April 23, 2026
Nos. 9-10

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

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

Legislative Proceedings

SENATE JOURNAL

ADJOURNMENT – APRIL 16, 2026 SESSION

COMMENCEMENT – APRIL 23, 2026 SESSION

SENATE JOURNAL 9 *(continued)* *April 16, 2026*

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 723-FN, repealing the multi-use energy data platform.
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.
SB 620-FN, relative to refusal of consent to testing to determine alcohol concentration and penalties for aggravated driving while intoxicated.

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

April 16, 2026
2026-1539-EBA
08/05

Enrolled Bill Amendment to HB 1037

The Committee on Enrolled Bills to which was referred HB 1037

AN ACT extending the commission to study OHRV use in New Hampshire and adding a member from the department of tourism.

Having considered the same, report the same with the following amendment, and the recommendation that the bill as amended ought to pass.

FOR THE COMMITTEE

Explanation to Enrolled Bill Amendment to HB 1037

This enrolled bill amendment makes a technical correction.

Enrolled Bill Amendment to HB 1037

Amend RSA 215-A:44-a, II(g) as inserted by section 2 of the bill by replacing line 2 with the following:

the division of state police.

Senator Rosenwald moved adoption of the Enrolled Bill Amendment. 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 10 *April 23, 2026*

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

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

Good morning, senators, guests, and those in the gallery. Let's pray as your faith allows.

Lord, we're grateful to be here today, to have breath in our lungs, to have energy in our bodies to do the work that's necessary for the state of New Hampshire.

Lord, I pray that you would continue to bring health to these senators and for family members who are going through health issues. Father, I pray healing over them. Your scripture reminds us that we are quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to anger.

I pray that we would realize that there's great wisdom in that, that as our senators listen to testimony, that they would discern the words that are necessary, the meaning behind the words, to better serve those in our state.

We're grateful for our senators. I pray a blessing over them today. Amen.

Senator McConkey led the Pledge of Allegiance.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

(The Chair recognized Senator Prentiss.)

SENATOR PRENTISS: Thank you. Good morning, colleagues. Forgive my hoarseness, but I am honored to join you all this morning and introduce to you members of the wonderful City of Lebanon's fire department, one of which has retired after 25 years of service to our city. We'll be recognizing him today, but first I'd like to introduce our Chief in Lebanon and our Deputy Chief, Jim Wheatley, and Deputy Chief Jeffrey Libbey.

So recognizing 25 years of service this morning, we're here to honor a, we have a Senate resolution in honor, Chris Buchanan for 25 years of dedicated service to the city of Lebanon.

> Whereas Christopher Buchanan has dedicated 25 years of distinguished service to the city of Lebanon as a paramedic and a firefighter, who is also a lieutenant.
>
> Whereas throughout his career, Christopher Buchanan has demonstrated exceptional commitment to public safety, to emergency medical services, and to the well-being of the citizens of Lebanon.
>
> And whereas throughout his dedication, professionalism, and leadership, he has earned the respect and trust of his colleagues and the community he serves, including throughout the wonderful Upper Valley.
>
> Christopher Buchanan's advancement to the rank of captain reflects his skill, experience, and unwavering commitment to the excellence in the fire service. And whereas his contributions have strengthened the Lebanon Fire Department and enhanced the delivery of emergency services to our community.
>
> And whereas it is fitting that the New Hampshire Senate recognizes and commends the individuals who have made such meaningful and lasting contributions to our community.
>
> Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Senate of the state of New Hampshire that Christopher Buchanan is hereby honored for 25 years of dedicated service to the city of Lebanon as well as the great state of New Hampshire.
>
> Sharon Carson, our Senate President, Tammy Wright, our Senate Clerk, and Sue Prentiss, his local senator.

And we've been also longtime friends, known each other as paramedics, and he's been a member of my family. So it's my honor. And please join us in recognizing the wonderful Captain Chris Buchanan. If you'd like to. You only get the microphone on the set once, so they should have warned me about this.

CAPTAIN CHRISTOPHER BUCHANAN: Thank you, Sue. You've always been a supporter of Fire and EMS, and you've represented the city of Lebanon very well, and I thank you for your dedication to us. I know my career has benefited from your service to New Hampshire, and thank the membership here for standing up for EMS and Fire.

It's a tough job, and we need all the help we can get, especially when it comes to mental health and physical health. And I appreciate your support in those areas. Thank you.

(The Chair recognized Senator Perkins Kwoka.)

SENATOR PERKINS KWOKA: Thank you very much, Madam President. I am honored to introduce to all of you my beautiful family over here. We have Logan, six, Colby, four, Madison, two, my lovely wife, Caitlin, my mother-in-law, Diane, and my father-in-law Dave.

PRESIDENT CARSON: I have a special guest this morning. I've asked Representative Jim Thorne from the Maine state legislature. He's a member of the House, but Representative Thorne brought a special gift for us today. This is a photo of the New Hampshire Senate 1919-1920. He likes antiquing, and he found this in a shop in Bangor, Maine.

So he traveled down here today to present this to us here at the New Hampshire Senate. So please welcome Representative Thorne.

REPRESENTATIVE JAMES THORNE: I won't take up much of your time, but I did want to say thank you for your hospitality. Again, I ran into, I think it was Jim Spillane down in Memphis, Tennessee at a sportsman's summit. And he got talking to me about the numbers. And we just adjourned in the main legislature last Tuesday. We'll come back on the 29th for veto day, my favorite day. But when I called down, I got the House Republican office, the House Majority office. And I said, oh, I got the wrong number. Oh, wait, that is a Republican office.

But thank you. I want to appreciate everybody here. And thank you for all the work that you do.

(The Chair recognized Senator Watters.)

SENATOR WATTERS: Thank you, Madam President. Colleagues, I'd like to introduce in the gallery Michelle Merch. And Michelle was a longtime Dover police officer and led the mounted police. And I really miss being able to offer a snow cone to the horse and to the officer.

Not the same cone. But it's good to see you here. Welcome.

2ND REVISED FN Report for April 23, 2026

W/F	Bill	Title	R/C	Committee	Full Name
Waive	HB 1196	repealing the state housing champion designation and grant program.	Consent	COM	Commerce
Waive	HB 1197	making technical corrections to certain insurance laws.	Consent	COM	Commerce
Waive	HB 1726	(New Title) relative to the sale of surplus state-owned land.	Consent	COM	Commerce
Waive	HB 1827	(New Title) requiring the department of education to conduct a confidential criminal history record check on all prospective educational personnel.	Consent	EDU	Education
Waive	HB 1836	relative to the input-based accountability system requirements and enforcement. n	Consent	EDU	Educatio
Finance	HB 1563	(New Title) relative to the special education aid formula and the administration and monitoring of state special education aid.	Consent	EF	Education Finance
Waive	HB 1711	relative to governmental land uses.	Consent	ELMA	Election Law and Municipal Affairs
Waive	HB 1807	(New Title) relative to mandatory reports to voters.	Consent	ELMA	Election Law and Municipal Affairs
Waive	HB 1425	relative to the development of an online wetlands permit processing system.	Consent	ENR	Energy and Natural Resources
Waive	HB 1051	modifying the procedures and requirements for school bus driver criminal history records checks and expanding the personnel subject to such checks.	Consent	JUD	Judiciary
Waive	HB 1100	establishing an exception to the prohibition against interception and disclosure of telecommunication or oral communications.	Consent	JUD	Judiciary
Waive	HB 1130	relative to judicial performance evaluations.	Consent	JUD	Judiciary
Waive	HB 1308	relative to increasing the penalty for passing a stopped school bus.	Consent	JUD	Judiciary

