt a requirement that property owners be given notice when the assessed value of their property changes by certain amounts.  
Interim Study, Vote 4-0. Senator Rochefort for the committee.

This bill would enable municipalities to adopt a requirement for towns to notify property owners of assessment changes. The committee notes that taxpayers already have the right to appeal assessments, and imposing this additional duty on town offices might raise administrative costs and paperwork, potentially diverting resources from essential services and increasing financial burdens for taxpayers. Consequently, the committee recommends Interim Study on HB 1581.

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

This bill streamlines the property tax exemption process for eligible charitable and nonprofit groups by allowing them to submit a single application every five years instead of annually. This reduces administrative work for municipal staff and organizations providing essential community services. Additionally, the bill includes safeguards to prevent organizations that no longer qualify during the five-year period from continuing to receive the exemption.

Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs

April 7, 2026

2026-1374s

07/05

Amendment to HB 1756-FN

Amend RSA 72:23-c, I(d) and (e) as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

***(d) City or town assessors, boards of selectmen, or other assessors' agents shall field review-qualifying properties annually to ensure they still qualify.***

***(e) Applicants shall file additional information as requested by the city or town assessor, boards of selectmen, or other officials at least once every 5 years, or annually if requested.***

ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

HB 1013, relative to games wherein the object is to capture a pig.

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

House bill 1013 requires the Department of Agriculture to develop "best practices" and recommendations for games in which the object is to capture a pig. It also ensures that animals are handled humanely and that participants receive proper education on animal care. The committee amendment removes the enforcement by the DAMF and keeps it with Law Enforcement.

Senate Energy and Natural Resources

April 9, 2026

2026-1435s

12/08

Amendment to HB 1013

Amend RSA 644:8-h as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

644:8-h Contests Involving Pigs. In order to promote an educational, humane, and safe event for contestants, livestock, and viewers, and in consultation with livestock farmers, livestock veterinarians, the state fair association, and the university of New Hampshire cooperative extension, the commissioner of the department of agriculture, markets, and food shall identify and publish best handling practices and recommendations for contests involving the capture of pigs. Such practices and recommendations shall be published in advance of the 2027 fair season and shall include:

I. Handling of pigs during release and capture.

II. Supervision of contestants during the event.

III. Guidance for training of individuals supervising or assisting.

IV. The manner and provisions for the transportation of pigs to be taken home by contestants.

2026-1435s

#### AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill requires the commissioner of the department of agriculture, markets, and food to develop best practices and recommendations for games in which the object is to capture a pig.

HB 1089, extending the authorization of the department of environmental services for the evaluation and mitigation of new community water system contamination risks.

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

House bill 1089 seeks to ensure that new water withdrawals for public water systems suing less than 57,600 gallons in any 24-hour period do not contribute to the contamination of existing drinking water wells or exacerbate the spread of contaminated groundwater.

HB 1148, adding cyanobacteria and algae blooms to the study of the exotic aquatic weeds and species committee. Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0. Senator Pearl for the committee.

House bill 1148 adds cyanobacteria and algae blooms to the study of exotic and aquatic weed species committees. It expands the committees' duties to include studying the causes and contributing factors of harmful algal blooms and cyanobacteria.

HB 1153-FN-L, establishing a committee to study New Hampshire statutes relative to cats and dogs. Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 4-0. Senator Watters for the committee.

House Bill 1153 creates a committee to review New Hampshire statutes related to cats and dogs. The committee received testimony highlighting inconsistencies and outdated or irrelevant provisions in current law that may need to be updated or revised.

Senate Energy and Natural Resources

April 9, 2026

2026-1436s

12/08

#### Amendment to HB 1153-FN-LOCAL

Amend the bill by replacing section 4 with the following:

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

HB 1431-FN, restricting the use of neonicotinoid pesticides. Interim Study, Vote 4-1. Senator Pearl for the committee.

House bill 1431 would have restricted the use of neonicotinoids to only licensed professionals and would require the Pesticide Control Board (PCB) to adopt rules about the proper application. The committee ultimately decided this bill would take authority away from the PCB and was not necessary.

HB 1733, relative to default electric service procurement and the recovery of competitive market supply costs. Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 5-0. Senator Watters for the committee.

House bill 1733 requires the Public Utilities Commission to use fixed-price contracts for default services and limits reliance on real-time purchases. The committee amendment would prohibit utilities from recovering default service costs through a nonbypassable charge, except in extraordinary circumstances.

Senate Energy and Natural Resources

April 9, 2026

2026-1429s

12/04

#### Amendment to HB 1733

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

AN ACT relative to the reconciliation of default electric service rates.

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 Restructuring Policy Principles. Amend RSA 374-F:3, V(e) to read as follows:

(e) Notwithstanding any provision of subparagraphs (b) and (c), as competitive markets develop, the commission may approve alternative means of providing transition or default services which are designed to minimize customer risk, not unduly harm the development of competitive markets, and mitigate against price volatility without creating new deferred costs, if the commission determines such means to be in the public interest. ***No reconciliation of actual and estimated wholesale power supply costs incurred by a utility to provide default service shall be recovered through a non-bypassable charge, except in extraordinary circumstances as found to exist by the commission through an adjudicative proceeding.***

2026-1429s

#### AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill prohibits utilities from collecting default electric service cost reconciliations through non-bypassable charges except when the commission, through an adjudicative proceeding, finds extraordinary circumstances.

HB 1780, increasing penalties for persons violating laws relative to the sale of seeds, plants, and nursery stock. Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 4-0. Senator Pearl for the committee.

