

**HB 2-FN-A-LOCAL - AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE**

10Apr2025... 1488h  
10Apr2025... 1529h  
10Apr2025... 1559h  
10Apr2025... 1526h  
10Apr2025... 1560h  
10Apr2025... 1499h  
10Apr2025... 1523h  
10Apr2025... 1569h  
10Apr2025... 1566h  
10Apr2025... 1513h  
06/05/2025 2637s  
06/05/2025 2670s  
06/05/2025 2697s  
06/05/2025 2705s

2025 SESSION

25-1170  
08/05

HOUSE BILL

***2-FN-A-LOCAL***

AN ACT relative to state fees, funds, revenues, and expenditures.

SPONSORS: Rep. Weyler, Rock. 14; Rep. D. McGuire, Merr. 14; Rep. Erf, Hills. 28; Rep. Edwards, Rock. 31

COMMITTEE: Finance

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AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill:

1. Adds new definitions to the endangered species conservation act.
2. Requires the department of environmental services to adopt rules and review procedures such that actions of state agencies do not jeopardize the existence or habitats of species protected under the endangered species conservation act.
3. Establishes an environmental scientist position within the department of environmental services to ensure that state agencies do not jeopardize the existence or habitats of species protected under the endangered species conservation act.
4. Requires that rules established by the executive director of the fish and game department establish an administrative fee that the executive director may collect from payments made to the threatened and endangered species compensatory mitigation fund.
5. Requires the department of environmental services to adopt rules regarding when mitigation payments to the threatened and endangered species compensatory mitigation fund are required.
6. Modifies the definition of “environmental review” as it relates to native plant protection.

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7. Requires the department of environmental services to build and maintain a database for providing environmental reviews and cataloging protected species for the purpose of assisting state agencies and departments that require environmental reviews.
8. Requires the department of environmental services to adopt rules to establish a process for requesting a screening and environmental review process.
9. Prevents the commissioner of the department of natural and cultural resources from charging a fee for screening department records for instances of protected species or environmental reviews.
10. Prevents the commissioner of the department of natural and cultural resources from using money collected under the natural heritage bureau fund to conduct environmental reviews.
11. Defines "boathouse" and "structural height" in the context of fill and dredge in wetlands statutes.
12. Raises the fees associated with shoreline terrain alteration applications and raising fees annually to coincide with inflation.
13. Prevents the department of environmental services from issuing 40-day extension periods on excavation or dredging permit applications.
14. Establishes fees for applications for terrain alteration and requires the department of environmental services to adopt rules to establish a permit by notification for certain projects with plans encompassing an area less than 150,000 square feet.
15. Establishes structural requirements for existing and new boathouses located over public waters and penalties for violation thereof.
16. Defines "eligible student" for the purposes of enrollment in the education freedom account program and adds definitions for "priority guidelines" and "enrollment cap."
17. Requires scholarship organizations to accept and approve education freedom account applications on a rolling basis and sets an enrollment cap, excepting out priority guideline students from the cap.
18. Establishes an elderly, disabled, blind, and deaf exemption reimbursement fund.
19. Authorizes the creation of a centralized voluntary statewide self-exclusion database for all forms of legal gambling in New Hampshire.
20. Changes the name of the state lottery commission to the state lottery and gaming commission.
21. Allows the operation of video lottery terminals and high-stakes tournaments.
22. Authorizes the substance abuse enforcement program to make grants available for law enforcement agencies in Coos, Grafton, Carroll, and Sullivan counties for the costs for hiring additional officers to carry out law enforcement activities aimed at preventing or reducing opioid-related deaths and harms.
23. Repeals the requirement that the board of tax and land appeals have at least one review appraiser on staff.

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24. Establishes the division of planning and community development in the department of business and economic affairs.
25. Updates references to the state workforce innovation fund administered by the department of business and economic affairs and the statute authorizing state workforce innovation grants for job training through the department of economic security.
26. Extends the time period for which members of the state commission on aging may serve; directs the commission on aging to establish an advisory council on the system of care for healthy aging in New Hampshire; and establishes the New Hampshire commission on aging fund and makes an appropriation to the fund.
27. Provides budget transfer authority to the department of corrections.
28. Makes an appropriation to the department of health and human services from the opioid abatement trust fund for the purpose of providing year-round emergency shelter services to individuals with an opioid use disorder.
29. Extends the prospective repeals for exemption from certain transfer procedures and certain eligibility criteria for mental health services.
30. Suspends graduate medical eligibility payments for the biennium.
31. Directs the department of health and human services to submit a Medicaid state plan amendment to suspend catastrophic aid payments to hospitals for the biennium.
32. Categorizes certain funding appropriated to the department of health and human services as restricted revenue and authorizes the department to accept and expend federal funds for that purpose.
33. Appropriates funds to the department of health and human services for the purpose of funding the WIC farmers' market nutrition program.
34. Permits the department of health and human services to accept gifts for the benefit of the department.
35. Establishes certain unclassified positions within the department of health and human services.
36. Makes an appropriation to the department of health and human services for congregate housing.
37. Revises the appointment procedure for certain unclassified positions in the department of health and human services and repeals a mental health medical supervisor position.
38. Revises criteria for pharmacists filling name brand and generic drug prescriptions under the Medicaid program.
39. Allows the department of health and human services' chief medical officer to place standing orders for certain Medicaid covered over-the-counter (non-legend) medications, medical supplies, and laboratory tests.
40. Limits the developmental services pilot program for young adults to current enrollees and makes an appropriation therefor.
41. Extends the effective date for expanded access to court-appointed counsel for children in dependency proceedings.

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42. Directs the department of health and human services to file an amendment to the state Medicaid plan regarding prescription drug copayments.
43. Directs the department of health and human services to file no more than one Medicaid rate filing with the CMS in each fiscal year of the biennium.
44. Directs the department of health and human services to file a Medicaid waiver and state plan amendment to institute premiums based on income for individuals participating in the granite advantage health care program.
45. Directs the department of health and human services to file a Medicaid waiver and state plan amendment to institute premiums based on income for households with children participating in the Medicaid program.
46. Requires the department of health and human services to submit a report regarding its success in collecting certain premiums.
47. Directs the department of health and human services to restore income verification for Medicaid redetermination to pre-public health emergency income verification standards.
48. Authorizes an additional appropriation to department of health and human services if such funds are required to prevent a waitlist for child care scholarships.
49. Amends the title of certain positions in the department of information technology.
50. Revises the organizational structure of the bureaus within the department of justice, division of legal counsel.
51. Provides for payment of special education costs associated with out of home placements, grants from the public school infrastructure fund, and department of education operating costs from the education trust fund.
52. Clarifies the means of calculating average daily membership in attendance for the Virtual Learning Academy Charter School.
53. Authorizes the state board of education to modify determinations of education adequacy grant amounts.
54. Changes the process through which counsel for indigent defendants may apply for reimbursement for services necessary to an adequate defense.
55. Establishes the wage claim settlement fund.
56. Changes the number of members on the workers' compensation appeals board and makes changes in the proceedings.
57. Implements a fee for unit owners to obtain a certificate of successful inspection of an elevator or accessibility lift.
58. Provides that a civil penalty of greater than \$2,500 for violations of certain unfair labor practices may be levied only if specifically authorized by law and allows the imposition of civil penalties for violations of workers compensation laws and youth labor laws.
59. Provides that the funds in accounting unit 1051 shall not lapse until June 30, 2027.

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60. Lapses certain unspent funds appropriated to the fire safety administration to the fire standards and training and emergency medical services fund.
61. Allows the director of the division of motor vehicles to authorize certain actions regarding a fictitious, facsimile or simulated license to drive a motor vehicle.
62. Allows the department of safety to disseminate driver history records to federal entities or their authorized agents in certain circumstances.
63. Designates the hazardous materials incident response coordinator as group II retirement-eligible during full-time service.
64. Clarifies the division of fire standards and training and emergency medical services policy regarding the use of properly equipped vehicles to transport sick or injured individuals; removes a reference to licensing of wheelchair vans and emergency medical dispatchers by the division; and repeals a requirement that the division establish an emergency communications network as such responsibility is handled by other state entities.
65. Makes membership in the retirement system optional for the department of safety's chief of policy and planning.
66. Repeals the Benjamin Thompson trust fund.
67. Prevents the lapse of two revolving fund class lines in the operating budget.
68. Suspends revenue sharing with cities and towns under RSA 31-A.
69. Repeals certain wastewater state aid grants.
70. Further specifies information required for well monitoring reports.
71. Eliminates certain fees for the construction of sewerage systems.
72. Repeals the aquatic invasive species decal.
73. Allows the department of environmental services to accept an easement from the abutting property owners of all rights necessary for access, and to store equipment during repair, reconstruction, maintaining, and operation of Pequawket Dam, Horn Pond Dam, and Souhegan Site #35 for the consideration of \$1.
74. Expands the type of educational degree a person may have to serve as a division director for the department of environmental services.
75. Varies the types of experience in public health members of the air resources council may have.
76. Reconfigures some criteria to serve on the waste management council.
77. Reconfigures some criteria to serve on the water council and the wetlands council.
78. Increases dam registration fees and sewage disposal fees.
79. Allows all such moneys in excess of \$100,000 made available, after designation by the governor and council, to be expended by the proper persons or agencies in the state government only with the prior approval of the joint legislative fiscal committee.

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80. In certain circumstances, allows every department as defined in RSA 9:1 to transfer funds within and among all accounting units within said department, with the approval of the commissioner of the department of administrative service.

81. Allows the governor to accept public funds, gifts, grants, donations or any other source of funds, for the care, maintenance, repair of, and additions to, the bridges house.

82. Changes the duties of the capital project overview committee to capital projects instead of capital budget projects.

83. Provides for the continual and non-lapsing surplus distribution section administrative assessments fund.

84. Allows state agencies to use funds in appropriate budget classes to pay any penalties, fines, interest or other costs imposed on the state of New Hampshire by the NH retirement system or by the IRS after exhausting any relevant appeal process.

85. Increases the maximum ticket price for lottery drawings.

86. Delineates the criteria for distribution and transfers of certain tax revenues and other fund proceeds.

87. Lapses funds for continued operation of the Cannon Mountain tramway.

88. Adds an additional one percent to the annual increase on the cap on county billings for each year of the biennium ending June 30, 2027.

89. Requires the state comptroller to notify the fiscal committee and the governor if there is a general fund operating budget deficit at the close of fiscal year 2025 and to request approval to transfer funds from the revenue stabilization reserve account.

90. Establishes a renewable energy fund and sets standards governing its use.

91. Transfers authority for the appointment of certain inspectors from the office of professional licensure and certification to the department of safety.

92. Makes various changes regarding the regulation of barbering, cosmetology, esthetics, and related shops and schools.

93. Increases fees for assorted pesticide product applications, registrations, licenses, and permits.

94. Increases fees for assorted agricultural-services product applications, registrations, licenses, and permits.

95. Increasing fees relative to certain agricultural product permits, goods, and licenses.

96. Changes the weights and measures device license fees and requires certain registered service agencies to pay a \$250 registration fee.

97. Increases certain registration and construction/reconstruction fees for dams.

98. Increases the import fee for automotive oil.

99. Raises fees for the hazardous waste generator self-certification program.

100. Increases fees for certain hazardous waste generators.

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101. Creates a solid waste disposal surcharge at landfills, incinerators, and waste-to-energy facilities and creates civil penalties for violations of solid waste management fund statutes.

102. Increases the fee for the application for initial or renewal of a hazardous waste coordinators certification.

103. Increases the boat decal fee.

104. Raises the per diem rate for the public employee labor relations board.

105. Eliminates mandatory surcharges for civil case filings and allows the supreme court to establish rules regarding equitable fee schedules for imposed fines and service charges on credit card payments.

106. Adds a requirement that until the Sununu Youth Services Center is relinquished, the department of administrative services shall request an appropriation, subject to the approval from the fiscal committee and the governor and executive council, funds necessary to maintain the property.

107. Allows general or federal discretionary funds to be used to support activities and infrastructure at a facility that replaces the Sununu Youth Services Center.