Finance	HB 1576	relative to the enforcement of criminal restitution obligations.	Consent	JUD	Judiciary
Finance	HB 1633	expanding the information provided to survivors of sexual assault regarding their existing rights.	Consent	JUD	Judiciary
Finance	HB 1421	modifying title exemptions for motor vehicles manufactured before the year 2000.	Consent	TRANS	Transportation
Finance	HB 1466	relative to obtaining a certificate of title for certain trailers.	Consent	TRANS	Transportation
Waive	HB 1301	increasing certain mooring fees and directing such funds to the cyanobacteria mitigation loan and grant fund.	Consent	WM	Ways and Means
Finance	HB 1323	relative to parental alienation.	Regular	CFL	Children and Family Law
Finance	HB 1571	(New Title) requiring the department of education to review statewide academic standards and curricula.	Regular	EDU	Education
Finance	HB 1828	requiring the department of education to establish an auditing process relative to teacher preparation programs at the post-secondary educational level.	Regular	EDU	Education
Waive	HB 1600	(New Title) relative to access to the centralized voter registration database on election days.	Regular	ELMA	Election Law and Municipal Affairs
Waive	HB 1086	(New Title) creating a committee to study neonicotinoid seed treatments.	Regular	ENR	Energy and Natural Resources
Waive	HB 1766	relative to cruelty to livestock.	Regular	ENR	Energy and Natural Resources
Finance	HB 1457	relative to natural organic reduction of human remains.	Regular	JUD	Judiciary
Waive	HB 629	(New Title) raising the cost of a boat decal fee and allocating the funds collected by such fees to the dam maintenance fund.	Regular	WM	Ways and Means
Finance	HB 1477	relative to the permitting and regulation of anchored seasonal floating platforms on public waters.	Regular	WM	Ways and Means
Waive	HB 1602	creating a safe battery recycling stewardship program.	Regular	WM	Ways and Means

Please Note: Senate Rule 4-5 requires every bill and joint resolution appropriating money, and every other bill which is accompanied by a fiscal note pursuant to RSA 14:44, which has been referred to another committee and found Ought to Pass by the Senate, shall be referred to the Senate Finance Committee for review, unless otherwise ordered by the Senate upon recommendation of the Chair of the Senate Finance Committee. Senator Gray has reviewed the bills on the Consent and Regular Calendars to be acted upon by the Senate on April 23, 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 1643, by Senator Long and Senator Perkins Kwoka

EDUCATION FINANCE
HB 564, by Senator Perkins Kwoka and Senator Altschiller
HB 1121, by Senator Murphy and Senator Birdsell

JUDICIARY
HB 1348, by Senator Gannon and Senator Abbas
HB 1633-FN, by Senator Carson and Senator Gannon

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

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

COMMERCE

HB 1072, relative to employer notice of department of labor investigations.
Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0. Senator Murphy for the committee.

This bill would require the commissioner of the Department of Labor to give at least 30 days' written notice before any visit or inspection, including the purpose, complaint status, and alleged violation. This bill also would require at least 30 days for establishments to respond to document or interview demands, regardless of complaint status. With the approval of the Attorney General's Office, shorter notices would be permitted if an establishment has violated labor laws within the past 36 months; if there is an imminent risk to health or safety; or if it is likely that notice would lead to the destruction or interference of evidence.

HB 1073, clarifying when the secretary of state shall complete the registry of New Hampshire decentralized autonomous organizations.
Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0. Senator Murphy for the committee.

At the request of the Secretary of State's Office, this bill would extend their timeframe for establishing a registry of decentralized autonomous organizations (DAOs) to January 1, 2027. During the initial Request for Proposal (RFP) process, the Department found that the two responses they received were not adequate. The Department agreed to work with stakeholders, including the InterOperability Lab at the University of New Hampshire, to determine what would be included in the revised RFP and how to move the project forward.

HB 1127, relative to the uniform voidable transactions act.
Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0. Senator Reardon for the committee.

This bill would align with changes recommended by the Uniform Law Commission by repealing the Uniform Fraudulent Transfer Act and replacing it with the Uniform Voidable Transactions Act. Under this Act, transfers of property from any debtor could be voided by a creditor if the former intended to hinder, delay, or defraud the latter. This Act also would establish a preponderance of evidence standard and clarify that the governing law would be in the jurisdiction of the debtor. To address concerns raised by the Trust Council, state law would dictate transfers to qualified trusts and use a clear and convincing evidence standard.

HB 1196-FN, repealing the state housing champion designation and grant program.
Inexpedient to Legislate, Vote 5-0. Senator Murphy for the committee.

This bill would have repealed the Housing Champion Designation and Grant Program. Since its inception, more than half of the state's total permitted units have come from 28 Housing Champion communities. Given the Program is still in its infancy, and housing remains a top priority for many residents and businesses, the Committee felt this bill was not necessary at this time.

HB 1197-FN, making technical corrections to certain insurance laws.
Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0. Senator Birdsell for the committee.

At the request of the Insurance Department, this bill would make numerous technical corrections to insurance laws. This bill would raise the fine for producers who are unresponsive to Department requests from $2,500 to $5,000; provide the commissioner with discretion to deny a license to an individual who has committed a misdemeanor; allow the Department to approve or analyze new standalone dental coverage or group vision products; and align both the Continuing Care Retirement Communities and homestead exemption statutes.

HB 1726-FN, relative to the sale of surplus state-owned land.
Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 5-0. Senator Fenton for the committee.

This bill would require proceeds from the sale or lease of surplus state-owned land to be credited to the originating department's fund. Presently, for example, the Department of Transportation has nearly 700 parcels of land on their books. These parcels could be used to build residential developments, gas stations, or convenience stores. In addition to the underlying bill, the Committee Amendment would establish a commission to study the sale of state-owned property.

Senate Commerce
April 14, 2026
2026-1504s
08/07

Amendment to HB 1726-FN

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

AN ACT relative to the sale of surplus state-owned land and establishing a commission to study the sale of state-owned property.

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

2 Purpose Statement. The purpose of section 3 of this act is to strengthen fiscal responsibility and improve the efficient management of stateowned assets. Outdated systems and untapped property reduce the effectiveness of state operations and limit public benefit. By applying fiscal prudence and commonsense stewardship to the disposition of surplus state land, the state can modernize its processes and realize longterm gains. Modest, welltargeted reforms to the way surplus land is identified and sold have the potential to stimulate economic activity, generate revenue for the state, and return valuable property to local tax rolls. The commission established in this act seeks to study how stateowned property may be best utilized, including examining opportunities to prioritize housing and the development of related infrastructure such as water and wastewater systems.

3 New Section; Commission to Study the Sale of State-Owned Property. Amend RSA 4 by inserting after section 39-g the following new section:

4:39-h Commission to Study the Sale of State-Owned Property.

I. There is established a commission to study the sale of state-owned property for the purpose of building housing and infrastructure which supports such housing.

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

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

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

(c) The commissioner of the department of environmental services, or designee.

(d) The commissioner of the department of transportation, or designee.

(e) The commissioner of the department of administrative services, or designee.

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

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

IV. The commission shall:

(a) Investigate the sale of stateowned property for the purpose of building housing and the infrastructure that supports such housing.