House Bill 1780 addresses several technical inconsistencies by revising labeling standards with input from DAMF, seed suppliers, and other stakeholders. The amendment clarifies that no seed may be sold in New Hampshire more than 36 months after its production date and specifies how labeling of the production date must be updated when tested or the date be carried forward.

Senate Energy and Natural Resources  
April 9, 2026  
2026-1428s  
12/07

#### Amendment to HB 1780

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

AN ACT relative to seed laws.

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

1 New Paragraph; Seeds, Plants and Nursery Stock; New Hampshire Seed Law; Definitions. Amend RSA 433:1 by inserting after paragraph XXIII the following new paragraph:

XXIII-a. "Production date" means the calendar month and year that a seed lot's first germination test was completed.

2 New Subparagraph; Seeds, Plants and Nursery Stock; New Hampshire Seed Law; Label Requirements for Agricultural, Vegetable and Flower Seeds. Amend RSA 433:2, III by inserting after subparagraph (h) the following new subparagraph:

(i) The production date.

3 Seeds, Plants and Nursery Stock; New Hampshire Seed Law; Prohibitions. Amend RSA 433:4, II(g)-(h) to read as follows:

II. Within the state:

(g) To use relabeling stickers without having both the calendar month and year the germination test was completed, the sell by date, as stated in ~~[RSA 433:2, II(g),]~~ RSA 433:2, V(c)[,] and RSA 433:2, VII(a), and the lot number that matches the existing, original lot number. Relabeling shall not occur more than once.

(h) ~~[To alter or falsify any seed label, seed test, laboratory report, record, or other document to create a misleading impression as to kind, kind and variety, history, quality, or origin of seed.]~~ ***To use relabeling stickers without having both the calendar month and year the germination test was completed, the sell by date, as stated in RSA 433:2, III(g), and the lot number that matches the existing, original lot number. Any relabeling sticker shall either:***

***(1) Not cover the original production date; or***

***(2) Carry forward the original production date.***

***(i) To sell seed more than 36 months after its production date.***

***(j) To alter or falsify any seed label, seed test, laboratory report, record, or other document to create a misleading impression as to kind, kind and variety, history, quality, or origin of seed.***

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

2026-1428s

#### AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill makes the use of certain seed relabeling stickers, selling seed more than 36 months after its production date, and altering or falsify certain seed labels or documents illegal.

HB 1833-FN, creating a special license for non-resident vessel operators participating in tuna tournaments. Inexpedient to Legislate, Vote 5-0. Senator Watters for the committee.

House Bill 1833 would have created a special license for non-resident vessel operators participating in tuna tournaments. However, the committee determined that establishing a new license would be too costly and administratively burdensome for the Department of Fish and Game and, contrary to the bill's intent, could result in reduced revenue.

## FINANCE

HB 1042, raising the unified contingent credit limit.

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

This bill raises the unified contingent credit limit applicable to New Hampshire Business Finance Authority projects and programs to \$400 million plus interest. The Senate Finance Committee increased that limit to \$450 million plus interest, and also raised the cap on outstanding obligations for which the Housing Finance Authority is allowed. In addition, the committee increased the bonding authority for the Housing Finance Authority.

Senate Finance  
April 7, 2026  
2026-1388s  
07/05

## Amendment to HB 1042

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

AN ACT raising the unified contingent credit limit and relative to the cap on outstanding obligations for which the housing finance authority is allowed.

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

1 Public Safety and Welfare; Business Finance Authority; Unified Contingent Credit Limit. Amend RSA 162-A:22 to read as follows:

162-A:22 Unified Contingent Credit Limit. The total amount of state guarantees in force under RSA 162-A:7-a, RSA 162-A:8, RSA 162-A:10, III, RSA 162-A:13, RSA 162-A:13-a, RSA 162-A:17, and RSA 162-I:9-b shall not exceed in the aggregate at any time \$50,000,000 plus interest, provided that such amount shall be increased to \$80,000,000 plus interest on January 1, 1993, to \$95,000,000 plus interest on January 1, 1994, and to \$115,000,000 plus interest on May 1, 2015, [and] to \$200,000,000 plus interest on June 1, 2023, **and to \$450,000,000 plus interest on June 1, 2026.**

2 Housing Finance Authority; General Obligations. Amend RSA 204-C:28 to read as follows:

204-C:28 General Obligations.

I. Except as may otherwise be expressly provided by resolution of the authority, every issue of its notes and bonds shall be general obligations of the authority payable out of any revenues or moneys of the authority, subject only to any agreements with the holders of particular notes or bonds pledging any particular revenues. The authority shall not at any time have outstanding obligations, other than obligations to which paragraph II applies, the unpaid principal amount of which is in excess of [~~\$600,000,000~~] **\$1,000,000,000** in the aggregate. In computing the total amount of obligations of the authority which may at any time be outstanding for any purpose under this chapter, the amount of the outstanding obligations refunded or to be refunded from the proceeds of the sale of new obligations or by the exchange of new obligations shall be excluded.