108. Makes appropriations to the youth development center settlement fund. Sets aside \$10 million pursuant to the state's settlement agreement with plaintiff Michael Gilpatrick in Michael Gilpatrick v. N.H. D.H.H.S, et al.

109. Creates tax credits for donations made to the granite patron of the arts fund.

110. Replaces the state art fund with the granite patron of the arts fund.

111. Establishes limitations on the percentages of grant-in-aid funds administered by the department of natural and cultural resources, division of parks and recreation, bureau of trails, and the rivers council for the development and maintenance of OHRV (off-highway recreational vehicle) trails on private, municipal, state, or federal lands.

112. Includes operations and initiatives of the Hampton Beach commission as permissible expenses to be paid from the Hampton Beach master plan fund.

113. Authorizes the state treasurer to appoint assistant state treasurers.

114. Transfers any uncommitted moneys from the governor's scholarship fund to the general fund.

115. Requires the child advocate to provide non-partisan information; clarifies procedures for the child advocate's nomination, interim replacement, and out-of-state travel expenses; and authorizes additional funding for staffing costs with the approval of the fiscal committee.

116. Allows any magistrate appointed before January 31, 2025, to continue to exercise the duties of a magistrate until the end of their term of employment, but no later than January 1, 2030, provided that such magistrate shall not conduct bail hearings or make bail determinations.

117. Creates the office of state and public sector labor relations.

118. Repeals the repeal of certain provisions related to the right-to-know ombudsman and administratively attaches the ombudsman to the office of state and public sector labor relations.

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119. Creates the "partners in housing" program, an initiative under the housing champions fund to assist municipalities, counties, and developers in building modestly priced housing on municipally or county-owned land that is suitable for development.
120. Abolishes the repayment requirement and recoupment procedures for indigent criminal defendants who are appointed counsel.
121. Changes the calculation of costs of an opportunity for an adequate education, extraordinary need grants, and determination of education grants.
122. Establishes fiscal capacity disparity aid grants.
123. Requires schools to use the state's assessment portal when implementing the competency assessment of United States government and civics.
124. Lapses funding appropriated to computer science professional development.
125. Amends various motor vehicle fees.
126. Increases the vanity plate service and renewal fees to \$60.
127. Require nonresident drivers who establish residency in New Hampshire to notify the department of safety if they then cease to become residents within 60 days, or if their out of state driver's license expires or is relinquished.
128. Specifies when the division of motor vehicles shall send certain violation notices.
129. Allows the department of state to identify voter records with out-of-state driver's license information where the record cannot be matched to an in-state driver's license.
130. Amends the standards governing vehicle inspections including exemption certain issues from triggering failed inspections.
131. Requires the department of environmental services to submit amendments to the state implementation plan that reduces the scope of the emissions testing program by January 1, 2026
132. Requiring public-private transportation partnership agreements utilizing state or federal funds to be approved in the 10-year transportation plan and directing that state revenue and proceeds obtained from any partnership be credited to the department of transportation.
133. Allows the fish and game department to conduct raffles, increases the fisheries habitat fee, and directs certain moneys into the fish and game fund.
134. Clarifies group II membership for certain positions with the division of fire safety.
135. Removes the requirement to get approval from the fiscal committee of the general court for public school infrastructure grants.
136. Allows the state board of education to use office of legislative budget assistant audits to satisfy statutory audit and reporting requirements.
137. Removes the requirement that catastrophic special education funds be prorated among the school districts entitled to such aid and requires that disbursements for special education to a school district shall be at least 80 percent of the district's entitlement in the fiscal year.
138. Amends the appropriation regarding special education aid.

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139. Allocates certain monies from assessments collected under the excellence in higher education endowment trust fund to the general fund.

140. Directs the department of health and human services not to use general funds to enroll any new participants into the state loan repayment program or the biennium ending June 30, 2027.

141. Requires the department of health and human services to include references to the patients' bill of rights in contracts and contract addenda.

142. Increases the cap on county reimbursement for nursing home services for fiscal years 2026 and 2027; and makes additional payments to counties as reimbursement for overpayment of certain nursing home costs in fiscal years 2020 and 2021.

143. Suspends for the biennium the reimbursements to the foster grandparent program through the senior volunteer grant program.

144. Renames the governor's commission on alcohol and drug abuse, prevention, treatment, and recovery to the governor's commission on addiction, treatment, and prevention.

145. Renames the alcohol abuse prevention and treatment fund to the addiction, treatment, and prevention fund.

146. Expands the governor's commission on addiction, treatment, and prevention's purview to include problem gambling prevention.

147. Defines "harm reduction" with respect to addiction, treatment, and prevention.

148. Repeals the council for responsible gambling.

149. Requires the department of health and human services to accelerate the implementation of home dialysis.

150. Removes the reallocation of unused funds education freedom account funds to help fund other education freedom accounts.

151. Requires with the availability of sufficient federal funding, the department of health and human services to establish and administer statewide access points for delivery of substance use services and support.

152. Requires the commissioner of the department of health and human services to submit a report to the general court that contains a clinical and financial research study concerning adult dental benefits.

153. Provides for deposit of revenue from premiums received from granite advantage health care program enrollees in the granite advantage health care trust fund.

154. Directs the department of health and human services to rename the office of health equity as the office of health access and directs the office to comply with the hiring freeze in Executive Order 2025-02 for the biennium ending June 30, 2027.

155. Provides for the termination of the Medicaid to schools program under certain circumstances.

156. Extends a prior appropriation to the department of health and human services for administration of a substance use disorder recovery initiative by Granite United Way.

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157. Mandates that the department of health and human services seek all available Title IV-E, Administration for Children and Families funds to maximize benefits for children in its care.
158. Directs the department of health and human services to serve every person with equal dignity and respect and to not contract with or pay vendors who fail to serve every person with equal dignity and respect.
159. Repeals the prescription drug affordability board.
160. Removes the department of health and human services' executive director as a role on the prescription drug affordability board.
161. Directs the department of health and human services to use TANF funds to cover any shortfall in funding for employment-related child care services in order to prevent a waitlist.
162. Directs the department of health and human services to seek to implement an outpatient procedure incentive program under Medicaid managed care, to encourage Medicaid beneficiaries to choose to receive outpatient procedures, including ambulatory surgical care, from the lower cost provider when clinically appropriate.
163. Requires the sale of the Tirrell House property in Manchester, New Hampshire.
164. Requires the sale of the Anna Philbrook Center in Concord, NH.
165. Requires the subdivision and sale of portions of the Hampstead Hospital property in Hampstead, New Hampshire, excluding those portions used as the replacement facility for the Sununu Youth Services Center and Hampstead Hospital and Residential Treatment Facility, and those used for any state operations.
166. Delays the June 2027 capitation payments to Medicaid managed care organizations until fiscal year 2028 and directs the department of health and human services to use the resulting savings to reduce department appropriations by a specified amount for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027.
167. Requires the governor to increase state general fund revenues or decrease state general fund appropriations through the biennium ending June 30, 2027.
168. Makes the administrator of the recreational and socialization services fund and persons or entities with historic horse racing operations licenses charitable organizations.
169. Prohibits all public entities from implementing, promoting, or otherwise engaging in any diversity, equity, and inclusion DEI-related initiatives, programs, training, or policies; requires each agency to report such contracts to the department of administrative services, which shall compile a consolidated report for submission to the governor, speaker of the house of representatives, and senate president; and provides for the amendment (i.e., removing DEI-related provisions) of non-compliant contracts.
170. Prohibits all public schools from implementing, promoting, or otherwise engaging in any DEI-related initiatives, programs, training, or policies and provides processes for the review and termination or amendment of noncompliant contracts and provides for funding halts in the event of a violation.
171. Creates the position of chief privacy officer within the department of information technology.
172. Applies the proceeds of the sale of the former Laconia state school campus property to any subsequent purchase of land, building, or other improvements at 1 Granite Place Concord.

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173. Makes the payment and procurement card fund a lapsing fund when the balance reaches a specified amount, and makes a one-time transfer from the payment and procurement card fund to the general fund.

174. Raises various filing fees for the board of tax and land appeals and allows certain matters before the board of tax and land appeals to be removed to superior court.

175. Allows any state agency subject to a state general fund appropriation reductions to request, with prior approval of the fiscal committee of the general court, that the governor and council authorize additional funding.

176. Removes the reference to mentally incapacitated for purposes of disability retirement benefits for group II.

177. Designates Coos County as a distressed place-based economy and requires commissioners of state agencies to consult with county commissioners before making regulatory decisions that would affect Coos County.

178. Delays reduction-in-force notices for certain executive branch employees, establishes funding reserves for final payments, and ensures unused funds revert to the state's revenue stabilization reserve.

179. Transfers oversight of the housing appeals board to the board of tax and land appeals, modifies board membership, lowers the number of members from 3 to 2, and introduces a procedure for tie votes where a temporary third member is selected from the board of tax and land appeals.

180. Modifies the terms of the members of the board of tax and land appeals and allows for the board to use a member of the housing appeals board in certain circumstances.

181. Increases the fees and modifies to whom the fees are owed for certain work performed by the office of the chief medical examiner.

182. Requires large customer-generators participating in net energy metering to consume at least 33 percent of their own generation.

183. Increases the fee that must be forwarded to the office of the chief medical examiner along with a copy of the cremation certificate.

184. Appropriates money into the New Hampshire-Ireland trade council fund.

185. Repeals the use of criminal records in employment decisions.

186. Provides for payment of court-appointed attorneys in involuntary emergency admission hearings from indigent defense funds under RSA 604-A.

187. Increases the maximum total compensation paid to all claimants for first responder's critical injury benefits from \$500,000 to \$750,000 per biennium.

188. Restricts foreign principals from countries of concern, or their agents, from acquiring ownership, controlling, or occupancy interests in real property within 10 miles of a protected facility.

189. Establishes an affidavit filing requirement to confirm eligibility for acquiring such property interests and introduces criminal penalties and a forfeiture procedure for violations.

190. Provides that funded probation and parole officer positions that become vacant due to attrition shall remain vacant for the biennium ending June 30, 2027.

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191. Establishing a committee to study the creation of the New Hampshire office of film and creative media.
192. Extends a prior appropriation to the housing champion designation and grant program fund.
193. Directs the sale and lease of the Sununu youth services property.
194. Raises funds for the division of travel and tourism through from the meals and rooms tax.
195. Establishes a tax amnesty program.
196. Delays the veterans treatment court and judicial training coordinator enactment dates.
197. Updates language governing the location of courthouses to reflect where courthouses have been built.
198. Establishes a study committee to review study, monitor, and support implementation of corrective measures identified in the 2025 legislative budget assistant audit.
199. Requires that the director of the state commission for human rights be a licensed state attorney.
200. Requires the state commission for human rights to publish an annual report to the governor and state legislature and requires the state commission for human rights to keep its rules current.
201. Requires the department of environmental services to establish an application and approval process to determine the prorated compensation amount for each public water system with PFAS detections based upon certain factors.
202. Expands the type of health plan loss information available to certain large employers.
203. Allows the New Hampshire drinking water and groundwater advisory commission to issue grants, loans, or reimbursements to water systems for impacts related to PFAS contamination.
204. Makes an appropriation to the department of environmental services from the drinking water and groundwater trust fund for the purpose of funding regional drinking water infrastructure as part of Phase 2B of the southern New Hampshire regional water project.
205. Appropriates funds to the department of environmental services for the purpose of making payments to communities for projects that have previously been awarded state aid grant funding for eligible and completed wastewater infrastructure projects.
206. Appropriates money to the department of environmental services to address loan costs associated with upgrades in the Pillsbury Lake Village District.
207. Assigns the director of emergency services and communications to oversee the state radio communications system and specifies the funding source for maintenance of the system.
208. Transfers administration of the International Fuel Tax Plan (IFTA) from the department of safety, division of administration to the division of motor vehicles.

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209. Provides that the department of safety shall receive funds from the department of safety's inventory fund for the purpose of manufacturing number plates and transfers the responsibility of number plate manufacturing from the state prison to the department of safety.