(b) Request the assistance of any state department, commission, board, agency, or institution if, in the course of conducting its study, the committee determines that such assistance would further the goals of the investigation.

(c) Include in the report required under paragraph VI recommendations regarding the sale of stateowned property for the purpose of building housing and supporting infrastructure, including consideration of ways to expedite the return of such property to the tax base of the municipality in which it is located.

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

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

4 Repeal. RSA 4:39-h, relative to commission to study the sale of state owned property, is repealed.

5 Effective Date.

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

II. Section 4 of this act shall take effect November 1, 2026.

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

2026-1504s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill requires that proceeds from the sale or lease of surplus state-owned land be credited to the originating department's fund.

This bill also establishes a commission to study the sale of state-owned property.

EDUCATION

HB 1093, relative to public charter schools and governmental land use exemptions.
Ought to Pass, Vote 4-0. Senator Abbas for the committee.

House Bill 1093 grants chartered public schools governmental-use status for land-use purposes and subjects them to the same municipal notification requirements as other governmental entities. This bill clarifies the statute to ensure a consistent and uniform interpretation of the law across jurisdictions.

HB 1256, removing the authority of the state librarian to award scholarships to students attending graduate library schools.
Ought to Pass, Vote 3-1. Senator Sullivan for the committee.

This bill removes the authority of the state librarian to award scholarships to attend a graduate library school accredited by the American Library Association. The state librarian has not awarded a scholarship to attend a graduate library school in over 25 years.

HB 1529, repealing the reading recovery training program.
Ought to Pass, Vote 4-0. Senator Ward for the committee.

This bill repeals the reading recovery training program, which is no longer used within or recommended by the New Hampshire Department of Education.

HB 1827-FN-A, requiring the department of education to conduct a confidential criminal history record check on all prospective educational personnel.
Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0. Senator Altschiller for the committee.

This bill requires the Department of Education to conduct confidential criminal history record checks on all prospective educational personnel. While the committee agreed with the policy objective of closing a loophole, concerns were raised about the potential fiscal impact of the legislation which the committee felt should be addressed by the Finance Committee.

HB 1836-FN, relative to the input-based accountability system requirements and enforcement.
Inexpedient to Legislate, Vote 4-1. Senator Prentiss for the committee.

This bill would require the Department of Education to withhold state funding from schools or districts that fail to submit the required input-based school accountability system report. The committee concluded that the proposed penalty was overly severe.

EDUCATION FINANCE

HB 656, relative to the authority of local school districts to accept federal grants.
Ought to Pass, Vote 4-0. Senator Murphy for the committee.

This bill deals with the acceptance of federal or state grant funding by a local school district. It requires that these funds must be disclosed in an annual report by the school board or in the notice of a hearing as well as in the minutes of the hearing. The purpose is to give taxpayers an understanding of the obligations attached to the acceptance of these federal or state grants. The Committee felt that this bill will increase the transparency of the types of funding being received in school districts.

HB 1495, allowing a reimbursement anticipation note to be used as collateral in certain circumstances.
Ought to Pass, Vote 4-0. Senator Murphy for the committee.

This bill allows school districts to borrow and categorize funds as revenue, so long as they are only used for the same purpose as anticipated funds. It also allows a reimbursement anticipation note to be used as collateral in certain circumstances, and it tightens how monies can be used to pay to services, such as special education.

HB 1563-FN-L, relative to the special education aid formula and the administration and monitoring of state special education aid.
Ought to Pass, Vote 4-0. Senator Murphy for the committee.

This bill requires the department of education to distribute aid to school districts for pupils whose special education costs exceed a certain dollar value, but only up to a certain threshold. It also creates considerations for calculating costs associated with a special education student's education. In addition, the bill requires each school district seeking special education aid reimbursements to submit a certified report for each student for whom reimbursement is requested.

ELECTION LAW AND MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS
HB 1298, relative to the disposal of electronic ballot counting device external memory devices.
Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 5-0. Senator Gray for the committee.

This bill requires that external memory devices in certain electronic ballot-counting machines be destroyed using the same procedures as ballots. The amendment addresses the committee's concerns about the disposal of external cards and clarifies that their disposal should match that of ballots, absentee ballot applications, affidavit envelopes, and lists.

Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs
April 14, 2026
2026-1507s
07/07

Amendment to HB 1298

Amend RSA 33-A:3-a, XXXVI-XXXVII as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

XXXVI. Elections-federal elections: ballots and absentee ballot applications, affidavit envelopes, lists, and electronic ballot counting device external storage devices: by the town clerk until the contest is settled and all appeals have expired or at least 22 months after the election, whichever is longer. Extra electronic ballot counting device external storage devices programmed for, but not used during the election are exempt from preservation. ***The external storage devices of electronic ballot counting devices, including those that capture digital images, shall be disposed of in the same manner as ballots, absentee ballot applications, affidavit envelopes, and lists. Disposal may be achieved by either physically destroying the storage device or by secure erasure that permanently destroys all election-related data on the storage device, including election programming, vote tallies, and digital images.***

XXXVII. Elections-not federal: ballots and absentee ballot applications, affidavit envelopes, lists, and electronic ballot counting device external storage devices: by the town clerk until the contest is settled and all appeals have expired or at least 60 days after the election, whichever is longer. Extra electronic ballot counting device external storage devices programmed for, but not used during the election are exempt from preservation. ***The external storage devices of electronic ballot counting devices, including those that capture digital images, shall be disposed of in the same manner as ballots, absentee ballot applications, affidavit envelopes, and lists. Disposal may be achieved by either physically destroying the storage device or by secure erasure that permanently destroys all election-related data on the storage device, including election programming, vote tallies, and digital images.***

HB 1306, relative to the counting of absentee ballots.
Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 5-0. Senator Gray for the committee.

This bill establishes the absentee ballot certificate and requires that the moderator and clerk perform specific counts of absentee ballots, which must be recorded on the certificate. The amendment addresses the Secretary of State's concerns about adding additional forms for the moderator and clerk to complete on election day.

Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs
April 14, 2026
2026-1506s
08/09

Amendment to HB 1306

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

1 New Section; Absentee Ballot Certificate. Amend RSA 657 by inserting after section 23 the following new section:

657:23-a Absentee Ballot Certificate.

I. The secretary of state shall prepare and distribute to each town or ward clerk 2 copies of the absentee ballot certificate. When the absentee ballots are counted, the clerk shall certify on the certificate the total number of absentee ballots received, as well as all counts required under paragraph II. One copy shall be retained by the clerk for his or her records; and one copy shall be forwarded by the clerk to the secretary of state within 72 hours of the close of elections.

II. Absentee ballots shall be counted for the following:

(a) Total absentee ballots received by the clerk.

(b) Total number of absentee ballots mailed/and delivered by the clerk.

(c) Total number of absentee ballots spoiled before the opening of the polls.

(d) Total number of absentee ballots emailed to UOCAVA voters.

(e) Total number of absentee ballots remaining before the opening of the polls.

2 Pre-Election Certificate. Amend RSA 658:32 to read as follows:

658:32 Pre-Election Certificate. The secretary of state shall prepare and distribute to each town or ward clerk 3 copies of the pre-election certificate. When the ballots are counted, the moderator and clerk shall certify thereon the total number of ***official and absentee*** ballots received. One copy shall be retained by the moderator for his or her records; one copy shall be retained by the clerk for his or her records, and one copy shall be forwarded by the clerk to the secretary of state with the election returns pursuant to RSA 659:75.