II. In addition to the obligations which the authority may have outstanding under paragraph I, the authority may issue notes and bonds not in excess of [~~\$800,000,000~~] **\$2,400,000,000** for the purposes specified in this paragraph. Such notes and bonds shall constitute general obligations of the authority payable out of any revenues or moneys of the authority, subject only to any agreements with the holders of particular notes or bonds pledging any particular revenues. The purposes for which such notes and bonds may be issued pursuant to this paragraph shall be to provide sufficient funds for any one or more of the following:

(a) The making of loans and mortgage loans to eligible mortgagors and eligible persons and families and the making of loans to lending institutions in each case to finance the acquisition, construction or rehabilitation of housing designed and planned, or being converted, to consist of not more than 4 family units for occupancy by eligible persons and families and of which at least one unit is occupied or is to be occupied by an eligible person or family owning the housing;

(b) The making of loans or advances with interest and whether or not secured by a mortgage to a single eligible person or family for the costs of reconstruction, rehabilitation or other improvements of existing housing owned by such single person or family and consisting of not more than 4 family units of which one is or is to be occupied by the owner, and for down payment costs, closing costs and other initial expenses of acquiring, financing or refinancing housing owned or to be owned by a single eligible person or family and

consisting of not more than 4 family units of which one is or is to be occupied by the owner; the purchase of mortgages on any such housing or securing such loans or advances described above; the establishment of reserves to secure such notes and bonds, including any reserve fund created pursuant to RSA 204-C:40; and

(c) All other expenditures of the authority incident to and necessary or convenient to carry out the issuance of notes and bonds to provide sufficient funds for any one or more of the other purposes enumerated in this paragraph. The provisions of RSA 204-C:41 shall not apply with respect to any bond reserve fund established under RSA 204-C:40 with respect to bonds of the authority to which this paragraph applies.

III. In addition to the obligations which the authority may have outstanding under paragraphs I and II, the authority may issue notes and bonds not in excess of [~~\$600,000,000~~] **\$2,600,000,000** for the purposes specified in this paragraph. Such notes and bonds shall constitute general obligations of the authority payable out of any revenue or moneys of the authority, subject only to any agreements with the holders of particular notes or bonds pledging any particular revenues. The purposes for which such notes and bonds may be issued shall be to provide sufficient funds for any purpose authorized by this chapter; such notes and bonds may, at the discretion of the authority, be subject to the provisions of RSA 204-C:41 with respect to any bond reserve fund established under RSA 204-C:40 and may, at the discretion of the authority, be subject to the provisions of RSA 204-C:49, II.

3 Effective Date.

I. Section 2 of this act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

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

2026-1388s

#### AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill raises the unified contingent credit limit applicable to New Hampshire business finance authority projects and programs. The bill also raises the cap on outstanding obligations for which the housing finance authority is allowed and increases the bonding authority for the housing finance authority.

#### HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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

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

As amended, this bill directs the New Hampshire Vaccine Association to disburse funds collected through assessments by the end of each fiscal year to the extent practicable. A committee amendment has been adopted to remove the study committee previously proposed in the bill.

Senate Health and Human Services

April 9, 2026

2026-1423s

05/07

#### Amendment to HB 524-FN

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

AN ACT relative to disbursement of funds by the New Hampshire vaccine association.

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

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

2026-1423s

#### AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill directs the New Hampshire vaccine association to disburse funds collected through assessments by the end of each fiscal year to the extent practicable.

HB 661-FN, relative to the department of health and human services management of social security payments, supplemental security income payments, and veterans benefits for children in foster care.

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

As amended, this bill establishes requirements for the management of federal benefits received by dependent children in the custody of the Department of Health and Human Services. It provides for appointment

of a representative payee, which may be the Department if no other suitable candidate is available. It also directs the Department to adopt procedures regarding the establishment of ABLE accounts for dependent children for whom the Department is representative payee. The implementation of certain sections of the bill are contingent upon receipt of sufficient funding by the Department.

Senate Health and Human Services

April 9, 2026

2026-1425s

05/09

#### Amendment to HB 661-FN

Amend the bill by replacing all after section 6 with the following:

7 Contingency. Sections 1 through 4 of this act shall take effect on the date the commissioner of the department of health and human services certifies to the director of the office of legislative services and the secretary of state that the department has sufficient funding to meet the requirements of sections 1 through 4 of this act; provided further that if the date of such certification occurs prior to July 1, 2027, section 1 of this act shall take effect on July 1, 2027, section 2 of this act shall take effect on July 1, 2028, and sections 3 and 4 of this act shall take effect on the date of certification.

8 EffectiveDate.

I. Sections 1-4 of the this act shall take effect as provided in section 7 of this act.

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

2026-1425s

#### AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill:

I. Establishes requirements for the management of federal benefits received by dependent children in the custody of the department of health and human services.

II. Provides for appointment of a representative payee, which may be the department if no other suitable candidate is available.

III. Directs the department to adopt procedures regarding establishment of ABLE accounts for dependent children for whom the department is representative payee.

IV. Makes implementation of paragraphs I-III above contingent upon receipt of sufficient funding by the department of health and human services.

HB 1117-FN, relative to the right of licensed health care providers to freely communicate with patients, colleagues, and the public about medical information, emerging therapies, and treatment options.

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

This bill provides that a health care provider shall not be subject to disciplinary action, professional sanction, or civil or criminal liability for communicating with a patient, another provider, or the public about emerging medical research, experimental treatments, innovative therapies, or off-label uses of medications, provided the communication is made in good faith and not knowingly false or misleading.

HB 1318, renewing the committee to study non-pharmacological treatment options for patients with chronic pain. Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 4-0. Senator Rochefort for the committee.

This bill renews the committee to study non-pharmacological treatment options for patients with chronic pain. A committee amendment has been adopted to extend the renewal for an additional year.