210. Directs the division of motor vehicles to create mobile drivers' licenses and non-driver identification cards, as well as an electronic management system to manage all aspects of their utilization.

211. Appropriates funds to the department of safety for funding overtime patrols and related training activities, purchasing equipment in support of the northern border alliance program by state police, and disbursing grants to other state, county, and local law enforcement agencies.

212. Proclaims that the legislature is the only branch of state government able to make final determinations over the state's educational policies.

213. Administratively attaches the land conservation investment program to the fish and game department.

214. Authorizes the department of transportation to remove unauthorized vehicles from park-and-ride lots and recover the costs for doing so.

215. Adds protections for state-owned railroad corridors.

216. Provides that upon passage of the law creating an expedited driveway permitting process, the permit fees shall be credited to the highway fund.

217. Requires the state board of education to promote education programs for students to earn a high school diploma and charge tuition to student resident districts when resident districts receive state adequacy funds.

218. Appropriates funds to the department of education to be distributed for certain approved education programs.

219. Prevents the department of education from collecting or maintaining data on student workforces and removes a prohibition on data related to out-of-state colleges.

220. Requires the department of education and the department of revenue administration to develop and maintain school accounting standards for financial reporting purposes.

221. Modifies the duties of the deputy commissioner of the department of education.

222. Appropriates money to the department of education to provide a learning platform that provides instructional materials across content areas to ensure students have access to evidence-based and content-rich learning outcomes.

223. Expands permitted keno hours of operation.

224. Gives municipalities a local option to vote to prohibit the operation of games of chance within their boundaries.

225. Automatically permits Keno unless a municipality votes to prohibit it, giving local governments the option to ban games of chance within their boundaries.

226. Makes changes to charitable gaming licensing fees and reporting requirements.

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227. Allows advanced deposit wagering on pari-mutuel betting on horse racing and authorizes the lottery commission to adopt rules governing the license and regulation of such wagers.

228. Expands the law enforcement, firefighter, and EMT recruitment and retention program in the community college system to include public safety communicators and dispatchers.

229. Requires health insurance coverage for biomarker testing and requires the state Medicaid plan to include coverage for biomarker testing.

230. Establishes the adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) prevention and treatment program as an ongoing program rather than as a pilot within the department of health and human services and makes an appropriation therefor.

231. Directs the department of health and human services to resubmit the 1115 demonstration waiver to CMS regarding community engagement and work requirements under the state Medicaid program and directs the department to provide an annual report to the legislature regarding the status of implementation.

232. Appropriates money to the department of health and human services to establish 2 new positions to support public assistance applications.

233. Directs the department of health and human services to establish an administrative day rate and swing bed rate under the state Medicaid plan for certain hospital stays for parents of newborns.

234. Establishes the New Hampshire children's behavioral health association.

235. Makes an appropriation to the department of health and human services for intermediate care for children with disabilities.

236. Authorizes the commandant of the New Hampshire veterans' home to transfer funds between and among accounting units and expenditure classes within the home and to create accounting units and expenditure classes.

237. Provides maternal depression screening for new mothers; makes an appropriation to the department of health and human services for a perinatal psychiatric provider consult line in FY 2028 and to the department of safety for rural maternal health EMS services; directs the department of health and human services to study barriers to independent birth centers; requires insurance coverage for perinatal home visiting services; expands employee protection to attend medical appointments for postpartum care and an infants medical appointments; and directs the department of health and human services to develop a plan for a perinatal peer support certification program.

238. Directs the renewal of the 1915(i) Medicaid state plan amendment for supportive housing services.

239. Makes an appropriation to the department of health and human services to provide residential services for individuals with disabilities and acquired brain disorders.

240. Establishes a committee to study long-term managed care and other relevant considerations related to long-term managed care.

241. Appropriates funds to the department of health and human services for the purpose of hiring a contractor to provide staffing support to assist with Medicaid long-term care eligibility, and requires a report on the status of the backlog of determinations.

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242. Requires health insurance policies to provide coverage for adult prosthetics, including activity-specific prosthetic devices.

243. Directs the department of health and human services to amend its contract with the Bi-State Primary Care Association's Recruitment Center.

244. Adjusts the personal needs allowance for nursing home residents to reflect social security increases on an annual basis rather than the current 5-year adjustment.

245. Makes an appropriation to the department of health and human services to fund certain leave accrual and retention payments for temporary classified staff positions at the Hampstead hospital and residential treatment facility.

246. Establishes the Hampstead hospital and residential treatment facility capital investment fund and provides that all revenue collected by the department of health and human services from the operations transfer and asset purchase agreements approved by the governor and council on December 18, 2024 be deposited in the fund.

247. Makes an appropriation to the department of health and human services to fund a tier-one call center.

248. Requires the commissioner of the department of health and human services to adopt administrative rules regarding payments for child care providers, the child care scholarship presumptive eligibility pilot program, and the child care scholarship application process study.

249. Appropriates funds to provide payments for child care providers, the child care scholarship presumptive eligibility pilot program, and the child care scholarship application process study.

250. Directs the department of health and human services to seek federal approval to use a portion of TANF funds to develop a grant program to support the child care workforce.

251. Creates a trust fund to promote awareness of behavioral health crisis service systems, establishes a commission to oversee the behavioral health crisis service system trust fund, and establishes a crisis services telecommunications surcharge.

252. Authorizes hospitals seeking to assist older adults or adults with a disability with discharge from a hospital setting to a less restrictive setting to seek to have a guardian or conservator appointed by the probate court, and makes an appropriation to the department of health and human services.

253. Authorizes the commissioner of the department of health and human services to request additional funding, with prior authorization of the fiscal committee of the general court, to fund residential placements for youth, if certain accounts have insufficient funds in fiscal year ending June 30, 2027.

254. Raises residential care and health facility license fees and directs the department of health and human services to raise certain fees related to public health established by administrative rule.

255. Adds additional locations that shall be assigned for use by the speaker of the house and the president of the senate.

256. Establishes the youth development center administration and settlement fund administrator under the governor and executive council instead of the judicial branch.

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257. Requires that any attorney's fee approved for a claim that is to be paid according to a periodic payment schedule also be paid according to that periodic payment schedule.

258. Clarifies that any retiree who returns to active service shall only retain eligibility for the benefits applicable to their initial retirement and the calculation of average final compensation.

259. Directs the department of health and human services to annually establish rates for Medicaid state plan case management services to create rate parity for such services within the program and makes an appropriation therefor.

260. Creates a subcommittee and rules regarding solid waste facility sites and their evaluation.

261. Makes significant changes to the NH retirement system, including modifying the maximum retirement benefits for certain public employees, adjusting the dates and percentages related to the calculation of retirement benefit, and adjusting the definition of "earnable compensation."

262. Makes an appropriation to the department of education for facility related expenditures.

263. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, authorizes the department of health and human services to accept and expend federal funds for the purposes of administering payments for the 2025 summer EBT program, without prior approval of the fiscal committee of the general court.

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Explanation:        Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics.***  
                             Matter removed from current law appears [~~in brackets and struckthrough.~~]  
                             Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

*In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Five*

AN ACT relative to state fees, funds, revenues, and expenditures.

*Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:*

1 1 New Paragraphs; Fish and Game; Endangered Species Conservation Act; Definitions. Amend  
2 RSA 212-A:2 by inserting after paragraph V the following new paragraphs:

3 VI. "Commissioner" means the commissioner of the department of environmental services.

4 VII. "Department" means the department of environmental services.

5 2 Fish and Game; Endangered Species Conservation Act; Conservation Program. Amend RSA  
6 212-A:9 to read as follows:

7 212-A:9 Conservation Programs.

8 I. The executive director shall establish such programs, including acquisition of land or  
9 aquatic habitat or interests therein, as are deemed necessary for the conservation of endangered or  
10 threatened species. The executive director shall utilize all authority vested in the fish and game  
11 department to carry out the purposes of this section.

12 II. In carrying out programs authorized by this section the executive director shall consult  
13 with other states having a common interest in particular threatened or endangered species of  
14 wildlife and may enter into agreements with federal agencies, other states, political subdivisions of  
15 this state or private persons with respect to programs designed to conserve endangered or  
16 threatened species of wildlife including, where appropriate, agreements for administration and  
17 management if any are established under this section or utilized for conservation of endangered or  
18 threatened species of wildlife.

19 III. All other state departments and agencies, to the extent possible, consistent with their  
20 authorities and responsibilities, shall ~~assist and cooperate with the executive director in the~~  
21 ~~furtherance of the purposes of this chapter for the conservation of endangered or threatened species.~~  
22 ~~They shall~~ take such action as is reasonable and prudent to ~~insure~~ **ensure** that actions authorized,  
23 funded, or carried out by them do not appreciably jeopardize the continued existence of such species  
24 or result in the destruction or modification of habitat of such species which is determined by the  
25 executive director to be critical, by requiring that all such action is designed to avoid ~~and~~,  
26 minimize, **and mitigate** harm to such species and habitat designated as critical. **Other**  
27 **departments and agencies may consult with the executive director or hire their own**  
28 **internal wildlife biologists to carry out the requirements of this paragraph. The executive**  
29 **director shall assist other departments and agencies in carrying out this paragraph.** For  
30 the purpose of this statute, "appreciably jeopardize the continued existence of such species" shall be  
31 defined in rules adopted by the executive director pursuant to RSA 541-A. The provisions of RSA

1 212-A or any rule promulgated under this chapter shall not be applicable to a state department or  
2 agency when that state department or agency, in the process of undertaking an action, is required by  
3 federal law or regulation to address the environmental impact on wildlife or wildlife habitat, of that  
4 action.

5 *IV. To meet the requirements of paragraph III, the department of environmental*  
6 *services shall complete the review for any permit, approval, or written authorization*  
7 *required pursuant to RSA 482-A, RSA 485-A, and RSA 236. The department of*  
8 *environmental services shall adopt rules under RSA 541-A to implement the review process*  
9 *and establish a fee schedule for any requested reviews. Such rulemaking shall commence*  
10 *within 90 days of the effective date of this paragraph. The revenue collected from this*  
11 *section shall be deposited into the water resources fund established in RSA 482-A:3, III.*

12 *V. Any reviews conducted to fulfill the requirements of paragraph III for any*  
13 *permit, approval, or written authorization shall be conducted as follows:*

14 *(a) Reviews shall not exceed 60 days from receipt of all information as required*  
15 *by rules developed pursuant to paragraph IV;*

16 *(b) The time to complete the review may be extended with written authorization*  
17 *from the applicant;*

18 *(c) If the agency or department requests additional information from the*  
19 *applicant necessary to complete the review, the time it takes the applicant to respond shall*  
20 *not count against the 60 day timeline in subparagraph (a); and*

21 *(d) If the review period is not completed within the required timelines, except as*  
22 *provided for in subparagraph (c), then the permit, approval, or written authorization shall*  
23 *be deemed to not appreciably jeopardize the continued existence of a threatened or*  
24 *endangered species.*

25 3 Department of Environment Services; Position Established. There shall be an environmental  
26 scientist position established within the department of environmental services, compensated under  
27 SOC 19, Payband 8, for the purpose of administering the environmental species act conservation  
28 program under RSA 212-A:9, III.

29 4 Fish and Game; Endangered Species Conservation Act; Threatened and Endangered Species  
30 Compensatory Mitigation Fund. Amend RSA 212-A:16 to read as follows:

31 212-A:16 Threatened and Endangered Species Compensatory Mitigation Fund.

32 *I.* There is hereby established in the state treasury a separate fund to be known as the  
33 threatened and endangered species compensatory mitigation fund into which payments made  
34 pursuant to this section shall be credited. The fund shall be non-lapsing and continually  
35 appropriated to the *fish and game* department, for the purpose of funding projects that facilitate a  
36 net conservation benefit to threatened and endangered species, including, but not limited to critical  
37 habitat creation or restoration and the monitoring and maintenance of such areas. The state

1 treasurer shall invest the fund as provided by law and any interest received on such investment  
2 shall be credited to the fund. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the  
3 executive director may accept payment for deposit into the fund for an unavoidable loss of critical  
4 habitat from a proposed activity without the approval of the governor, the governor and council, or  
5 the commission. The executive director shall approve disbursements from the fund following  
6 consultation with the commissioner [~~of the department of environmental services~~]. The  
7 [~~department~~] **executive director** shall submit an annual report by October 1, 2022, and every year  
8 thereafter, to the fiscal committee, the speaker of the house of representatives, the president of the  
9 senate, the house clerk, the senate clerk, the governor, and the state library, summarizing all  
10 deposits and expenditures from the fund. The report shall include, but not be limited to a  
11 description of all projects undertaken.