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

2026-1506s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill creates the absentee ballot certificate and requires certain counts of absentee ballots to be performed by the clerk and recorded on the absentee ballot certificate.

HB 1526, relative to the adopting of a municipal budget committee and electing members thereof.
Interim Study, Vote 5-0. Senator Rochefort for the committee.

This change updates the process for adopting, rescinding, and electing a municipal budget committee. It also revises the timeline for appointing the initial members of a cooperative school district budget committee. The committee felt that the bill addresses important issues; however, it also felt the bill needs some work before it is ready to move forward.

HB 1575, relative to the determination of the default budget by the budget committee.
Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0. Senator Lang for the committee.

This bill makes the budget committee responsible for determining the default budget for any local political subdivision that has adopted the official ballot referenda form of meeting under RSA 40:14 and has also established a municipal budget committee under RSA 32:14.

HB 1711-FN, relative to governmental land uses.
Inexpedient to Legislate, Vote 5-0. Senator Long for the committee.

This bill defines "agents" in connection with the government's use of certain lands and requires a public hearing for any change or new use of these lands. The committee raised concerns about the bill's broad, vague language and is concerned that, if passed, it might be applied to any public land, which could lead to significant issues.

HB 1759, relative to the disqualification of a member of a local land use board.
Inexpedient to Legislate, Vote 5-0. Senator Perkins Kwoka for the committee.

This bill states that a land use board's decision regarding member disqualification is legally binding, not merely advisory, and that recusal is required if the majority finds disqualification justified. The committee believes that since this process is already established by law and best handled locally, the bill is unnecessary.

HB 1807-FN, relative to mandatory reports to voters.
Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 5-0. Senator Lang for the committee.

This bill changes the format and content of the mandatory report sent to voters before any meeting where a school district approves a budget. The committee amendment removes inflation-related language, which doesn't accurately reflect the budget's actual spending, and updates the administrator figure to an average cost. These updates aim to give voters a clearer, more accurate estimate of budgeted spending.

Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs
April 14, 2026
2026-1508s
07/07

Amendment to HB 1807-FN

Amend RSA 189:76, III and IV as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

III. The first line [~~graph~~] ***indicator*** shall be titled "Average Cost Per Pupil" and shall display the district's annual cost-per-pupil over the previous 10 years. The second line [~~graph~~] ***indicator*** shall be titled "Average Teacher Salary" and shall display the district's yearly average teacher salary over the previous 10 years. [~~A good faith effort shall be made to adjust each annual statistic for inflation using the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Inflation Calculator or equivalent resource.~~] Each yearly statistic shall be clearly labeled. In each ***line*** graph, the upper and lower boundaries of the ***dual*** y-axis [~~must~~] ***shall*** be capped at the nearest thousand dollars.

IV. The third line ***indicator*** graph shall be titled "***Average*** Administrator Salaries" and shall display [~~annual totals of all salaries paid to administrators employed or contracted by the district and corresponding school administrative unit~~] ***the district's yearly average administrator salary*** over the previous 10 years. Administrators serving multiple districts may have annotation showing how their salary is apportioned among the multiple districts. [~~A good faith effort shall be made to adjust each annual statistic for inflation using the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Inflation Calculator or equivalent resource.~~] Each yearly total shall be clearly labeled. The upper and lower boundaries of the ***dual*** y-axis [~~must~~] ***shall*** be capped at the nearest hundred thousand dollars.

ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

HB 1192, exempting certain household pharmaceutical wastes from the definition of hazardous waste.
Ought to Pass, Vote 4-0. Senator Watters for the committee.

House Bill 1192 clarifies the definition of hazardous waste. In prior legislative sessions, the definition in RSA 318-E was modified in response to the opioid crisis. This bill restores the original language to ensure consistency with related statutes.

HB 1425-FN, relative to the development of an online wetlands permit processing system.
Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0. Senator McConkey for the committee.

House bill 1425-FN simplifies the Department of Environmental Services' permitting procedures by supporting the shift to online permitting systems and allowing rules that enable more flexible permitting to better respond to emergencies and natural disasters.

HB 1620, requiring the removal of residential heating oil underground after 12 consecutive months of non-use except in certain circumstances.
Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0. Senator McConkey for the committee.

House Bill 1620 requires the removal of underground residential heating oil tanks when a heating system is changed or when the owner does not intend to use the tank in the future. The legislation also establishes a new definition for underground heating oil storage tanks and is expected to have minimal financial impact.

JUDICIARY

HB 1003, prohibiting the Grafton county attorney from engaging in the private practice of law.
Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0. Senator Reardon for the committee.

This bill would prohibit the Grafton County Attorney from practicing law, except for providing legal services to family members where no conflict exists. County Attorney is not only a demanding, full-time job, but requires a high degree of public confidence. Restricting the County Attorney from commercial law practice will avoid conflicts of interest and increase the public trust.

HB 1051, modifying the procedures and requirements for school bus driver criminal history records checks and expanding the personnel subject to such checks.
Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0. Senator Altschiller for the committee.

House Bill 1051, as amended by the House, modifies the procedures for criminal history record checks for school transportation personnel by expanding the requirement to include school bus drivers, transportation vehicle drivers, bus monitors, designated volunteers, and contracted service providers. The bill establishes a centralized process through the Department of Education, requires fingerprinting, creates a secure system for background checks including use of national databases, and sets a 5-year validity period for clearances.

HB 1091, relative to the penalty for violations of municipal ordinances related to sleeping or camping outside.
Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 5-0. Senator Reardon for the committee.

As amended by the House, this bill would have required municipalities to offer non-monetary penalties for those who violate local ordinances against sleeping or camping outdoors. The committee believes this would make it harder to our cities and towns to enforce the law. The committee amendment helps ensure that law enforcement have the tools they need to remove individuals from private property if they do not have written permission from the property owner to be there.

Senate Judiciary
April 17, 2026
2026-1544s
09/07

Amendment to HB 1091

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

AN ACT relative to unauthorized camping on private property.

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

1 Findings and Purpose. The general court finds that:

I. Unauthorized camping on public and private property in densely populated municipalities presents significant challenges to public health, sanitation, and safety, and interferes with the rights of property owners.

II. Municipalities have an interest in ensuring that land is not used for habitation without appropriate consent, oversight, and provision for waste disposal and emergency access.

III. While current law prohibits camping on public rights-of-way and public property without permission, there is no parallel prohibition governing unauthorized camping on private land in larger municipalities, which has resulted in conflicts between landowners, municipalities, and law enforcement.

IV. It is therefore the purpose of this act to extend existing protections against unauthorized camping to private property in municipalities of more than 10,000 residents, to clarify the role of law enforcement in such matters, and to preserve both public order and private property rights.

2 Private Property Camping Restriction. Amend RSA 236:58 and the subdivision heading preceding RSA 236:58 to read as follows:

Camping Along Highways and on Public ***and Private*** Property

236:58 Camping Restricted.

I. No person shall pitch a tent or place or erect any other camping device or sleep on the ground within the public right-of-way or on public property unless permission is received from the governing board of the governmental authority having jurisdiction over such public right-of-way or property.

II.(a) In any municipality with a population greater than 10,000 as determined by the most recent federal decennial census, no person shall camp, erect a tent, place or erect any other camping device, or sleep on the ground upon private property unless:

(1) The person has written permission from the owner of the property; or

(2) The property owner is continuously present on the premises at the time of such camping and consents to the activity.