Senate Health and Human Services

April 9, 2026

2026-1424s

05/05

#### Amendment to HB 1318

Amend the bill by replacing section 2 with the following:

2 Extension of the Committee to Study Non-pharmacological Treatment Options for Patients with Chronic Pain. Amend 2024, 274:2, VI to read as follows:

VI. Notwithstanding RSA 14:49, on or before November 1, 2024, **2025, 2026, and 2027**, the committee shall submit an interim report including 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, and the governor. The committee shall submit a final report of its findings and any recommendations for proposed legislation to the same on or before November 1, [2025] **2028**.

HB 1449, limiting times vaccine clinics may operate at schools and requiring parents or legal guardians to be present with their child during the administration of vaccinations at such a clinic.

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

As amended, this bill prohibits the operation of vaccination clinics in schools during school hours with the exception of clinics which solely administer influenza vaccinations and clinics operating during public health emergencies. The committee amendment addresses accessibility and public health concerns raised by stakeholders.

Senate Health and Human Services

April 9, 2026

2026-1426s

12/05

#### Amendment to HB 1449

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

AN ACT limiting times vaccine clinics may operate at schools, with certain exceptions.

Amend RSA 200:27-b, II as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

II. This section shall not apply:

(a) To public elementary or secondary school or chartered public school vaccination clinics where such clinics exclusively provide influenza vaccinations.

(b) During a public health emergency declared in accordance with state or federal law.

2026-1426s

#### AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill prohibits the operation of a vaccination clinic at schools during school hours with the exception of clinics which solely administer influenza vaccinations and clinics operating during public health emergencies.

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

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

As amended, this bill establishes a committee to study aiding the growth of assistive technology businesses and the adoption of assistive technologies in New Hampshire.

Senate Health and Human Services

April 9, 2026

2026-1430s

07/09

#### Amendment to HB 1685

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

AN ACT establishing a committee to study aiding the growth of assistive technology businesses and adoption of assistive technologies in New Hampshire.

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

1 Committee Established. There is established a committee to study how to aid the growth of assistive technology businesses and speed up the adoption of assistive technologies in New Hampshire.

2 Membership and Compensation.

I. The members of the committee shall consist of 3 members of the house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives.

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

### 3 Duties. The committee shall:

I. Study and identify appropriate benchmarks for the increased implementation of assistive technologies for the use of New Hampshire residents in need of the same.

II. Study and identify appropriate measures for attracting assistive technology businesses to New Hampshire.

III. Conduct other activities as deemed necessary by the commission, including the formation of subcommittees and naming any appropriate new members to form the same.

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

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

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

2026-1430s

### AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill establishes a committee to study aiding the growth of assistive technology businesses and adoption of assistive technologies in New Hampshire.

HB 1706-FN, repealing the refugee resettlement program in the department of health and human services and prohibiting expenditure of state funds on refugee resettlement.  
Inexpedient to Legislate, Vote 5-0. Senator Avard for the committee.

This bill repeals the refugee resettlement program in the Department of Health and Human Services and prohibits expenditure of state funds on refugee resettlement.

HB 1763-FN, establishing a committee to study siting and maintenance rules regarding certain intellectual and developmental disability (IDD) and acquired brain disorder (ABD) community residences.  
Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 4-0. Senator Birdsell for the committee.

This bill establishes a committee to study siting and maintenance rules regarding certain intellectual and developmental disability (IDD) and acquired brain disorder (ABD) community residences. A committee amendment has been adopted to include a representative of the area agency system recommended by the Community Support Network, Incorporated.

Senate Health and Human Services  
April 9, 2026  
2026-1431s  
07/09

### Amendment to HB 1763-FN

Amend subparagraph II(d) as inserted by section 3 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

(d) A representative of the area agency system recommended by the Community Support Network, Incorporated;

### JUDICIARY

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

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

House Bill 767-FN, as amended by the House, requires the Department of Health and Human Services to immediately verbally report suspected child abuse, neglect, or criminal conduct to an on-duty law enforcement officer and refines provisions governing law enforcement and caseworker access to public places for child interviews. The Committee recommends the bill for Interim Study after questions were raised regarding the requirement for immediate verbal reporting, potential limitations on documentation and flexibility in communication methods, and how the bill interacts with existing multidisciplinary investigation practices and protocols, all warranting further review.

HB 1240-FN, relative to the apparent use of a deadly weapon during the offense of criminal threatening. Interim Study, Vote 5-0. Senator Abbas for the committee.

House Bill 1240-FN makes it a class B felony to commit criminal threatening while using what reasonably appears to be a deadly weapon. The Committee recommends the bill for Interim Study after raising concerns about the breadth and ambiguity of the “appears to be a deadly weapon” standard, the potential for inconsistent application and expanded prosecutorial discretion, and whether existing criminal threatening statutes are sufficient to address the conduct at issue, warranting further review.

HB 1444-FN, relative to the purchase or acquisition of certain unmanned aircraft systems. Ought to Pass, Vote 4-1. Senator Reardon for the committee.

House Bill 1444-FN, as amended by the House, prohibits state and local governments from purchasing or acquiring certain unmanned aircraft systems that do not meet federal security standards or appear on federal restricted lists, with restrictions taking effect January 1, 2028. The Committee recommends Ought to Pass after testimony indicated that the bill would help mitigate risks related to foreign surveillance and espionage by limiting acquisitions to approved and secure systems.

HB 1788-FN, holding state contracts with DEI provisions to be void as a matter of law and establishing a right of action for citizens where public entities or state agencies engage with contracts with DEI provisions. Interim Study, Vote 5-0. Senator Reardon for the committee.