12 **II.** The executive director shall adopt rules under RSA 541-A for the **disbursement of**  
13 **money from the** threatened and endangered species compensatory mitigation fund no later than  
14 one year following the effective date of this section. **Those rules shall establish an**  
15 **administrative fee that the executive director may collect from payments made to the fund**  
16 **to cover the cost of operation of the fund.**

17 **III.** **The department of environmental services shall adopt rules under RSA 541-A**  
18 **regarding when mitigation payments to the fund are required for impacts to threatened**  
19 **and endangered species or the habitats of threatened and endangered species, pursuant to**  
20 **RSA 206:33-g, II, resulting from the issuance of a permit by the department of**  
21 **environmental services, and the calculation of those payments.**

22 5 Public Recreation; New Hampshire Native Plant Protection; Definitions. Amend RSA 217-A:3,  
23 VI to read as follows:

24 VI. "Environmental review" means a [~~natural heritage bureau~~] review of potential impacts  
25 to protected species and exemplary natural community occurrences to enable planning, permitting,  
26 and funding.

27 6 Public Recreation; New Hampshire Native Plant Protection; Cooperation with Other State  
28 Agencies. Amend RSA 217-A:7 to read as follows:

29 217-A:7 Cooperation with Other State Agencies.

30 **I.** All state agencies, consistent with their authority and responsibilities, shall assist and  
31 cooperate with the commissioner to carry out the purposes of this chapter. To the extent possible  
32 actions funded or carried out by state agencies shall not jeopardize the continued existence of any  
33 protected plant species or exemplary natural community.

34 **II.** **If another state agency or department requires an environmental review to meet**  
35 **its obligations in paragraph I, they shall consult with the department of environmental**  
36 **services. The department of environmental services may charge a fee of not less than \$50**  
37 **for screening the database for instances of protected species and may charge a fee for**

1 *providing an environmental review. Such fees shall be sufficient to cover the cost of*  
2 *building and maintaining a database for instances of protected species, for screening the*  
3 *database for instances of protected species, and for providing an environmental review.*  
4 *Fees shall be deposited in the water resources fund established in RSA 482-A:3, III. The*  
5 *commissioner of the department of natural and cultural resources shall be responsible for*  
6 *providing the data necessary for the database.*

7 *III. The department of environmental services shall adopt rules to establish the*  
8 *process for requesting a screening and for the environmental review process in paragraph*  
9 *II. Such rulemaking shall begin within 90 days of the effective date of this section. The*  
10 *commissioner shall assist and cooperate with the department of environmental services to*  
11 *ensure the agency has the information necessary to adequately complete the environmental*  
12 *review process.*

13 7 Public Recreation; New Hampshire Native Plant Protection; Natural Heritage Bureau Fund  
14 Established. Amend RSA 217-A:7-a to read as follows:

15 217-A:7-a Natural Heritage Bureau Fund Established.

16 I. The commissioner may charge a fee [~~for screening department records for instances of~~  
17 ~~protected species or environmental review,~~] for using inventory and information services[;] and for  
18 publications and reports to recover the costs of providing products and services [~~and a reasonable~~  
19 ~~portion of the costs associated with building and maintaining the database].~~

20 II. Fees shall be sufficient to cover the costs of providing services and producing and  
21 providing products authorized by this chapter.

22 III. Fees shall be fixed in a schedule prepared and revised as necessary by the natural  
23 heritage bureau, approved by the commissioner, and established in rules adopted pursuant to RSA  
24 541-A. The fees charged under this paragraph shall be deposited in the fund established in  
25 paragraph IV.

26 IV. There is hereby established in the office of the state treasurer a fund to be known as the  
27 natural heritage bureau fund. Moneys collected under this section and RSA 217-A:6, III shall be  
28 deposited in this fund. The fund shall be nonlapsing and continually appropriated to the  
29 commissioner [~~for the purposes of providing environmental reviews,~~] for the costs of providing  
30 publications or reports to the public, for the costs of providing inventory and information services,  
31 and to accomplish the purposes of this chapter.

32 8 New Paragraph; Water Management and Protection; Fill and Dredge In Wetlands;  
33 Definitions. Amend RSA 482-A:2 by inserting after paragraph VIII the following new paragraph:

34 VIII-a. "Boathouse" means a docking structure having a permanent roof covering one or  
35 more boat slips.

36 9 New Paragraph; Water Management and Protection; Fill and Dredge In Wetlands;  
37 Definitions. Amend RSA 482-A:2 by inserting after paragraph IX the following new paragraph:

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1 IX-a. "Structural height" means the vertical distance from its lowest dock surface of a  
2 structure to the highest point of the structure.

3 10 Water Management and Protection; Fill and Dredge In Wetlands; Excavating and Dredging  
4 Permit; Certain Exemptions. Amend RSA 482-A:3, I(b)-(d) to read as follows:

5 (b) The application fee for shoreline structure projects shall be [~~\$400~~] **\$600** plus an  
6 amount based on the area of dredge, fill, or dock surface area proposed, or a combination thereof,  
7 which shall be [~~\$4~~] **\$6** per square foot for permanent dock surface area; [~~\$2~~] **\$3** per square foot for  
8 seasonal dock surface area; and [~~\$.40~~] **\$0.60** per square foot for dredge or fill surface area or both.  
9 For projects involving only the repair, reconstruction, or reconfiguration of an existing docking  
10 structure, the application fee shall be [~~\$400~~] **\$600**.

11 (c) The application fee shall be [~~\$400~~] **\$600** for minimum impact dredge and fill projects  
12 and for non-enforcement related publicly funded and supervised restoration projects as defined by  
13 rules, regardless of impact classification, if undertaken by other than the person or persons  
14 responsible for causing the restoration to be needed. The application fee for all projects under this  
15 chapter which are not covered by subparagraph (b) or (c) or paragraphs IV-a, V, X through XII, XV,  
16 XVI, or XVII through XIX shall be [~~\$.40~~] **\$0.60** per square foot of proposed impact, with a minimum  
17 fee of [~~\$400~~] **\$600** for all such projects that impact fewer than 600 square feet.

18 (d) If an owner chooses to voluntarily register existing docking structures, at the time  
19 the owner registers the structures with the department, he or she shall also submit a nonrefundable  
20 fee of [~~\$200~~] **\$300**.

21 11 Water Management and Protection; Fill and Dredge In Wetlands; Administrative Provisions.  
22 Amend RSA 482-A:11, III(a) to read as follows:

23 III.(a) Upon written notification to the department by a municipal conservation commission,  
24 a local river management advisory committee, or the New Hampshire Rivers Council that it intends  
25 to investigate any notice received by it pursuant to RSA 482-A:3, the department shall not make its  
26 decision on the application that is the subject of the notice until it has received and acknowledged  
27 receipt of a written report from such commission, local river management advisory committee, or the  
28 council, or until 40 days from the date of filing with the municipal clerk of such notice, whichever  
29 occurs earlier~~], subject to an extension of up to 40 days, as permitted by the commissioner, for good~~  
30 ~~cause shown].~~ In connection with any local investigation, a conservation commission may hold a  
31 public informational meeting or a public hearing, the record of which shall be made a part of the  
32 record of the department. [~~Where the commissioner grants an extension, the time limits prescribed~~  
33 ~~by RSA 482-A:3, XIV(b) shall be suspended for up to 40 days as agreed to by the applicant and the~~  
34 ~~department.] If a conservation commission, a local river management advisory committee, or the  
35 New Hampshire Rivers Council makes a recommendation to the department in its report, the  
36 department shall specifically consider such recommendation and shall make written findings with  
37 respect to each issue raised in such report which is contrary to the decision of the department. If~~

1 notification by a local conservation commission, local river management advisory committee, or the  
2 New Hampshire Rivers Council pursuant to this paragraph, is not received by the department  
3 within 14 days following the date the notice is filed with the municipal clerk, the department shall  
4 not suspend its normal action, but shall proceed as if no notification has been made.

5 12 Terrain Alteration. Amend RSA 485-A:17, II to read as follows:

6 II.(a) The department shall charge a fee for ~~[each review of plans]~~ **applications**, including  
7 project inspections, required under this section. ~~[The plan review fee shall be based on the total area  
8 to be disturbed.]~~ **For projects that qualify for a permit by notification allowed by paragraph**  
9 **II-a, the application fee for a permit by notification shall be \$3,125.** Except for ~~[property~~  
10 ~~subject to RSA 483-B:9]~~ **projects that qualify for a permit by notification allowed by**  
11 **paragraph II-a**, the fee for ~~[review of plans]~~ **applications** encompassing an area of at least  
12 ~~[100,000]~~ **150,000** square feet but less than 200,000 square feet shall be ~~[\$3,125]~~ **\$6,250.** ~~[For the~~  
13 ~~property subject to RSA 483-B:9, the fee for review of plans encompassing an area of at least 50,000~~  
14 ~~square feet but less than 200,000 square feet shall be \$3,125.]~~ An additional fee of ~~[\$1,250]~~ **\$2,500**  
15 shall be assessed for each additional area of up to 100,000 square feet to be disturbed. **For any**  
16 **property subject to RSA 483-B:9, the fee for review of plans encompassing an area of at**  
17 **least 50,000 square feet but less than 150,000 square feet shall be \$5,000. For all other**  
18 **projects, the fee shall be \$500 plus \$0.005 per square foot of disturbance.** No application shall  
19 be accepted by the department until the fee required by this paragraph is paid. All fees required  
20 under this paragraph shall be paid when plans are submitted for review and shall be deposited in  
21 the water resources fund established in RSA 482-A:3, III.

22 (b) The department shall charge a non-refundable fee of \$500 ~~[plus a \$.10 fee per square~~  
23 ~~foot of disturbance associated with the amendment request]~~ for each request to amend a permit that  
24 requires plans to be reviewed.

25 13 Permit by Notification. RSA 485-A:17, II-a is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

26 II-a. By January 1, 2026, the department shall adopt rules to establish a permit by  
27 notification for projects with plans encompassing an area less than 150,000 square feet that are not  
28 subject to RSA 483-B:9.

29 14 New Section; Boathouse Requirements. Amend RSA 482-A by inserting after section 26 the  
30 following new section:

31 482-A:26-a Boathouse Requirements.

32 I. Any boathouse constructed after July 1, 2025, and located over public waters shall not  
33 exceed a structural height of 18 feet, have no second floor, and minimize storage to accommodate  
34 only those items, such as life-jackets, paddles, and rigging, reasonably related to the use of a boat.  
35 No boathouse over public waters existing as of July 1, 2025, shall be modified to increase its  
36 structural height or to add additional floors.

37 II. For the purposes of this section, "public waters" means all natural ponds of more than 10

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1 acres and all tidal waters up to the high water mark at the level of the mean high tide.

2 15 Water Management and Protection; Fill and Dredge In Wetlands; Restrictions on Use of  
3 Structures Built Over the Waters of the State; Penalty. Amend RSA 482-A:27 to read as follows:

4 482-A:27 Penalty. Any person who violates any provision of RSA 482-A:26 **or 482-A:26-a** shall  
5 be required to remove the structure or portion of the structure constructed, reconstructed, repaired,  
6 converted, or modified in violation of said section and shall be subject to the civil, criminal, and other  
7 penalties set forth in RSA 482-A:13, 14, and 14-b. Any criminal fine collected for a violation of RSA  
8 482-A:26 shall accrue to the use of the municipality in which the structure is located.