(b) This paragraph shall not apply to campsites or recreational campgrounds or camping parks regulated pursuant to RSA 216-I.

III. In enforcement of paragraph II of this section, law enforcement officials shall not be required to obtain or rely upon a written no trespass order from the property owner if the person cannot satisfy either subparagraph II(a)(1) or (2).

3 Additional Penalty for Camping on Private Property. Amend RSA 236:59 to read as follows:

236:59 Penalty. Any person who violates RSA 236:58 shall be guilty of a violation if a natural person, or guilty of a misdemeanor if any other person; and, in addition, shall be liable for the cost of restoration for any damage caused to a highway easement or right-of-way ***or to private land disturbed by such unlawful camping***.

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

2026-1544s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill prohibits camping without permission on another's private property and adds penalties for such violations.

HB 1100-FN, establishing an exception to the prohibition against interception and disclosure of telecommunication or oral communications.
Inexpedient to Legislate, Vote 5-0. Senator Gannon for the committee.

New Hampshire is a two-party consent state, which means phone calls and other communications cannot be recorded without consent of all parties. This bill sought to add that someone on a call may record if they are informed by the other party that the call is being recorded at the other end. The committee was unsure why this bill was needed given the lack of testimony at the hearing.

HB 1130-FN, relative to judicial performance evaluations.
Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 5-0. Senator Altschiller for the committee.

This bill updates the Judicial Performance Evaluation (JPE) program to add in court observations, extend the program to other judicial officers such as part-time judges, senior active judges, and judicial referees, and improve transparency to the public. The committee amendment turns the bill into a study committee to further investigate this issue. The committee believes transparency in the judicial branch is important, but the bill as introduced requires more work.

Senate Judiciary
April 17, 2026
2026-1546s
09/07

Amendment to HB 1130-FN

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

AN ACT establishing a committee to study the procedure for judicial performance evaluations.

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

1 Committee Established. There is established a committee to study the procedure for judicial performance evaluations.

2 Membership and Compensation.

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

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

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

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

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

I. Reviewing what other states do for judicial performance evaluations.

II. Obtaining input from judges in the New Hampshire court system on the current evaluation system.

III. Evaluating the benefits versus potential consequences of the changes proposed in 2026, HB 1130 as it passed the house of representatives, and what effect the bill as it passed the house of representatives would have on accountability and transparency.

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.

2026-1546s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill establishes a committee to study the procedure for judicial performance evaluations.

HB 1173, relative to post-secondary education opportunities for inmates.
Inexpedient to Legislate, Vote 5-0. Senator Gannon for the committee.

This bill would authorize the release of any inmate in state prison to participate in a post-secondary education program. While we should support rehabilitation and education for those behind bars, these programs are not a "Get Out of Jail" card. The committee believes that the unintended consequences of this policy would outweigh its benefits.

HB 1308-FN, relative to increasing the penalty for passing a stopped school bus.
Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 5-0. Senator Abbas for the committee.

House Bill 1308-FN, as amended by the House, increases penalties for unlawfully passing a stopped school bus, authorizes the use of school bus camera footage to identify violators, and establishes escalating fines, license suspensions, and potential jail time for repeat offenses. The committee amendment modifies the use of bus camera footage by removing limitations on who may subpoena such recordings, allowing any party in litigation to access the footage.

Senate Judiciary
April 14, 2026
2026-1513s
05/09

Amendment to HB 1308-FN

Amend RSA 265:54, I-a as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

I-a. Testimony under oath from the school bus driver or other witness that a vehicle failed to stop and remain stopped as required by paragraph I shall be sufficient evidence to prove that the owner of the vehicle was driving and has violated the provisions of paragraph I, unless such evidence is rebutted or contradicted. ***The camera footage from the bus may be used as evidence to identify the vehicle owner or operator and shall be made available by subpoena. The owner of a vehicle cited for a school bus law violation shall also have access to the recording or to a copy of the recording, if requested.***

HB 1363, relative to employee candidate background checks.
Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 5-0. Senator Abbas for the committee.

This bill clarifies that the Commissioner of the Department of Safety may designate someone to review the federal criminal history record information used to vet employees. This stems from a recommendation in a recent FBI audit and would align the law with long-standing practice and comply with federal standards. It would ensure that this sensitive information is only given to those authorized to receive criminal conviction information. The committee amendment simply removed "by federal authorities" from the bill to avoid confusion or conflicts with federal law.

Senate Judiciary
April 17, 2026
2026-1547s
09/07

Amendment to HB 1363

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

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

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

HB 1438, enabling mental health caseworkers to report instances of animal abuse by their clients.
Interim Study, Vote 5-0. Senator Reardon for the committee.

This bill would have enabled mental health caseworkers to report instances of animal abuse by their clients. The committee believes, while well intentioned, this bill would create a two tiered system of reporting in the mental health field that would create confusion for mental health care providers. There was also concern this could create a chilling effect, where a patient would be less likely to be truthful with their mental health counselor if they knew their confidentiality could be breached, which could harm their progress in their mental health treatment.

HB 1576-FN, relative to the enforcement of criminal restitution obligations.
Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0. Senator Altschiller for the committee.

This bill would strengthen the process by which crime victims receive restitution, but would not increase the amounts paid. Establishing an annual financial review of offenders would improve enforcement efforts by determining when an offender has the ability to pay the court-ordered restitution amount. The reforms would also improve communication and transparency for crime victims.

TRANSPORTATION

HB 1421-FN, modifying title exemptions for motor vehicles manufactured before the year 2000.
Ought to Pass, Vote 4-0. Senator Fenton for the committee.

House Bill 1421-FN exempts vehicles over 20 years old from the certificate of title requirement, applying the exemption on a rolling basis as vehicles reach that age. This change is intended to reduce administrative burden by automatically extending the exemption over time.

HB 1466-FN, relative to obtaining a certificate of title for certain trailers.
Ought to Pass, Vote 4-0. Senator Fenton for the committee.

HB 1466-FN will broaden title exemptions to cover certain boats and trailers over 3,001 pounds that are more than 10 years old and permits owners of otherwise title-exempt vehicles to voluntarily obtain a title with proper documentation. It also specifies which documents are acceptable for this process and makes clear that temporary registrations do not qualify.

HB 1537-L, relative to the use of high resolution cameras to identify school bus stop light violators.
Ought to Pass, Vote 4-0. Senator Fenton for the committee.

This bill would allow school buses to use onboard video cameras (with a warrant) to help investigate drivers who illegally pass a stopped bus, since identifying violators is otherwise difficult. The footage would provide evidence, such as license plates, to support enforcement and resolve disputes, addressing growing safety concerns around reckless or inattentive driving near school buses.

HB 1549, establishing that titles, bills of sale, and identification documents are required only at initial registration or transfer of ownership.
Ought to Pass, Vote 4-0. Senator Ward for the committee.

This bill clarifies that vehicle owners only need to show proof of ownership and ID when first registering a vehicle in New Hampshire or when ownership changes. It confirms that for annual renewals, prior registration is enough and no additional documents are required unless something has changed.

WAYS AND MEANS
HB 1301-FN, increasing certain mooring fees and directing such funds to the cyanobacteria mitigation loan and grant fund.
Inexpedient to Legislate, Vote 4-0. Senator Murphy for the committee.