House Bill 1788-FN, as amended by the House, voids state and local contracts containing diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) provisions and establishes a private right of action allowing citizens to sue public entities for violations or failure to investigate such contracts. The Committee recommends the bill for Interim Study after raising concerns about potential conflicts with federal law and existing legal requirements, the breadth of standing allowing any citizen to initiate litigation, separation of powers questions related to requiring courts to void contracts, and the potential for increased litigation, administrative burden, and uncertainty for state agencies and municipalities, warranting further review.

#### TRANSPORTATION

HB 1059, relative to the use of number plate scanning devices. Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0. Senator Ward for the committee.

This bill ensures that the current regulations for license plate scanners do not expire. Originally set to be repealed on January 1, 2027, HB 1059 makes these rules permanent. Given the technology’s effectiveness in solving crimes, the committee strongly supports its continuation and recommends it ought to pass.

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

#### REGULAR CALENDAR

##### EDUCATION

HB 131, relative to bullying and cyberbullying prevention. Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 3-2. Senator Sullivan for the committee.

Senate Education  
April 8, 2026  
2026-1396s  
07/05

##### Amendment to HB 131

Amend the introductory paragraph of RSA 193-F:4, II as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

II. The school board of each school district and the board of trustees of a chartered public school and public academy shall, no later than 6 months after the effective date of this section, adopt a written policy prohibiting bullying and cyberbullying. Such policy shall include the definitions set forth in RSA 193-F:3. The policy shall contain, at a minimum, the following components:

Amend RSA 193-F:4, II(h) as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

(h) A requirement that school staff members, coaches, and bus drivers report incidents of bullying to the school principal or other designee, as outlined in district reporting requirements.

Amend the bill by deleting section 3 and renumbering the original sections 4-6 to read as 3-5, respectively.

2026-1396s

## AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill:

I. Requires the department of education to report the number of waivers granted for parental notification, number of waivers granted for investigation extensions, and the number of out-of-state cyberbullying cases reported and investigated.

II. Requires anti-bullying procedure to be included in the student handbook and that alleged victims get a written copy of their rights, protections, and support services available to them.

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

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

## INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

(The Chair recognized Senator Fenton.)

SENATOR FENTON: Thank you, Madam President. Please help me in welcoming the fourth and eighth grade class from Westmoreland School.

## ELECTION LAW AND MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

HB 1066-FN, relative to warrant articles authorizing lease agreements.  
Interim Study, Vote 4-0. Senator Perkins Kwoka for the committee.

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

## HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

HB 1215, relative to supporting the preferred method of communication of an individual with a communication disability.

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

Senator Avard offered a Floor Amendment.

Sen. Avard, Dist 12

Sen. Rosenwald, Dist 13

April 10, 2026

2026-1446s

05/07

## Floor Amendment to HB 1215

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

AN ACT relative to supporting the preferred method of communication of an individual with a communication disability and relative to transfers from freestanding hospital emergency facilities.

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 Short Title. Section 2 of this act shall be known as “Grace’s Law”.

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

3 Purpose. The purpose of section 4 this act is to protect patient safety and continuity of care by ensuring that transfers from freestanding hospital emergency facilities are based on clinical appropriateness, patient needs, and regional access to hospital services. Section 4 of this act further seeks to prevent practices that may undermine community hospitals through coercive or exclusive transfer arrangements that are not clinically justified.

4 New Subdivision; Transfers from Freestanding Hospital Emergency Facilities. Amend RSA 151 by inserting after section 53 the following new subdivision:

## Transfers from Freestanding Hospital Emergency Facilities

151:54 Definitions. In this subdivision:

I. “Freestanding hospital emergency facility” or “FHEF” means a facility licensed under this chapter that is geographically separate from an acute care hospital and provides emergency medical services on behalf of, or in affiliation with, a parent hospital.

II. "Parent hospital" means an acute care hospital that owns, controls, or operates a freestanding hospital emergency facility, directly or indirectly.

III. "Clinically appropriate" means consistent with the judgment of the treating physician, the patient's medical condition, and applicable regional emergency medical services protocols.

IV. "Transfer" means the movement of a patient from a freestanding hospital emergency facility to another licensed hospital or health care facility for the purpose of providing continued medical care, and shall not include discharge to home or referral for non-emergent outpatient services.

V. "Medically necessary" means determined by the treating physician or qualified practitioner to be required to prevent or address a material deterioration of the patient's medical condition, consistent with applicable standards of care.

#### 151:55 Transfer Standards.

I. When a transfer from a freestanding hospital emergency facility to an acute care hospital is medically necessary, the facility shall ensure that transfer decisions are based primarily on clinical appropriateness, patient safety, continuity of care, and patient choice.

II. A patient, or the patient's legal representative when applicable, shall be informed of available receiving hospitals that are clinically appropriate and reasonably available, provided that such discussion does not delay screening, stabilization, or transfer required under federal law.

III. No freestanding hospital emergency facility shall require or condition treatment, stabilization, or transfer upon selection of a receiving hospital based primarily on ownership or affiliation.

IV. If a patient is unable to participate in the selection of a receiving hospital, the facility shall arrange transfer to an appropriate hospital consistent with:

- (a) RSA 153-A:1 and RSA 151:19, VII;
- (b) State-designated trauma, stroke, or specialty care systems;
- (c) Federal and state law governing emergency medical treatment and transfer; and
- (d) The patient's medical condition and safety.