9 16 Education; Education Freedom Accounts; Definitions. Amend RSA 194-F:1, VI to read as  
10 follows:

11 VI. "Eligible student" means a resident of this state who is eligible to enroll in a public  
12 elementary or secondary school [~~and whose annual household income at the time the student applies~~  
13 ~~for the program is less than or equal to 350 percent of the federal poverty guidelines as updated~~  
14 ~~annually in the Federal Register by the United States Department of Health and Human Services~~  
15 ~~under 42 U.S.C. section 9902(2). No income threshold need be met in subsequent years, provided the~~  
16 ~~student otherwise qualifies]. Students in the special school district within the department of~~  
17 corrections established in RSA 194:60 shall not be eligible students.

18 17 New Paragraphs; Education; Education Freedom Accounts; Application for an Education  
19 Freedom Account. Amend RSA 194-F:1 by inserting after paragraph XII the following new  
20 paragraphs:

21 XIII. "Priority Guidelines" means the ordered list:

- 22 (a) A student currently enrolled in the EFA program;  
23 (b) A sibling of a student currently enrolled in the EFA program;  
24 (c) A child with disabilities as defined by RSA 186-C:2;  
25 (d) A student whose family income is less than or equal to 350 percent of the federal  
26 poverty guidelines as updated annually by the United States Department of Health and Human  
27 Services under 42 U.S.C. section 9902 (2).

28 XIV. "Enrollment Cap" means the total number of students that may be enrolled in the EFA  
29 program in a given school year before further enrollment is closed to all but students meeting  
30 priority guidelines, for whom enrollment is always open.

31 18 Education; Education Freedom Accounts; Application for an Education Freedom Account.  
32 Amend RSA 194-F:3, I to read as follows:

33 I. A parent may apply to the scholarship organization to establish an EFA for an eligible  
34 student. The scholarship organization shall accept and approve applications [~~for the fall and spring~~  
35 ~~semesters] **for enrollment on a rolling basis** each year and shall establish procedures for  
36 approving applications **for enrollment** in an expeditious manner. **Priority guideline students**  
37 **shall not be subject to the enrollment cap and shall be enrolled on a rolling basis.**~~

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1       19 Education; Education Freedom Accounts; Application for an Education Freedom Account.  
2 Amend RSA 194-F:3, I to read as follows:

3           I. A parent may apply to the scholarship organization to establish an EFA for an eligible  
4 student. The scholarship organization shall accept and approve applications for enrollment on a  
5 rolling basis each year and shall establish procedures for approving applications for enrollment in an  
6 expeditious manner. [~~Priority guideline students shall not be subject to the enrollment cap and shall~~  
7 ~~be enrolled on a rolling basis.~~]

8       20 New Paragraphs; Education; Education Freedom Accounts; Application for an Education  
9 Freedom Account. Amend RSA 194-F:3 by inserting after paragraph I the following new  
10 paragraphs:

11           I-a. For the 2025-2026 school year, the enrollment cap shall be 10,000. For each subsequent  
12 year, if the total enrollment of the prior year is greater than 90 percent of the prior year's enrollment  
13 cap, then the enrollment cap shall be increased once by 25 percent when enrollment begins for the  
14 year. The department of education shall publish on its website information identifying the  
15 enrollment cap when it is increased pursuant to this paragraph.

16           I-b. The scholarship organization shall prioritize current EFA students for renewal in the  
17 subsequent year by reserving space for them under that subsequent year's enrollment cap before  
18 enrolling new EFA students in that subsequent year.

19       21 Repeal. The following are repealed:

20           I. RSA 194-F:I, XIII and XIV, relative to definitions related to education freedom accounts.

21           II. RSA 194-F:3, I-a and I-b, relative to education freedom account eligibility.

22       22 Contingency. Sections 19 and 21 of this act shall take effect on the date the department of  
23 education certifies to the secretary of state and the director of the office of legislative services that  
24 student applications for the education freedom account program have not exceeded the enrollment  
25 cap for 2 consecutive school years.

26       23 Effective Dates.

27           I. Sections 19 and 21 of this act shall take effect as provided in section 22 of this act.

28           II. Sections 16-18, 20, and 22 of this act shall take effect upon its passage.

29       24 New Subparagraph; Application of Receipts. Amend RSA 6:12, I(b) by inserting after  
30 subparagraph (399) the following new subparagraph:

31           (400) Moneys deposited in the elderly, disabled, blind, and deaf exemption  
32 reimbursement fund as established in RSA 72:42-a.

33       25 New Section; Elderly-Disabled-Blind-Deaf Exemption Reimbursement Fund Established.  
34 Amend RSA 72 by inserting after section 42 the following new section:

35       72:42-a Elderly, Disabled, Blind, and Deaf Exemption Reimbursement Fund established

36           I. There is hereby established an elderly, disabled, blind, and deaf exemption  
37 reimbursement fund ("fund"). The purpose of the fund shall be to reimburse municipalities for

1 revenue not realized due to tax exemptions utilized in their communities under RSAs 72:37, 72:37-b,  
2 72:38-b, 72:39-a, and 72:39-b. The fund shall be funded by fees collected pursuant to RSA 287-J:6,  
3 II(b)(2).

4 II.(a) Not later than May 1 of every year, the department of revenue administration shall  
5 provide to the department of treasury a report of the exemptions under RSAs 72:37, 72:37-b, 72:38-b,  
6 72:39-a, and 72:39-b, as reported by municipalities on their summary inventory of valuation (MS-1)  
7 for the preceding tax year.

8 (b) Not later than July 31 of every year, the department of revenue administration shall  
9 pay to each municipality out of the fund the amount reported pursuant to subparagraph (a), as  
10 reimbursement.

11 (c) Notwithstanding subparagraph (b), if the fund does not have sufficient funds to fully  
12 pay municipalities as set forth in subparagraph (b), the department of revenue administration shall  
13 pay to each municipality a pro-rated amount of its reported exemptions, by applying the ratio of  
14 available funds to total claimed exemptions to each municipality's reported exemptions.

15 (d) Not later than October 1 of every year, department of revenue administration shall  
16 issue a report of the amounts paid to municipalities under either subparagraph (b) or (c), for use by  
17 the department in municipal rate setting. Such report shall be submitted to the president of the  
18 senate, the speaker of the house, and the chairs of the house and senate ways and means  
19 committees.

20 III. The department of revenue administration is authorized to create rules under RSA 541-  
21 a to implement this chapter.

22 26 New Section; Voluntary Statewide Self-Exclusion. Amend RSA 284 by inserting after section  
23 6-c the following new section:

24 284:6-d Voluntary Statewide Self-Exclusion.

25 I. To reduce and mitigate the effects of problem gambling, the commission shall establish a  
26 centralized voluntary statewide self-exclusion database for all forms of legal gaming throughout New  
27 Hampshire, through an agent selected through a competitive bid process and approved by the  
28 governor and executive council. The commission shall ensure that an agent demonstrates financial  
29 stability, responsibility, good character, honesty, and integrity. In selecting an agent, the  
30 commission shall consider, at a minimum, the experience and background of the agent and the  
31 ability of the agent to securely and anonymously collect and transmit relevant data among the  
32 operators and systems of all forms of regulated gaming in New Hampshire. The commission shall  
33 select a group of bidders who best meet the criteria set forth in this paragraph and select from that  
34 group the agent whose bid is best suited to accomplish the stated objectives. All agents shall be  
35 subject to criminal and financial background checks as prescribed by the commission.

1 II. The commission may adopt rules requiring vendors, agents, and entities licensed or  
2 registered under chapter 284, chapter 287-D, chapter 287-H, chapter 287-I, and chapter 287-J to  
3 participate in any program established in section II, above.

4 III. Notwithstanding RSA 91-A, records and information obtained or developed by the  
5 commission or its agent as part of establishing and administering the list of persons who voluntarily  
6 request exclusion under paragraph I, above, shall be confidential and shall not be subject to  
7 disclosure or to public inspection except that information may be released only with the written  
8 consent of the person requesting voluntary exclusion. Statistical data and general information that  
9 do not allow for a person on the voluntary exclusion list to be personally identified are not  
10 confidential.

11 27 State Lottery and Gaming Commission. Amend RSA 284:21-a to read as follows:

12 284:21-a State Lottery **and Gaming** Commission. There shall be and hereby is created a state  
13 lottery **and gaming** commission consisting of 3 members who shall be appointed and may be  
14 removed for cause by the governor with the advice and consent of the council. One member shall be  
15 appointed for one year, one for 2 years and one for 3 years, and upon the expiration of their terms of  
16 office their successors shall be appointed for a term of 3 years. Any vacancy shall be filled by  
17 appointment for the unexpired term. No member of the commission shall have any pecuniary or  
18 other interest in any supplier or agent to the commission or in any licensee licensed under the  
19 provisions of this chapter. *The commission shall be properly addressed as the "New*  
20 *Hampshire lottery and gaming commission" but all statutory and regulatory references to*  
21 *"lottery commission" shall remain valid and shall be used synonymously.*

22 28 Definitions. Amend RSA 287-D:1, XII to read as follows:

23 XII. *"High-Stakes tournament" means a tournament of a game of chance in which*  
24 *the required buy-in for participation in the tournament is \$2,500 or greater.*

25 XIII. *"Video lottery terminal" or "VLT" means any device which, upon payment of*  
26 *bills, coins or vouchers, is available to play or operate and may entitle the patron to receive*  
27 *cash, vouchers, or electronic credits redeemable for cash. The results, including options*  
28 *available to the patron, are randomly determined by the device. A device may use spinning*  
29 *reels or video displays or both. This definition does not include any device that sells lottery*  
30 *tickets, pari-mutuel wagers, nor any device which is operated through, utilizes, or is played*  
31 *on or with assistance from the Internet.*

32 XIV. "Wager" means a monetary agreement between 2 or more persons that a sum of money  
33 or other valuable thing shall be paid to one of them on the happening or not happening of an  
34 uncertain event. Wager may be used synonymously with the term "bet."

35 XV. *"Wide-area progressive link" means a networked gaming system that connects*  
36 *electronic gaming devices located at multiple licensed gaming establishments to a common*  
37 *progressive jackpot pool, allowing for contributions from each linked machine, regardless*

1 *of location, to incrementally increase a shared jackpot prize, which can be won by any*  
2 *eligible player participating on any of the linked devices.*

3 29 Rulemaking. Amend RSA 287-D:3, XVII to read as follows:

4 XVII. *The licensing and enforcement of VLT licensees, terminals, and compliance*  
5 *requirements under RSA 287-J.*

6 XVIII. Other matters related to the proper administration of this chapter.

7 30 New Section; Games of Chance; High-Stakes Tournaments. Amend RSA 287-D by inserting  
8 after section 3 the following new section:

9 287-D:3-a High-Stakes Tournaments. A licensed game operator employer may conduct a high-  
10 stakes game of chance tournament provided that:

11 I. The tournament is held at a facility licensed to conduct games of chance under RSA 287-  
12 D.

13 II. The tournament is conducted in accordance with the rules and procedures established by  
14 the lottery commission.

15 III. The game operator submits the tournament structure, entry fees, rake structure, and  
16 prize payout distribution to the lottery commission at least 30 days prior to the tournament start  
17 date for approval.

18 IV. The tournament is conducted using approved dealers and equipment.

19 31 Games, Amusements, and Athletic Exhibitions; Games of Chance; Wager RSA 287-D:16 is  
20 repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

21 287-D:16 Wagers. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, no maximum  
22 wager shall apply to any game of chance conducted under this chapter or any historic horse race  
23 under RSA 284:22-b, including table games, historic horse racing, and VLT wagers.

24 32 Games, Amusements, and Athletic Exhibitions; Games of Chance; Prizes. Amend RSA 287-  
25 D:20 to read as follows:

26 287-D:20 Prizes.

27 I. In games where chips have no monetary value, *except for high-stakes tournaments, as*  
28 *defined in RSA 287-D:1, XI-a*, 3 percent of all funds collected from players, less moneys used by  
29 the lottery commission to fund authorized personnel expenses and related costs, shall be paid to the  
30 state treasurer to be deposited into the special fund established in RSA 284:21-j. Such payments  
31 shall be made once per month not later than the ~~[5th]~~ *15th* day of the month for the funds collected  
32 in the previous month.