This bill would have increased certain annual mooring fees for inland waterbodies by $25 and directed a portion of the revenues to the Cyanobacteria Mitigation Loan and Grant Fund and a portion to the Navigation Safety Fund. The committee believes that a more comprehensive, long-term solution is needed rather than a fee increase that would be paid by only a small group of people.

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

REGULAR CALENDAR

CHILDREN AND FAMILY LAW
HB 1323-FN, relative to parental alienation.
Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 2-1. Senator Abbas for the committee.

Senate Children and Family Law
April 3, 2026
2026-1339s
09/05

Amendment to HB 1323-FN

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 New Paragraph; Parental Rights and Responsibilities; Definition Added. Amend RSA 461-A:1 by inserting after paragraph IV the following new paragraph:

IV-a. “Parental alienation” means a pattern of behavior, conduct, or speech that would damage the relationship of the child and a parent, resulting in the child’s fear, negative perception, rejection, or hostility toward their other parent. This includes, but is not limited to, communicating disparaging remarks to a child about their other parent, manipulating or coercing a child, and unjustified interference with parenting time. “Parental alienation” shall not include protective actions taken in good faith based on reasonable belief of abuse or neglect under RSA 169-C, a petition for a restraining order filed in good faith pursuant to RSA 458:16 or RSA 461-A:10, or a petition filed in good faith for a civil protection order pursuant to RSA 633:3-a or RSA 173-B.

Amend the bill by replacing sections 3-4 with the following:

3 Parental Rights and Responsibilities; Judicial Enforcement of Parenting Plan; Family Access Motion. Amend the introductory paragraph of RSA 461-A:4-a, IV to read as follows:

IV. Upon a ***written*** finding by the court pursuant to a motion for a family access order***, a motion alleging parental alienation,*** or a motion for contempt that its order for parenting time has been substantially and materially violated, without good cause, the court shall order a remedy, which may include, but not be limited to:

4 Parental Rights and Responsibilities; Decision-making Responsibility. Amend RSA 461-A:5, III to read as follows:

III. Where the court finds that abuse as defined in RSA 173-B:1, I***, or parental alienation as defined in RSA 461-A:1, IV-a,*** has occurred, the court shall consider such abuse ***or parental alienation*** as harmful to children and as evidence in determining whether joint decision-making responsibility is appropriate. In such cases, the court shall make orders for the allocation of parental rights and responsibilities that best protect the children or the abused spouse or both. If joint decision-making responsibility is granted despite evidence of abuse ***or parental alienation***, the court shall provide written findings to support the order.

Amend the bill by replacing section 6 with the following:

6 Parental Rights and Responsibilities; Modification. Amend RSA 461-A:11, I(b) to read as follows:

(b) If the court finds ***by a preponderance of the evidence that parental alienation has occurred or*** repeated, intentional, and unwarranted interference by a parent with the residential responsibilities of the other parent, the court may order a change in the parental rights and responsibilities [~~without the necessity of~~] ***upon a*** showing ***of*** harm to the child, if the court determines that such change would be in accordance with the best interests of the child.

Amend the bill by replacing section 8 with the following:

8 Parental Rights and Responsibilities; Attorneys' Fees in Contempt and Parental Alienation Cases. Amend RSA 461-A:15 to read as follows:

461-A:15 Attorneys' Fees in Contempt ***and Parental Alienation*** Cases. In any proceeding under this chapter in which a party alleges, and the court finds, that the other party has failed without just cause to obey a prior order, ***including cases of parental alienation,*** the court shall award reasonable costs and attorneys' fees to the prevailing party.

Amend the bill by replacing section 12 with the following:

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

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

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

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

PRESIDENT CARSON: And, to take a few moments here to introduce the 5 Rock Learning School from Londonderry. And this is, the students here are in grades two through five. So please join me in welcoming them to the New Hampshire Senate.

EDUCATION
HB 1571-FN-A, requiring the department of education to review statewide academic standards and curricula. Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 3-1. Senator Abbas for the committee.

Senate Education
April 14, 2026
2026-1519s
12/07

Amendment to HB 1571-FN-A

Amend RSA 193-E:2-a, II-b as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

II-b. The statewide academic standards, as defined in RSA 193-E:2-a, VI(b), shall be reviewed for possible revision every 10 years, beginning in July 2027. The department of education shall initiate a revision of these standards, as well as the current science standards, to ensure alignment with high-quality criteria that emphasize rigor, clarity, and relevance. The revised standards shall reflect a coherent progression of knowledge, skills, and competencies across grade levels. The development process shall include meaningful participation by students, parents, and educators, consistent with the intent of RSA 193-C:1, III.

2026-1519s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill requires the department of education to revise the statewide academic standards decennially beginning in July 2027.

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

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

HB 1828-FN, requiring the department of education to establish an auditing process relative to teacher preparation programs at the post-secondary educational level.
Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 4-1. Senator Prentiss for the committee.

Senate Education
April 14, 2026
2026-1509s
12/09

Amendment to HB 1828-FN

Amend RSA 189:58-a, II as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

II. The department of education shall include in existing professional educator preparation program (PEPP) reviews an auditing process requiring that institutions of higher education provide metrics that document the degree to which every applicable educator preparation program at an institution of higher education is effectively teaching the science of reading and shall publish the audit results on the department's website.

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

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

ELECTION LAW AND MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS
HB 1600-FN, relative to access to the centralized voter registration database on election days.
Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0. Senator Lang for the committee.

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

The Chair Rescinded Third Reading.

Senator Gray moved to Lay on the Table. Adopted.

ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
HB 1086-FN, creating a committee to study neonicotinoid seed treatments.
Inexpedient to Legislate, Vote 3-2. Senator Pearl for the committee.

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

HB 1766-FN, relative to cruelty to livestock.
Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 5-0. Senator Pearl for the committee.

Senate Energy and Natural Resources
April 9, 2026
2026-1432s
12/09

Amendment to HB 1766-FN

Amend RSA 644:8, IV-b(a)-(c) as inserted by section 3 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

IV-b.(a) Any person charged with cruelty to animals under RSA 644:8 paragraphs III or III-a concerning livestock may have his or her livestock confiscated by the arresting officer. No animal shall be confiscated unless a person is charged under this section, except when there is probable cause to believe the livestock's life is in imminent danger. The investigating officer for a case involving livestock as defined in RSA 427:38,

III shall be accompanied by the state veterinarian or designee, to include New Hampshire department of agriculture, markets, and food staff, or a licensed veterinarian, or other qualified staff from an animal shelter facility approved by the state veterinarian, in person or by video who shall determine whether there is probable cause to believe that the livestock should be confiscated. Livestock confiscated without a warrant where a charge has not been filed shall be returned within 10 days.

(b) The department of justice shall develop a form to be distributed to any person charged with cruelty to animals under RSA 644:8, paragraphs III or IIIa, concerning livestock. The form shall inform the person of their right to have the confiscated livestock examined by a veterinarian licensed under RSA 332B, chosen by the person charged, at the person's expense.

(c) Courts shall give cases in which livestock have been confiscated by an arresting officer priority on the court calendar, as outlined in RSA 644:8, IV(a)(3).