#### 151:56 Prohibited Practices.

I. No freestanding hospital emergency facility, nor any entity owning or operating such facility, shall:

(a) Engage in materially misleading communication or coercive conduct for the primary purpose of directing patient transfers to an affiliated or parent hospital when another clinically appropriate hospital is reasonably available.

(b) Condition transfer decisions on insurance status or payer considerations.

(c) Enter into exclusive transfer arrangements with emergency medical services providers that require patient transfers to an affiliated hospital without regard to clinical appropriateness, patient needs, patient choice, or regional emergency medical services protocols.

II. Nothing in this section shall prohibit non-exclusive coordination agreements with emergency medical services providers for quality assurance, response efficiency, or specialty care, provided such agreements do not require exclusive routing based on ownership affiliation.

151:57 Federal Law EMTALA. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to alter, expand, or restrict obligations under the federal Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA), 42 U.S.C. section 1395dd. Compliance with EMTALA shall be deemed compliance with this subdivision. In the event of a conflict, federal law shall control.

#### 151:58 Enforcement; Rulemaking.

I. The attorney general may adopt rules under RSA 541-A to define and implement enforcement standards under this subdivision, including but not limited to defining what constitutes a pattern of violations, coercive conduct, or materially misleading communication.

II. Upon a finding of a pattern of violations as defined by rule, the attorney general may pursue enforcement under RSA 358-A.

III. Prior to referral for enforcement, the department of health and human services shall provide notice of alleged violations and a reasonable opportunity to cure.

151:59 Scope. This subdivision applies only to transfers occurring prior to inpatient admission at the receiving hospital and shall not regulate post-admission referral, discharge planning, or elective admission decisions.

5 Effective Date.

I. Sections 1 and 2 of this act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

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

2026-1446s

#### AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill:

I. Supports the right of individuals with communication disabilities to use their preferred method of communication within the state service delivery system, including in residential settings and schools and with other service providers.

II. Establishes standards governing the transfer of patients from freestanding hospital emergency facilities to acute care hospitals to ensure that such transfers are based primarily on clinical appropriateness, patient safety, continuity of care, and patient choice.

III. Bans coercive or exclusive transfer practices, reinforces EMTALA requirements, and gives the state authority to enforce violations.

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

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

#### JUDICIARY

HB 1442-FN, limiting the use of certain facilities on the basis of sex and redefining the term “gender identity.” Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 3-2. Senator Abbas for the committee.

Senate Judiciary

April 7, 2026

2026-1384s

12/09

#### Amendment to HB 1442-FN

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

AN ACT permitting classification of individuals based on biological sex under certain limited circumstances.

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

1 State Commission for Human Rights; Law Against Discrimination; Purpose and Scope. Amend RSA 354-A:1 to read as follows:

354-A:1 Title and Purposes of Chapter.

**I.** This chapter shall be known as the “Law Against Discrimination.” It shall be deemed an exercise of the police power of the state for the protection of the public welfare, health and peace of the people of this state, and in fulfillment of the provisions of the constitution of this state concerning civil rights. The general court hereby finds and declares that practices of discrimination against any of its inhabitants because of age, sex, gender identity, race, creed, color, marital status, familial status, physical or mental disability, or national origin are a matter of state concern, that such discrimination not only threatens the rights and proper privileges of its inhabitants, but menaces the institutions and foundation of a free democratic state and threatens the peace, order, health, safety and general welfare of the state and its inhabitants. A state agency is hereby created with power to eliminate and prevent discrimination in employment, in places of public accommodation and in housing accommodations because of age, sex, gender identity, race, creed, color, marital status, familial status, physical or mental disability, or national origin as herein provided; and the commission established hereunder is hereby given general jurisdiction and power for such purposes. In addition, the agencies and councils so created shall exercise their authority to assure that no person be discriminated against on account of sexual orientation.

***II. The general court also finds that, notwithstanding New Hampshire's fundamental commitment to treat all persons without discrimination and with equal dignity and respect, which commitment the legislature fully accepts and strongly endorses, there are certain limited circumstances in which classification of persons based on biological sex is proper because such classification serves the compelling state interests of protecting the privacy rights and physical safety of such persons and others. The legislature finds that permitting classification of persons based upon biological sex serves this compelling state interest in the 3 circumstances described in RSA 354-A:25-a.***

2 New Section; State Commission for Human Rights; Miscellaneous Provisions; State Recognition of Biological Sex. Amend RSA 354-A by inserting after section 25 the following new section:

354-A:25-a State Recognition of Biological Sex.

I. Nothing in RSA 5-C:87, RSA 260 through RSA 263-A, RSA 354-A, or any other law or regulation shall mean that it is unlawful discrimination based on sex or gender identity for any person or organization, public or private, to classify based on biological sex with respect to the following matters:

(a) In the construction, maintenance, operation, and use of lavatory facilities or locker rooms designed for usage by multiple persons at the same time, even if such facilities have individual urinals, stalls, or similar apparatus.

(b) In athletic or sporting events or competitions in a sport or similar activity in which physical strength, speed, or endurance is generally recognized to give an advantage to biological males.

(c) In the operation, maintenance, and use of facilities designed for usage as prisons, houses of correction, juvenile detention or commitment centers, mental health hospitals or treatment centers and like facilities to which persons may be committed involuntarily.

II. "Biological sex" shall mean the male and female biological sexes. This section does not mean that any public or private entity is required by state statute to separate persons based upon biological sex.

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

2026-1384s

#### AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill provides a definition for "biological sex" and provides that certain designations by biological sex do not constitute unlawful discrimination.