33 *I-a. In high-stakes tournaments, as defined in RSA 287-D:1, XI-a, 5 percent of house*  
34 *winnings, after prizes paid, less moneys used by the lottery commission to fund authorized*  
35 *personnel expenses and related costs, shall be paid to the state treasurer to be deposited*  
36 *into the special fund established in RSA 284:21-j. Such payments shall be made once per*

1 *month not later than the 15th day of the month for the funds collected in the previous*  
2 *month.*

3 II. In games where chips have monetary value, 10 percent of the rake or house winnings and  
4 other moneys collected by the game operator that are not paid out as prizes to players, less moneys  
5 used by the lottery commission to fund authorized personnel expenses and related costs, shall be  
6 paid to the state treasurer for deposit into the special fund established in RSA 284:21-j. Such  
7 payments shall be made once per month not later than the ~~5th~~ *15th* day of the month for the funds  
8 collected in the previous month.

9 *III. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the cash value of free bets and*  
10 *promotional credits of all table games, historic horse racing (HHR), and VLTs shall be*  
11 *exempted from revenues subject to charity allocation and payments to the state, so long as*  
12 *the cash value of such promotions for each type of game, whether it be table games, HHR,*  
13 *or VLTs, does not exceed 15 percent of the total revenue from that type of game for a given*  
14 *month.*

15 33 New Chapter; Video Lottery Terminals. Amend RSA by inserting after chapter 287-I the  
16 following new chapter:

17 CHAPTER 287-J

18 VIDEO LOTTERY TERMINALS

19 287-J:1 Definitions.

20 For the purposes of this chapter these words shall have the following meaning:

21 I. "Applicant" means an individual or entity applying for a license under this chapter.

22 II. "Commission" means the lottery and gaming commission.

23 III. "Gross video lottery revenue" means the total of all sums actually received by a VLT  
24 licensee from operation of video lottery terminals, minus the total of all sums actually paid out as  
25 winnings to patrons, less any free play paid to patrons. The maximum amount of free play that any  
26 one licensee can deduct from gross video lottery revenue shall be 12.5 percent in any calendar year.

27 IV. "Facility" means a facility licensed under RSA 287-D for the conduct of charitable  
28 gaming.

29 V. "Video lottery terminal" or "VLT" means any device which, upon payment of bills, coins or  
30 vouchers, is available to play or operate and may entitle the patron to receive cash, vouchers, or  
31 electronic credits redeemable for cash. The results, including options available to the patron, are  
32 randomly determined by the device. A device may use spinning reels or video displays or both. This  
33 definition does not include any device that sells lottery tickets, pari-mutuel wagers, nor any device  
34 which is operated through, utilizes, or is played on or with assistance from the Internet.

35 VI. "VLT license" means a license issued in accordance with this section, to offer video  
36 lottery terminals to the public.

1           VII. "VLT licensee" means a game operator employer licensee that has been granted a VLT  
2 license under this section.

3           VIII. "Voucher" means a printed wagering instrument, issued by a video lottery terminal at  
4 a facility, that has a fixed dollar wagering value which can only be used to acquire an equivalent  
5 value of cashable credits or cash.

6           287-J:2 Enforcement. The commission, with the assistance of the attorney general and the chief  
7 of police of any city or town where licensed facilities are located, shall administer and enforce the  
8 provisions of this chapter. To enforce the requirements of this chapter, the commission may exercise  
9 all rights of enforcement, including but not limited to its subpoena power, investigation authority,  
10 and authority to issue administrative orders and fines, granted to the commission by RSA 287-D.

11           287-J:3 Rulemaking. The commission shall adopt rules, pursuant to RSA 541-A, relative to:

12           I. The application procedure for VLT licenses for game operators.

13           II. Information to be required on VLT license applications for VLT licenses for game  
14 operators.

15           III. The conducting and operation of video lottery terminals.

16           IV. Accountability controls to ensure game integrity, including, but not limited to, cash,  
17 prizes, income, expense and financial reporting, and recordkeeping to be implemented by VLT  
18 licensees in addition to requirements set forth in RSA 287-D:22.

19           V. Investigation and enforcement to ensure compliance with this chapter.

20           VI. Other matters related to the proper administration of this chapter.

21           287-J:4 Eligible Operators.

22           I. To be eligible for a VLT license, the applicant shall have been licensed or eligible for  
23 licensure to sell pari-mutuel pools on historic horse races under RSA 287-D and under RSA 284:22-b  
24 as of the effective date of this chapter. A license shall not be permitted to be transferred or sold.

25           II. Applicants eligible to obtain a VLT license pursuant to paragraph I of this section shall  
26 submit to background, financial, and suitability checks pursuant to RSA 287-D:11 and RSA 287-  
27 D:12, to ensure the applicant's ability to conduct video lottery terminals in accordance with the  
28 provisions of RSA 287-D and this chapter. An entity found suitable for gaming by the commission as  
29 of the effective date of this chapter shall satisfy paragraph I and RSA 284:22-b. The applicant for a  
30 VLT license shall submit to the commission a criminal history records release form, as provided by  
31 the division of state police, which authorizes the division of state police to conduct a criminal history  
32 records check through its state records and through the Federal Bureau of Investigation and to  
33 release a report of the applicant's criminal history and record information, including confidential  
34 criminal history record information, to the commission.

35           III. Applicants seeking a VLT license shall apply utilizing forms supplied by the lottery  
36 commission. The VLT license fee shall be \$2,000 per three-year license period.

1           IV. Applicants seeking a VLT license must also obtain a game operator employer license in  
2 accordance with RSA 287-D prior to commencing VLT operations.

3           287-J:5 Operation of Video Lottery Terminals.

4           I. Prior to use all VLTs must have been tested by an independent testing laboratory and  
5 approved by the commission to ensure integrity and proper working order.

6           II. No VLT shall be operated except within the facility of an eligible VLT licensee during the  
7 facility's approved hours of play of charitable games.

8           III. VLTs shall operate to ensure a minimum average daily aggregate payback of 88 percent  
9 computed for all VLTs operated at each facility on a quarterly basis.

10          IV. VLTs shall operate to ensure a minimum average daily aggregate payback of 88 percent  
11 computed for all VLTs operated at each facility on a quarterly basis, except for machines that are  
12 tied to a wide-area progressive link, which shall have minimum average daily aggregate payback of  
13 80 percent. For historic horse racing pools authorized by RSA 284:22-b tied to a wide-area  
14 progressive link, the commission on such pools shall be set at a rate no greater than 20 percent.

15          287-J:6 Revenue Share.

16          I. Each VLT licensee shall collect a sum equal to 31.25 percent of gross video lottery  
17 revenue.

18          II. Each VLT licensee shall distribute 0.25 percent of gross video lottery revenue collected to  
19 the governor's commission on addiction, treatment, and prevention.

20          III. Each VLT licensee shall distribute 31 percent of gross video lottery revenue shall be  
21 distributed pursuant to subparagraphs (a) and (b).

22           (a) Each licensee shall distribute 35 percent of the amount collected under paragraph III  
23 to charitable organizations with whom the licensee contracts on each licensed game date. Each VLT  
24 licensee must contract with 2 licensed charitable organizations for each game date.

25           (b) The remainder collected under paragraph III shall be paid to the commission and  
26 distributed as follows:

27               (1) 25 percent to the special fund established under RSA 284:21-j for use as provided  
28 in that section;

29               (2) 75 percent to the general fund.

30          287-J:7 Unclaimed Vouchers.

31          I. Vouchers shall remain valid for 180 days from the date printed, after which the obligation  
32 of the VLT licensee to pay the patron any value remaining on a voucher expires.

33          II. Before the end of each calendar month, the VLT licensee shall report and remit the total  
34 value of vouchers that expired during the preceding calendar month in a format prescribed by the  
35 commission.

36          III. Such moneys shall become a part of the special fund established in RSA 284:21-j.



1 related to planning and development, broadband, and housing within the department and shall  
2 serve under the supervision of the commissioner of the department.

3 12-O:53-a Office of Planning and Development.

4 I. There is established the office of planning and development within the department of  
5 business and economic affairs, division of planning and community development. The office shall be  
6 under the supervision of the director of the division of planning and community development, who  
7 shall serve under the supervision of the commissioner.

8 II. The office of planning and development shall:

9 (a) Plan for the orderly development of the state and the wise management of the state's  
10 resources.

11 (b) Compile, analyze, and disseminate data, information, and research services as  
12 necessary to advance the welfare of the state.

13 (c) Encourage and assist planning, growth management, and development activities of  
14 cities and towns and groups of cities and towns with the purpose of encouraging smart growth.

15 (d) Encourage the coordination and correlation of state planning by agencies of state  
16 government.

17 (e) Participate in interstate, regional, and national planning efforts.

18 (f) Administer federal and state grant-in-aid programs assigned to the office by statute  
19 or executive order.

20 (g) Participate and advise in matters of land use planning regarding water resources  
21 and floodplain management.

22 (h) Take a leadership role in encouraging smart growth and preserving farmland, open  
23 space land, and traditional village centers.

24 (i) Administer the following programs: the statewide comprehensive outdoor recreation  
25 plan, the national flood insurance program, and the land conservation investment program. The  
26 office shall employ necessary personnel to administer these programs.

27 (j) Perform such other duties as the commissioner may assign.

28 41 State Development Plan. Amend the introductory paragraph of RSA 12-O:54, I and 12-O:54,  
29 I(a) to read as follows:

30 I. The office of planning and development, under the direction of the [~~commissioner~~]  
31 **director of the division of planning and community development**, shall:

32 (a) Assist [~~the commissioner~~] in preparing, publishing, and revising the comprehensive  
33 development plan required under RSA 9-A.

34 42 Change "Director of the Office of Planning and Development" to "Director of the Division of  
35 Planning and Community Development". Amend the following RSA provisions by replacing "director  
36 of the office of planning and development" with "director of the division of planning and community

1 development": 12-O:57; 17-M:2, V; 21-O:5-a, I(d); 21-P:48, I(h); 36-B:1; 78-A:25, III; 162-L:15, II(b);  
2 233-A:2, I(f); 432:19, II(c); 482-A:32, II(c); 483:8, II; 483-A:6, III.

3 43 State Development Plan; Office of Planning and Development. Amend the introductory  
4 paragraph of RSA 9-A:2 and 9-A:2, I to read as follows:

5 9-A:2 Office of Planning and Development. The office of planning and development, under the  
6 direction of the [~~commissioner of business and economic affairs~~] ***division of planning and***  
7 ***community development***, shall:

8 I. Assist [~~the commissioner~~] in preparing, publishing and revising the comprehensive  
9 development plan.

10 44 New Hampshire Workforce Development; State Workforce Innovation Fund. Amend RSA 12-  
11 O:45 to read as follows:

12 12-O:45 State Workforce Innovation Fund.

13 I. There is hereby established the state workforce innovation fund which shall be nonlapsing  
14 and administered by the commissioner of the department of business and economic affairs. Said  
15 fund shall be for the purpose of receiving financial assistance under the [~~Workforce Investment Act~~  
16 ~~of 1998~~] ***Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014*** and providing funds for grants and  
17 other workforce development initiatives.

18 II. The fund shall be distributed or expended by the commissioner after consultation with  
19 the State Workforce Innovation Board established in RSA 12-O:44 and the approval of the governor  
20 and council for any of the following purposes:

21 (a) [~~Workforce Investment Act~~] ***Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014***  
22 Adult and Dislocated Worker programs.

23 (b) [~~Workforce Investment Act~~] ***Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014***  
24 Youth programs.

25 (c) [~~Workforce Investment Act~~] ***U.S. Department of Labor***, Senior Community Service  
26 Employment programs.

27 (d) [~~Workforce Investment Act~~] ***U.S. Department of Labor*** Disability programs.

28 (e) [~~Workforce Investment Act~~] ***U.S. Department of Labor*** Regional Innovation and  
29 National Emergency grant programs.