Amend RSA 644:8, IV-c(a) as inserted by section 3 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

IV-c.(a) Except as provided in RSA 644:8, IV(b), any appropriate law enforcement officer or municipal animal control officer may take into temporary protective custody any livestock when the owner or caretaker is not present and there is probable cause to believe that it has been or is being abused or neglected in violation of paragraphs III or III-a when there is a clear and imminent danger to the livestock's health or life and there is not sufficient time to obtain a court order. Such officer shall leave a written notice indicating the type and number of livestock taken into protective custody, the name of the officer, the time and date taken, the reason it was taken, the procedure to have the livestock returned and any other relevant information. Such notice shall be left at the location where the livestock was taken into custody. The officer shall provide for proper care and housing of any livestock taken into protective custody under this paragraph. For any livestock confiscated without a warrant where a charge has not been filed, the confiscated livestock shall be returned within 10 days. If, after 10 days, the livestock has not been returned or claimed, the officer shall petition the municipal or district court seeking either permanent custody or a one-week extension of custody or shall file charges under this section. If a week's extension is granted by the court and after a period of 14 days the livestock remains unclaimed, the title and custody of the livestock shall rest with the officer on behalf of the officer's department. The department may dispose of the livestock in any lawful and humane manner as if it were the rightful owner. If after 14 days the officer or the officer's department determines that charges should be filed under this section, the officer shall petition the court. An owner of livestock taken into protective custody shall have the right as referenced in subparagraph IV(b).

Amend RSA 644:8, IV-c(d) as inserted by section 3 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

(d) No person, other than the state veterinarian or their designee, or an employee of a government agency with jurisdiction to investigate violations of this section, and which is conducting an investigation under this section, may take part during any investigation into a complaint conducted pursuant to this section. No person who may be called upon to take custody of any livestock seized as a result of a complaint under this section may participate in the decision to seize any livestock. The act of making or forwarding a complaint does not make a person part of an investigation and does not render that person ineligible to take animals into custody.

Amend RSA 644:8, IV-c(f) as inserted by section 3 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

(f) No custodian of livestock in temporary protective custody under this section shall spay or neuter or otherwise permanently alter the confiscated livestock in his or her custody pending final disposition of the court case unless a treating veterinarian deems such procedure necessary to save the life of the livestock or the owner of the livestock agrees in writing to the procedure or treatment. If the treating veterinarian believes that livestock which has been confiscated is in a state of suffering and that the cost to alleviate the suffering will exceed the amount of allowable reimbursement as set by Agr 3504.01(c)(8), unless the owner pays for the care or surrenders the animal outright or for care by an animal shelter facility, the animal shall be euthanized.

Senator Fenton moved to Lay on the Table. Failed.

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.

JUDICIARY
HB 1457-FN, relative to natural organic reduction of human remains.
Inexpedient to Legislate, Vote 3-2. Senator Gannon for the committee.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

(The Chair recognized Senator Perkins Kwoka.)

SENATOR PERKINS KWOKA: Yes, please join me in enthusiastically welcoming the fourth grade from Mast Way School in Lee.

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

TRANSPORTATION
HB 1758, relative to school bus drivers' certificates.
Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 4-0. Senator Ricciardi for the committee.

Senate Transportation
April 14, 2026
2026-1524s
09/08

Amendment to HB 1758

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 Drivers' Licenses; School Bus Driver's Certificate. Amend RSA 263:29 to read as follows:

263:29 School Bus Driver's Certificate.

I. The owner of any school bus or provider of school transportation vehicle services transporting children to and from any private or public school, or the owner of any bus owned or used by a religious organization or a nonprofit organization used exclusively as a bus for the transportation of its members in connection with functions of the organization, shall submit to the authorities in the town or city or to the organization which pays for said transportation a list of names of the persons who are to drive the buses or school transportation vehicles used in such transportation. Such authority shall submit the list of names to the department requesting an investigation of each driver's criminal and motor vehicle record. If such driver is found to be qualified to bear the responsibility of such transportation, the division shall cause said driver to be examined under the rules adopted pursuant to RSA 265:58. No person shall drive a school bus or school transportation vehicle unless he ***or she*** has satisfactorily passed the special examination for said driving ***or has provided proof of being currently certified to drive a school bus in a qualifying jurisdiction*** and received from the division a special school bus driver's certificate for a school bus or school transportation vehicle. The director may revoke such special school bus driver's certificate for good cause shown.

II. The director of the division of motor vehicles may evaluate the school bus driver credentialing standards, training, and testing of other states in the United States to determine which states meet or exceed the requirements established by New Hampshire rules.

III. In this section:

(a) "Qualifying jurisdiction" means any state that the director of the division of motor vehicles determines meets the standard set forth in paragraph II.

(b) "State" means any state, territory, or possession of the United States and the District of Columbia.

2026-1524s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill provides an alternative path to obtaining a school bus driver's certificate through being currently certified as a school bus driver in a jurisdiction that the director of the division of motor vehicles determines meets or exceeds the requirements established by New Hampshire rules.

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.

WAYS AND MEANS
HB 629-FN, raising the cost of a boat decal fee and allocating the funds collected by such fees to the dam maintenance fund.
Inexpedient to Legislate, Vote 3-1. Senator Sullivan for the committee.

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

HB 1477-FN, relative to the permitting and regulation of anchored seasonal floating platforms on public waters.
Inexpedient to Legislate, Vote 3-1. Senator Sullivan for the committee.

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

HB 1602-FN, creating a safe battery recycling stewardship program.
Inexpedient to Legislate, Vote 3-0. Senator Murphy for the committee.

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

Senator Rosenwald moved to Refer to Interim Study.

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

CONSENT CALENDAR REPORTS REMOVED

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

CHILDREN AND FAMILY LAW
HB 1643, relative to the report of a guardian ad litem.
Ought to Pass, Vote 2-1. Senator Sullivan for the committee.

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

EDUCATION FINANCE
HB 564, relative to the adoption of school administrative unit budgets.
Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 4-0. Senator Ward for the committee.

Senate Education Finance
April 13, 2026
2026-1468s
07/05

Amendment to HB 564

Amend the bill by inserting after section 4 the following and renumbering the original sections 5-7 to read as 6-8, respectively:

5 New Section; School Administrative Units; Unassigned Funds. Amend RSA 194-C by inserting after section 9-b the following new section:

194-C:9-c Unassigned Funds. At the end of the fiscal year, any unassigned general fund balance shall be apportioned and returned to the constituent school districts. The apportionment shall be on the same basis used by the school administrative unit and certified to the constituent districts for the purpose of raising the funds at the preceding annual district meetings.

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.

HB 1121, defining the cost of an adequate education.
Interim Study, Vote 4-0. Senator Murphy for the committee.

Senator Murphy moved to Lay on the Table. Adopted.

JUDICIARY
HB 1348, relative to possession of human remains for law enforcement training purposes.
Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0. Senator Reardon for the committee.

Senator Gannon offered a Floor Amendment.

Sen. Gannon, Dist 23
April 17, 2026
2026-1556s
09/05

Floor Amendment to HB 1348

Amend RSA 291-B:3 and 291-B:4 as inserted by section 2 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

291-B:3 Conduct During Possession of Human Remains; Return.

I. Upon completion of training, all remaining portions of the human remains shall be returned to either:

(a) The institution of higher education located in New Hampshire that assisted in the preparation of the training aids; or

(b) A company licensed to conduct human medical waste disposal in New Hampshire. Such companies shall be authorized by the New Hampshire department of environmental services to collect, transport, and dispose of regulated medical waste in compliance with all applicable state and federal regulations.

II. The funeral home or mortuary shall ensure the proper and lawful disposition of the remains in accordance with RSA 290 and other applicable laws.