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

Recess. Out of recess.

#### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

(The Chair recognized Senator Pearl.)

SENATOR PEARL: Thank you, Madam President. I want you all to stand and help me welcome the students from the fourth grade class of Canterbury Elementary. Good morning guys.

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

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

The following Senators voted Yes: Rochefort, Lang, 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.

The following Senators were excused: McConkey.

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

#### MOTION OF RECONSIDERATION

Senator Ricciardi, having voted on the prevailing side, moved to reconsider the following action taken by the body on HB 1215, relative to supporting the preferred method of communication of an individual with a communication disability. 1. Rescind order to Third Reading. 2. Reconsider the vote on Ought to Pass with Amendment. 3. Reconsider the vote on the adoption of Floor Amendment #2026-1446s. Adopted.

Senator Watters is excused.

Sen. Avard, Dist 12  
Sen. Rosenwald, Dist 13  
April 10, 2026  
2026-1446s  
05/07

Floor Amendment to HB 1215

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

AN ACT relative to supporting the preferred method of communication of an individual with a communication disability and relative to transfers from freestanding hospital emergency facilities.

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 Short Title. Section 2 of this act shall be known as “Grace’s Law”.

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

3 Purpose. The purpose of section 4 this act is to protect patient safety and continuity of care by ensuring that transfers from freestanding hospital emergency facilities are based on clinical appropriateness, patient needs, and regional access to hospital services. Section 4 of this act further seeks to prevent practices that may undermine community hospitals through coercive or exclusive transfer arrangements that are not clinically justified.

4 New Subdivision; Transfers from Freestanding Hospital Emergency Facilities. Amend RSA 151 by inserting after section 53 the following new subdivision:

Transfers from Freestanding Hospital Emergency Facilities

151:54 Definitions. In this subdivision:

I. “Freestanding hospital emergency facility” or “FHEF” means a facility licensed under this chapter that is geographically separate from an acute care hospital and provides emergency medical services on behalf of, or in affiliation with, a parent hospital.

II. “Parent hospital” means an acute care hospital that owns, controls, or operates a freestanding hospital emergency facility, directly or indirectly.

III. “Clinically appropriate” means consistent with the judgment of the treating physician, the patient’s medical condition, and applicable regional emergency medical services protocols.

IV. “Transfer” means the movement of a patient from a freestanding hospital emergency facility to another licensed hospital or health care facility for the purpose of providing continued medical care, and shall not include discharge to home or referral for non-emergent outpatient services.

V. “Medically necessary” means determined by the treating physician or qualified practitioner to be required to prevent or address a material deterioration of the patient’s medical condition, consistent with applicable standards of care.

151:55 Transfer Standards.

I. When a transfer from a freestanding hospital emergency facility to an acute care hospital is medically necessary, the facility shall ensure that transfer decisions are based primarily on clinical appropriateness, patient safety, continuity of care, and patient choice.

II. A patient, or the patient’s legal representative when applicable, shall be informed of available receiving hospitals that are clinically appropriate and reasonably available, provided that such discussion does not delay screening, stabilization, or transfer required under federal law.

III. No freestanding hospital emergency facility shall require or condition treatment, stabilization, or transfer upon selection of a receiving hospital based primarily on ownership or affiliation.

IV. If a patient is unable to participate in the selection of a receiving hospital, the facility shall arrange transfer to an appropriate hospital consistent with:

(a) RSA 153-A:1 and RSA 151:19, VII;

(b) State-designated trauma, stroke, or specialty care systems;

- (c) Federal and state law governing emergency medical treatment and transfer; and
- (d) The patient's medical condition and safety.

#### 151:56 Prohibited Practices.

I. No freestanding hospital emergency facility, nor any entity owning or operating such facility, shall:

(a) Engage in materially misleading communication or coercive conduct for the primary purpose of directing patient transfers to an affiliated or parent hospital when another clinically appropriate hospital is reasonably available.

(b) Condition transfer decisions on insurance status or payer considerations.

(c) Enter into exclusive transfer arrangements with emergency medical services providers that require patient transfers to an affiliated hospital without regard to clinical appropriateness, patient needs, patient choice, or regional emergency medical services protocols.

II. Nothing in this section shall prohibit non-exclusive coordination agreements with emergency medical services providers for quality assurance, response efficiency, or specialty care, provided such agreements do not require exclusive routing based on ownership affiliation.

151:57 Federal Law EMTALA. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to alter, expand, or restrict obligations under the federal Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA), 42 U.S.C. section 1395dd. Compliance with EMTALA shall be deemed compliance with this subdivision. In the event of a conflict, federal law shall control.

#### 151:58 Enforcement; Rulemaking.

I. The attorney general may adopt rules under RSA 541-A to define and implement enforcement standards under this subdivision, including but not limited to defining what constitutes a pattern of violations, coercive conduct, or materially misleading communication.

II. Upon a finding of a pattern of violations as defined by rule, the attorney general may pursue enforcement under RSA 358-A.

III. Prior to referral for enforcement, the department of health and human services shall provide notice of alleged violations and a reasonable opportunity to cure.

151:59 Scope. This subdivision applies only to transfers occurring prior to inpatient admission at the receiving hospital and shall not regulate post-admission referral, discharge planning, or elective admission decisions.

#### 5 Effective Date.

I. Sections 1 and 2 of this act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

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

2026-1446s

### AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill:

I. Supports the right of individuals with communication disabilities to use their preferred method of communication within the state service delivery system, including in residential settings and schools and with other service providers.