30 (f) Other projects, programs, or grants recognized as being beneficial to workforce  
31 development initiatives and consistent with the goals of the [~~Workforce Investment Act~~] ***Workforce***  
32 ***Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014***.

33 III.(a) The department may accept gifts, grants, donations, or other moneys for the purposes  
34 of this section. Said moneys shall be deposited into the state workforce innovation fund.

35 (b) The commissioner may enter into contracts and agreements and may take other  
36 actions that may be necessary or desirable to effect the transfer to it of operations currently  
37 conducted by [~~the Workforce Opportunity Council, Inc. or the New Hampshire Workforce~~

1 ~~Opportunity Council under the Workforce Investment Act]~~ ***the department of business and***  
2 ***economic affairs***, and to effect the transfer of assets utilized by them in doing so; and, the  
3 commissioner may assume, bear, and agree to perform those contracts of [~~the Workforce Opportunity~~  
4 ~~Council, Inc. or the New Hampshire Workforce Opportunity Council]~~ ***the state workforce***  
5 ***innovation board*** that may be necessary or desirable for carrying out the purposes of this section.

6 IV. The commissioner of the department of business and economic affairs shall have the  
7 authority to enter into such agreements for leasing real property, acquiring goods, and engaging  
8 services to perform Rapid Response activities in accordance with this subdivision. The commissioner  
9 shall provide the governor and council an information item not less frequently than semi-annually  
10 describing all such agreements and amounts expended pursuant thereto. Such agreements shall be  
11 made pursuant to forms of agreement that shall be approved by governor and council which forms of  
12 agreement have been reviewed by the attorney general and the commissioner of the department of  
13 administrative services.

14 [~~V. In accordance with RSA 282-A:181 through RSA 282-A:184, the commissioner of the~~  
15 ~~department of employment security shall have the authority to make grants to New Hampshire~~  
16 ~~employers for the purpose of training employees in accordance with this chapter, such grants not to~~  
17 ~~exceed the amounts specified in RSA 282-A:87, IV(a)(2), and not to exceed to any single employer in~~  
18 ~~any grant year the sum of \$70,000, unless first approved by governor and council. The commissioner~~  
19 ~~shall provide the governor and council an information item not less frequently than semi-annually~~  
20 ~~describing all such grants expended pursuant thereto. Such grants shall be made pursuant to a~~  
21 ~~form of agreement that shall be approved by governor and council after review by the attorney~~  
22 ~~general and the commissioner of the department of administrative services.]~~

23 45 New Section; Unemployment Compensation; Job Training Program; State workforce  
24 Innovation Grants. Amend RSA 282-A by inserting after section 184 the following new section:

25 282-A:185 State Workforce Innovation Grants. In accordance with RSA 282-A:181 through RSA  
26 282-A:184, the commissioner of the department of employment security may make grants to New  
27 Hampshire employers for the purpose of training employees in accordance with RSA 12-O:45, such  
28 grants not to exceed the amounts specified in RSA 282-A:87, IV(a)(2), and not to exceed to any single  
29 employer in any grant year the sum of \$70,000, unless first approved by governor and council. The  
30 commissioner shall provide the governor and council an information item not less frequently than  
31 semi-annually describing all such grants expended pursuant thereto. Such grants shall be made  
32 pursuant to a form of agreement that shall be approved by governor and council after review by the  
33 attorney general and the commissioner of the department of administrative services.

34 46 The State and Its Government; State Commission on Aging; State Commission on Aging  
35 Established; Membership. Amend RSA 19-P:1, IV to read as follows:

36 IV. The members appointed pursuant to subparagraph II(j) shall serve [~~2-year terms~~] ***3-year***  
37 ***terms effective for appointments made after July 1, 2025***; provided that initially such members

1 shall serve staggered terms and no such member shall serve more than 2 consecutive terms, with the  
2 exception of the chairperson, vice-chairperson, and recorder, who may service an additional term for  
3 a total of 3 terms. A council member whose term of office is expiring may continue beyond the end of  
4 the term until reappointed or until a successor is nominated. Legislative members shall receive  
5 mileage at the legislative rate when attending to the duties of the commission. The first named  
6 member of the house of representatives shall convene the organizational meeting of the commission  
7 on or before 45 days of passage of this chapter for the purpose of electing officers serving on the  
8 commission. A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum. If any member is absent without  
9 previously being excused by the chairperson for 3 or more regular meetings, the member may be  
10 removed upon a majority vote of the commission.

11 47 New Section; State Commission on Aging; Advisory Council on the System of Care for  
12 Healthy Aging in New Hampshire. Amend RSA 19-P by inserting after section 2 the following new  
13 section:

14 19-P:2-a Advisory Council on the System of Care for Health Aging in New Hampshire.

15 I. The commission shall establish an advisory council on the system of care for healthy aging  
16 in New Hampshire. The purpose of the advisory council shall be to:

17 (a) Improve the well-being of older adults and caregivers;

18 (b) Identify cost-savings and opportunities to increase collaboration, efficiency, and the  
19 effectiveness of the service array and service delivery system; and

20 (c) Assist and advise the commissioner of the department of health and human services  
21 on the system of care principles and values and implementation of RSA 151-E:22 through 151-E:27.

22 II.(a) The director of the division of long-term supports and services, or the director's  
23 designee, and one member of the state commission on aging shall serve as the permanent co-  
24 chairpersons of the advisory council.

25 (b) Additional members of the advisory council representing diverse perspectives shall  
26 be appointed by the commission on aging and shall include older adults and family caregivers with  
27 relevant experience, members of agencies serving older adults including public, private, consumer  
28 advocacy, and non-profit organizations, and individuals with relevant policy expertise.

29 III. The advisory council shall meet at least quarterly and may meet more often at the call of  
30 the commission.

31 IV. The duties of the council shall include reviewing and making recommendations  
32 regarding all aspects of the implementation of the system of care for healthy aging established under  
33 RSA 151-E:22 through 151-E:27. Such duties shall also include addressing the availability of long  
34 term supports and services for individuals across the continuum of care, including but not be limited  
35 to:

36 (a) Reviewing and making recommendations that improve and shorten the timeline for  
37 accessing Medicaid long-term care benefits.

1           (b) Reviewing and making recommendations to remove barriers to hospital discharge for  
2 non-acute patients who require post hospital long-term supports and services.

3           (c) Gathering additional data to review the implementation of the system of care for  
4 healthy aging, including but not limited to:

5               (1) Licensed long-term care beds in service versus licensed long-term care beds not  
6 in service, and recommendations for optimal utilization of limited long-term care bed licenses to  
7 increase access to long-term care.

8               (2) Reviewing the availability of long-term services and supports for individuals  
9 requiring post hospital or nursing facility care service.

10              (3) Access to Medicaid Choices for Independence waiver services post hospital  
11 discharge and recommendations for optimal program utilization.

12              (4) Availability of long-term supports and services for non-Medicaid individuals.

13           (d) Working collaboratively with public and private stakeholders to strengthen the direct  
14 care workforce to meet the growing demand for long-term supports and services in New Hampshire.

15           (e) Advising the governor, the senate president, the speaker of the house, the oversight  
16 committee on health and human services, as established in RSA 126-A:13, and the commissioner of  
17 health and human services on any issue related to long-term services and supports within the  
18 system of care for healthy aging.

19           V. A summary of the advisory council's activities, findings, and recommendations shall be  
20 included in the commission's annual report submitted under RSA 19-P:3.

21           48 New Section; State Commission on Aging; Fund Established. Amend RSA 19-P by inserting  
22 after section 4 the following new section:

23           19-P:5 Fund Established. There is established in the office of the state treasurer a fund known  
24 as the New Hampshire commission on aging fund, which shall be kept separate and distinct from all  
25 other funds and shall be continually appropriated to the commission. Such fund shall be the  
26 depository of all gifts, grants, or donations made to the commission pursuant to RSA 19-P. The  
27 payment of the executive director of the commission, the expenses of the commission, and all other  
28 overhead costs of the commission, shall be paid from such fund. Any moneys in such fund shall not  
29 lapse into the general fund of the state.

30           49 New Subparagraph; State Treasurer; Application of Receipts. Amend RSA 6:12, I(b) by  
31 inserting after subparagraph 399 the following new subparagraph:

32               (400) Moneys deposited in the New Hampshire commission on aging fund  
33 established in RSA 19-P:5.

34           50 Appropriation. The New Hampshire commission on aging fund established pursuant to RSA  
35 19-P:5 is hereby appropriated \$150,000 in general funds for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026 and  
36 \$150,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027. This appropriation shall be used exclusively to  
37 support payment of the executive director and the activities of the commission. The governor is

1 authorized to draw a warrant for said sum out of any money in the treasury not otherwise  
2 appropriated.

3 51 Department of Corrections; Funding Transfer Authority. The following classes within the  
4 department of corrections shall be exempt from the transfer restrictions in RSA 9:17a, 9:17c, classes  
5 10-personal services-perm classified, 11- personal services unclassified, 12-personal services-  
6 unclassified, 18-overtime, 19-holiday pay, 50- personal service-temp/appointed and 60-benefits. The  
7 department is authorized to transfer funding in these classes within and amongst all accounting  
8 units provided that quarterly these transfers are reported to the fiscal committee within 60 days of  
9 the end of that quarter. In the event class 18 overtime expenditures are more than amounts  
10 appropriated and transferred from vacant positions, the commissioner may request, with prior  
11 approval of the fiscal committee, that the governor and council authorize additional funding. Upon  
12 fiscal committee and governor and council approval, the governor is authorized to draw a warrant  
13 from any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

14 52 Department of Corrections; Qualifications and Compensation of Certain Officials. Amend  
15 RSA 21-H:7 to read as follows:

16 21-H:7 Qualifications and Compensation of Certain Officials.

17 I. The commissioner, assistant commissioner, [~~director of personnel and information,~~  
18 ~~director of rehabilitative services, and the~~] division directors, **deputy warden, and deputy**  
19 **directors** of the department shall be qualified to hold such positions by reason of education and  
20 experience.

21 II. The salaries of the commissioner, assistant commissioner, [~~director of personnel and~~  
22 ~~information, director of rehabilitative services, and the~~] division directors, **deputy warden, and**  
23 **deputy directors** of the department shall be as specified in RSA 94:1-a.

24 53 The State Prisons; Sale of Prison Products; Industries Inventory Account. Amend RSA  
25 622:28-a, I to read as follows:

26 I. An industries inventory account shall be maintained to enable the state prisons to  
27 implement RSA 622:26-28. [~~Except for~~] **All** permanent personnel, [~~all~~] operating expenses,  
28 materials, supplies, overtime and purchase and repair of equipment determined to be necessary for  
29 the growing or manufacture of products for resale shall be a proper charge against this account.  
30 Charges for the sale of goods and services produced by the industries program shall be sufficient to  
31 defray the expenditures charged against this account and any sums obtained therefrom shall be a  
32 credit to the account.

33 54 Department of Health and Human Services; State Grant in Aid.

34 Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, there is hereby appropriated to the department  
35 of health and human services the sum of \$5,000,000 for the state fiscal year ending June 30, 2026,  
36 and the sum of \$5,000,000 for the state fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, from the opioid abatement  
37 trust fund, established under RSA 126-A:83, for the purpose of providing year-round emergency

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1 shelter services to individuals with an opioid use disorder. Such shelter programs must provide  
2 supportive services designed to assist people obtain recovery and permanent housing to achieve self-  
3 sufficiency.

4 55 Department of Health and Human Services; Prospective Repeal Regarding the Exemption  
5 from Certain Transfer Procedures Extended. Amend 2018, 163:11, IV as amended by 2019, 346:64,  
6 as amended by 2021, 91:27, and as amended by 2023, 79:215, to read as follows:

7 IV. Section 10 of this act shall take effect June 30, [~~2025~~] **2027**.

8 56 Effective Date. Section 55 of this act shall take effect June 30, 2025.