III. Institutions of higher education located in New Hampshire may assist in the preparation of training aids derived from human remains for law enforcement purposes, provided that:

(a) The institution employs or contracts with a properly trained and credentialed medical professional, including a doctor of philosophy (Ph.D.) in a relevant anatomical or forensic science field, a doctor of osteopathic medicine (D.O.), or a doctor of medicine (M.D.), who shall oversee the preparation process.

(b) The preparation of the training aid occurs on-site at a licensed funeral home or mortuary, with the consent of the funeral director and in accordance with all applicable health and safety regulations.

(c) The institution maintains a written agreement with the law enforcement agency requesting the training aid, outlining the scope of work, handling procedures, and chain of custody for the remains.

(d) All activities are conducted in compliance with the consent requirements outlined in RSA 291-B:2, I and II.

291-B:4 Agency Policy Requirements. Any law enforcement agency in New Hampshire that conducts training involving the possession or use of human remains for cadaver canine or related law enforcement purposes shall develop and maintain a written policy governing such activities. This policy shall be submitted to and kept on file with the New Hampshire police standards and training council. The policy shall include, at a minimum:

I. A detailed acquisition plan outlining the lawful and ethical process for obtaining human remains, including documentation of consent as required under RSA 291-B:2.

II. A handling, storage, and documentation plan that ensures the secure, respectful, and traceable management of human remains throughout the training process.

III. A destruction or final disposition plan that complies with RSA 291-B:3 and applicable state and federal regulations, including procedures for returning remains to an authorized institution or licensed medical waste disposal provider.

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

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

HB 1633-FN, expanding the information provided to survivors of sexual assault regarding their existing rights. Interim Study, Vote 4-0. Senator Altschiller for the committee.

Senator Gannon moved to Indefinitely Postpone.

The question is on the adoption of the motion to Indefinitely Postpone. Adopted.

LIST OF RULE 6-25'S FOR THE DAY

Senator Abbas: HB 1633-FN

LIST OF IN FAVOR/OPPOSITION FORMS FOR THE DAY

Senator Altschiller: HB 564: In opposition to the motion of Ought to Pass with Amendment.
Senator Altschiller: HB 1086-FN: In opposition to the motion of Inexpedient to Legislate.
Senator Altschiller: HB 1323-FN: In opposition to the motion of Ought to Pass with Amendment.
Senator Altschiller: HB 1571-FN: In opposition to the motion of Ought to Pass with Amendment.
Senator Altschiller: HB 1600-FN: In opposition to the motion of Ought to Pass.
Senator Altschiller: HB 1766-FN: In opposition to the Committee Amendment.
Senator Altschiller: HB 1766-FN: In opposition to the motion of Ought to Pass with Amendment.
Senator Birdsell: HB 1348: In opposition to the motion of Ought to Pass with Amendment.
Senator Fenton: HB 1766-FN: In opposition to the motion of Ought to Pass with Amendment.
Senator Prentiss: HB 1766-FN: In opposition to the motion of Ought to Pass with Amendment.
Senator Ricciardi: HB 1766-FN: In opposition to the motion of Ought to Pass with Amendment.
Senator Rochefort: HB 1086-FN: In opposition to the motion of Inexpedient to Legislate.
Senator Sullivan: HB 1348: In opposition to the motion of Ought to Pass with Amendment.

MOTION TO ADJOURN FROM EARLY SESSION

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

Adopted. Adjournment from the Early Session.

LATE SESSION
ANNOUNCEMENTS

(The Chair recognized Senator Prentiss.)

SENATOR PRENTISS: Thank you, Madam President and colleagues. 29 years ago today at 4:09 a.m., I took on the best job that I've ever had. I became a mother to my daughter, Phoebe Grace, born and raised in the city of Lebanon, educated in Lebanon Public Schools, a graduate of my alma mater, Saint Michael's College. She now works for a New Hampshire company, Red River. And although she's currently living in Florida, we hope someday that she'll come back to the great state of New Hampshire. So happy birthday, Phoebe Grace.

PRESIDENT CARSON: Thank you, Senator. The Senate extends our best wishes on her birthday today.

(The Chair recognized Senator Avard.)

SENATOR AVARD: Thank you, happy birthday. I just want to wish happy birthday to my colleague sitting next to me. If you would all join me.

Happy birthday to you. Happy birthday to you. Happy birthday, dear Cindy. Happy birthday to you.

PRESIDENT CATSON: I would also announce that Senator Rosenwald and Senator Prentiss's daughter Phoebe share a birthday with our own John, with the clerk's staff, John Shortis. Today is his birthday.

(The Chair recognized Senator Birdsell.)

SENATOR BIRDSELL: You know, I understand this is in light of some of the conversations we've had this week, but I understand there have been criticisms of a hospital in my district. I just want to let you know what Parkland means to me.

My son, Rob, got admitted into Parkland for an appendix attack. It was close to bursting, and they saved his life. My mentor, Representative John Sidensky and very good friend, his appendix did burst and he was admitted into Parkland in the emergency room and they saved his life.

My husband was treated for cancer at Parkland and they saved his life. So when I will defend Parkland as long as I have a breath in me and every ounce of energy I have. Thank you, Madam President.

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 564, relative to the adoption of school administrative unit budgets.
HB 656, relative to the authority of local school districts to accept federal grants.
HB 1003, prohibiting the Grafton county attorney from engaging in the private practice of law.
HB 1051, modifying the procedures and requirements for school bus driver criminal history records checks and expanding the personnel subject to such checks.
HB 1072, relative to employer notice of department of labor investigations.
HB 1073, clarifying when the secretary of state shall complete the registry of New Hampshire decentralized autonomous organizations.
HB 1091, relative to unauthorized camping on private property.
HB 1093, relative to public charter schools and governmental land use exemptions.
HB 1127, relative to the uniform voidable transactions act.
HB 1130-FN, establishing a committee to study the procedure for judicial performance evaluations.
HB 1192, exempting certain household pharmaceutical wastes from the definition of hazardous waste.
HB 1197-FN, making technical corrections to certain insurance laws.
HB 1256, removing the authority of the state librarian to award scholarships to students attending graduate library schools.
HB 1298, relative to the disposal of electronic ballot counting device external memory devices.
HB 1306, relative to the counting of absentee ballots.
HB 1308-FN, relative to increasing the penalty for passing a stopped school bus.
HB 1348, relative to possession of human remains for law enforcement training purposes.
HB 1363, relative to employee candidate background checks.
HB 1425-FN, relative to the development of an online wetlands permit processing system.
HB 1495, allowing a reimbursement anticipation note to be used as collateral in certain circumstances.
HB 1529, repealing the reading recovery training program.
HB 1537-LOCAL, relative to the use of high resolution cameras to identify school bus stop light violators.
HB 1549, establishing that titles, bills of sale, and identification documents are required only at initial registration or transfer of ownership.
HB 1575, relative to the determination of the default budget by the budget committee.
HB 1620, requiring the removal of residential heating oil underground after 12 consecutive months of non-use except in certain circumstances.
HB 1643, relative to the report of a guardian ad litem.
HB 1726-FN, relative to the sale of surplus state-owned land and establishing a commission to study the sale of state-owned property.
HB 1758, relative to school bus drivers' certificates.
HB 1766-FN, relative to cruelty to livestock.
HB 1807-FN, relative to mandatory reports to voters.
HB 1827-FN-A, requiring the department of education to conduct a confidential criminal history record check on all prospective educational personnel.

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.