II. Establishes standards governing the transfer of patients from freestanding hospital emergency facilities to acute care hospitals to ensure that such transfers are based primarily on clinical appropriateness, patient safety, continuity of care, and patient choice.

III. Bans coercive or exclusive transfer practices, reinforces EMTALA requirements, and gives the state authority to enforce violations.

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.

## 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.

## ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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

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

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

## HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

HB 1566-FN-A, directing the department of health and human services to seek clarification from the Administration for Children and Families regarding the use of TANF reserve funds and repealing the requirement that the department of health and human services' biennial budget request include funding for certain child care workforce programs.

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

## INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

PRESIDENT CARSON: As the senator who represents Senate District 14, comprising the town of Hudson, I'd like to present the Presentation of Mary Academy, fourth grade, and welcome you to the State House today.

Senator Rochefort moved to Lay on the Table. Adopted.

## LIST OF RULE 6-25'S FOR THE DAY

Senator Innis: HB 1186

## LIST OF IN FAVOR/OPPOSITION FORMS FOR THE DAY

Senator Abbas: HB 1215: In opposition to Floor Amendment #2026-1446s.

Senator Birdsell: HB 1215: In opposition to Floor Amendment #2026-1446s.

Senator Gannon: HB 1186: In opposition to the motion of Ought to Pass.

Senator Prentiss: HB 1566: In opposition to the motion to Lay on the Table.

Senator Ricciardi: HB 1215: In opposition to Floor Amendment #2026-1446s.

## 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 Perkins Kwoka.)

SENATOR PERKINS KWOKA: Thank you. I won't belabor this, but I do just want to say to all of us, we've got a few more sessions to get through.

We'll probably have some bills we disagree with each other on during those sessions. I think we need to approach this body with some grace, some understanding that our role in the minority is to make the arguments for our constituents and for the issues we believe in, and that we're going to do that.

That's our job for our constituents, and we would appreciate it if we could all approach that with some mutual respect and get through our session. Thank you.

(The Chair recognized Senator Prentiss.)

SENATOR PRENTISS: Thank you, Madam President. Unanimous consent? In the month of May, the nation turns its focus, usually it's the third week, so it's going to be May 17th to 23rd, to our emergency medical services community and honors it with National EMS Week.

This year we have a special challenge in New Hampshire. As many of you know, Executive Counselor John Stevens suffered a sudden cardiac arrest outside of the hospital. And because bystanders started hands-only CPR, and 911 was called, an ambulance arrived, defibrillated him, he was resuscitated, and he is back serving in the Executive Council chamber.

He has raised a challenge, and if you haven't heard about it, it is the CPR challenge for each executive council district. So there is a website where you can sign up. You can find out from the executive council office staff where you can sign up and pair up with your executive counselors to organize working with your local emergency medical services squad or agency or talking to your local hospital, whoever it might be, and organize small training sessions where people can come and very simply learn how to do hands-only CPR and be part of saving a life because it saved Executive Counselor Stevens' life.

So I wanted to put that on everyone's radar. In my district, in District 2, we'll be reaching into this. And we'd like to actually win the challenge. But I'm just leveling it up here and challenging all of you to get involved with this initiative. Thank you very much.

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 131, relative to bullying and cyberbullying prevention.

HB 524-FN, relative to disbursement of funds by the New Hampshire vaccine association.

HB 1013, relative to games wherein the object is to capture a pig.

HB 1039, relative to the contents of parenting plans.

HB 1042, raising the unified contingent credit limit and relative to the cap on outstanding obligations for which the housing finance authority is allowed.

HB 1059, relative to the use of number plate scanning devices.

HB 1062, authorizing the secretary of state to conduct random audits of the citizenship qualification of registered voters.

HB 1089, extending the authorization of the department of environmental services for the evaluation and mitigation of new community water system contamination risks.

HB 1099, establishing a committee to study the cost and liability of providing educational services to students placed in residential facilities.

HB 1148, adding cyanobacteria and algae blooms to the study of the exotic aquatic weeds and species committee.

HB 1153-FN-LOCAL, establishing a committee to study New Hampshire statutes relative to cats and dogs.

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

HB 1215, relative to supporting the preferred method of communication of an individual with a communication disability.

HB 1228, relative to the enforcement of alimony orders and relative to waivers of alimony.

HB 1266, allowing election moderators access to the area designated for counting votes during the performance of their duties.

HB 1267, prohibiting school district attorneys and non-school personnel from questioning students without their parent or guardian present.

HB 1309, relative to town meeting warrants.

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

HB 1325, enabling supervisors of the checklist to correct the checklist on any day of the week.

HB 1369, relative to the manner of posting the warrant for town meetings.

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

HB 1388, relative to the form of ballot for amendments to the constitution.

HB 1442-FN, permitting classification of individuals based on biological sex under certain limited circumstances.

HB 1444-FN, relative to the purchase or acquisition of certain unmanned aircraft systems.

HB 1449, limiting times vaccine clinics may operate at schools, with certain exceptions.

HB 1514, requiring the department of education and the department of revenue administration to send school monitoring and financial reports to relevant school and school board authorities.

HB 1685, establishing a committee to study aiding the growth of assistive technology businesses and adoption of assistive technologies in New Hampshire.

HB 1733, relative to the reconciliation of default electric service rates.

HB 1763-FN, establishing a committee to study siting and maintenance rules regarding certain intellectual and developmental disability (IDD) and acquired brain disorder (ABD) community residences.

HB 1780, relative to seed laws.

#### 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.