9 57 Prospective Repeal Regarding Eligibility for Services Extended. Amend 2011, 209:6, I, as  
10 amended by 2013, 140:1, I, as amended by 2015, 276:41, I, as amended by 2017, 156:85, I, as  
11 amended by 2019, 346:61, I, as amended by 2021, 91:404, as amended by 2023, 79:198, to read as  
12 follows:

13 I. Section 5 of this act shall take effect July 1, [~~2025~~] **2027**.

14 58 Health and Human Services; Graduate Medical Education Payments Suspended.

15 The commissioner of the department of health and human services shall submit a Title XIX  
16 Medicaid state plan amendment to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to  
17 suspend the provision of direct and indirect graduate medical education payments to hospitals as  
18 provided in 42 C.F.R. section 413.75 for the biennium ending June 30, 2027. Upon approval of the  
19 state plan amendment, and as of the effective date of the state plan amendment, any obligations for  
20 payment of direct and indirect graduate medical education shall be suspended for the biennium  
21 ending June 30, 2027.

22 59 Health and Human Services; Suspension of Catastrophic Aid Payments to Hospitals. The  
23 commissioner of the department of health and human services shall submit a Title XIX Medicaid  
24 state plan amendment to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to suspend all  
25 catastrophic aid payments to hospitals effective for the biennium ending June 30, 2027.

26 60 Department of Health and Human Services; Division of Medicaid Services. Any funds  
27 appropriated to activity 05-95-47-470010, division of Medicaid services, for the biennium ending  
28 June 30, 2025, shall not lapse until June 30, 2027, and shall be treated as restricted revenue for the  
29 purpose of funding expenditures in account 05-95-47-470010-7948, Medicaid care management. The  
30 department of health and human services is authorized to accept and expend any matching federal  
31 funds for the purposes of this section without prior approval of the fiscal committee of the general  
32 court.

33 61 Effective Date. Section 60 of this act shall take effect June 30, 2025.

34 62 Appropriation; WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program. There is hereby appropriated to  
35 the department of health and human services the sum of \$15,000 in the fiscal year ending June 30,  
36 2026, and the sum of \$15,000 in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, for the purpose of funding the  
37 WIC farmers' market nutrition program in RSA 132:12-f. The department is authorized to accept

1 and expend any matching federal funds without the prior approval of the fiscal committee of the  
2 general court. The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said sums out of any money in the  
3 treasury not otherwise appropriated.

4 63 New Paragraph; Gifts to the State. Amend RSA 4:8 by inserting after paragraph II the  
5 following new paragraph:

6 III. Notwithstanding paragraph I, the commissioner of the department of health and human  
7 services may accept gifts of personal property valued at \$1,000 or less for the benefit of New  
8 Hampshire hospital, Hampstead hospital residential treatment facility, Glencliff home, and the New  
9 Hampshire youth development center.

10 64 Department of Health and Human Services; Unclassified Positions Established.

11 I. There are hereby established 2 unclassified supervising regional attorney positions in the  
12 department of health and human services.

13 II. The salary of the unclassified positions established in paragraph I shall be in accordance  
14 RSA 94:1-a, I.

15 III. The incumbents in the classified positions, establish by 2024, 377:8 shall be offered the  
16 opportunity to transfer into the unclassified positions established in paragraph I.

17 IV. The classified positions established by 2024, 377:8 shall be abolished on June 30, 2027,  
18 or upon transfer of the incumbents in accordance with paragraph III, whichever is sooner.

19 65 Congregate Housing; Appropriation. The sum of \$350,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30,  
20 2026, and the sum of \$350,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, are hereby appropriated to  
21 the department of health and human services for the purpose of funding congregate housing  
22 provided for under the Medicaid waiver pursuant to RSA 151-E and congregate services provided for  
23 in RSA 161-F:37. The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said sums out of any money in  
24 the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

25 66 Department of Health and Human Services; Positions Established; Staffing. Amend the  
26 introductory clause of RSA 126-A:9, I to read as follows:

27 I. There shall be established within the department the following unclassified positions [~~in  
28 addition to existing unclassified positions and positions established in paragraph II of this section~~].

29 67 Department of Health and Human Services; Positions Established; Staffing. Amend RSA  
30 126-A:9, II(b) to read as follows:

31 (b) The commissioner shall appoint a person to each *unclassified* position [established  
32 pursuant to subparagraph (a)] **authorized by the legislature**. Any [vacancy] **vacant position not**  
33 **established under paragraph I** shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.  
34 The annual salary of such unclassified employees shall be as prescribed in RSA 94:1-a **and RSA**  
35 **94:3-b, II**. The provisions of RSA 21:33-a shall not apply to appointments made under this  
36 subparagraph.

1       68 Repeal; Mental Health Medical Supervisor Position. RSA 126-A:9, I(c), relative to  
2 appointment of an unclassified mental health medical supervisor, is repealed.

3       69 Department of Health and Human Services; General Provisions; Drug Prescriptions. Amend  
4 RSA 126-A:3, V to read as follows:

5           V. Pharmacists shall substitute generically equivalent drug products for all legend and non-  
6 legend prescriptions paid for by the department of health and human services, [~~including the~~  
7 ~~Medicaid program,~~] unless the prescribing practitioner specifies that the brand name drug product is  
8 medically necessary. Such notification shall be in the practitioner's own handwriting **or as**  
9 **otherwise authorized by law or regulation** and shall be retained [~~in the pharmacist's file~~] **by the**  
10 **pharmacy. Pertaining to Medicaid, pharmacists shall dispense brand name drug products**  
11 **to Medicaid beneficiaries when the brand name drug product is listed on the department's**  
12 **Medicaid preferred drug list, and not substitute generically equivalent drugs.** The  
13 provisions of paragraph III shall not apply to the dispensing by a pharmacy for medical assistance  
14 reimbursement for legend and non-legend drugs. The commissioner, in consultation with pharmacy  
15 providers, shall establish medical assistance reimbursement for legend and non-legend drugs. For  
16 Medicaid fee for service [~~clients~~] **beneficiaries**, no prior authorization [~~for generically equivalent~~  
17 ~~drugs shall be required~~] **shall be required for generic drug products unless the drug class is**  
18 **recommended by the drug utilization review board for clinical appropriateness and safety**  
19 **utilization review.**

20       70 New Paragraph; Public Health; Department of Health and Human Services; General  
21 Provisions. Amend RSA 126-A:3 by inserting after paragraph V the following new paragraph:

22           V-a.(a) When deemed medically necessary and cost effective by the department of health  
23 and human services' chief medical officer, a standing order may be issued by the chief medical officer  
24 for certain Medicaid covered over-the-counter (non-legend) medications, medical supplies, and  
25 laboratory tests. Such standing order shall be reviewed annually by the chief medical officer for  
26 continuation or discontinuation of the standing order.

27           (b) The chief medical officer's standing order, as provided in subparagraph (a), shall also  
28 permit non-Medicaid recipients to obtain over-the-counter (non-legend) medications, medical  
29 supplies, and laboratory tests pursuant to the standing order. Nothing in this paragraph shall  
30 prohibit insurers from applying appropriate medical management techniques or require insurers to  
31 pay for the cost of these items unless expressly stated by the insurer's terms of coverage.

32           (c) No health care professional, acting in good faith and with reasonable care, who issues  
33 a standing order, or who dispenses, or distributes over-the-counter (non-legend) medications,  
34 medical supplies, or laboratory tests by standing order shall be subject to any criminal or civil  
35 liability, or any professional disciplinary action, for any action authorized by this paragraph or any  
36 outcome resulting from an action authorized by this paragraph.

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1           71 Developmental Services; Pilot Program Limited to Current Enrollment. Amend 2022, 272:9,  
2 VII as amended by 2023, 79:548 to read as follows:

3           VII. There is hereby appropriated to the department of health and human services the sum  
4 of \$2,800,000, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, for the purpose of implementing the pilot  
5 program plan or the pilot itself, for developmental services established in this section. This  
6 appropriation shall not lapse until June 30, 2025. Additionally, the department may accept and  
7 expend any applicable federal funds, and any gifts, grants, or donations that may be available for the  
8 purposes of the pilot program. ~~[In the event of any remaining funds not otherwise expended after~~  
9 ~~reaching the cap of serving 20 eligible individuals under the pilot program, the department may~~  
10 ~~allocate funding and provide services to additional eligible individuals.]~~ The governor is authorized  
11 to draw a warrant for said sum out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

12           72 Developmental Services; Pilot Program; Appropriation. There is hereby appropriated to the  
13 department of health and human services the sum of \$1,000,000 for the biennium ending June 30,  
14 2027, for the purpose of continuing services for those enrolled in the developmental services pilot  
15 program established in 2022, 272:9. The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said sum out  
16 of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated. The department is authorized to accept  
17 and expend any available federal funds or gifts, grants, or donations for this purpose without prior  
18 approval of the fiscal committee of the general court.

19           73 Expanding Access to Court-appointed Counsel for Children in Dependency Proceedings;  
20 Prospective Effective Date Extended. Amend 2024, 296:6 to read as follows:

21           296:6 Effective Date.

22           I. Sections 3 and 5 of this act shall take effect August 1, [2026] **2028**.

23           II. The remainder of this act shall take effect July 1, [2025] **2027**.

24           74 Department of Health and Human Services; Pharmacy Copays; Medicaid Program. The  
25 department of health and human services shall file a Medicaid state plan amendment on or before  
26 January 1, 2026, to increase the prescription drug copay amount to \$4, subject to federal limitations  
27 on cost sharing and eligibility limitations.

28           75 Department of Health and Human Services; Medicaid Managed Care. The department of  
29 health and human services is hereby directed to complete no more than one Medicaid rate filing with  
30 the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services each state fiscal year for the biennium ending June  
31 30, 2027.

32           76 New Section; New Hampshire Granite Advantage Health Care Program; Premiums  
33 Established. Amend RSA 126-AA by inserting after section 2 the following new section:

34           126-AA:2-a New Hampshire Granite Advantage Health Care Program; Premiums Established.  
35 The department of health and human services shall file a Medicaid waiver and state plan  
36 amendment, if necessary, on or before July 1, 2026, to institute premiums, as provided in this  
37 section, for individuals participating in the granite advantage health care program who have income

1 at or above 100 percent of the federal poverty level, subject to federal limitations on cost sharing and  
2 eligibility limitations. The premium amount shall be based on a portion of the cost of the services  
3 and the program, and shall not vary based on the participant's income. The department shall  
4 develop hardship criteria in administering these premiums.

5 I. For the biennium ending June 30, 2027, monthly premium amounts for individuals  
6 participating in the granite advantage health care program shall be:

7 (a) Household size of one: \$60 per month.

8 (b) Household size of 2: \$80 per month.

9 (c) Household size of 3: \$90 per month.

10 (d) Household size of 4 or more: \$100 per month.

11 II. Beginning in fiscal year 2028, the commissioner shall adopt rules under RSA 541-A, to  
12 establish monthly premiums for individuals participating in the program in accordance with this  
13 section.

14 77 New Paragraph; Department of Health and Human Services; Children's Health Insurance  
15 Program; Premiums Established. Amend RSA 126-A:3 by inserting after paragraph VIII the  
16 following new paragraph:

17 IX. The commissioner shall file a Medicaid state plan amendment on or before January 1,  
18 2026, to institute premiums, as provided in this paragraph, for households with children enrolled in  
19 Medicaid with income at or above 255 percent of the federal poverty level, subject to federal  
20 limitations. The premium amount shall be based on a portion of the cost of the services and the  
21 program, and shall not vary based on the participant's income. The premium shall only apply to  
22 Medicaid and shall not apply to waiver services. The department shall develop hardship criteria in  
23 administering these premiums.

24 (a) For the biennium ending June 30, 2027, monthly premium amounts for households  
25 with children enrolled in Medicaid with income at or above 255 percent of the federal poverty limit  
26 shall be:

27 (1) Household size of 2: \$190 per month.

28 (2) Household size of 3: \$230 per month.

29 (3) Household size of 4 or more: \$270 per month.

30 (b) Beginning in fiscal year 2028, the commissioner shall adopt rules under RSA 541-A  
31 to establish monthly premiums for households with children enrolled in Medicaid in accordance with  
32 this paragraph.

33 78 Report Required; Department of Health and Human Services. The department of health and  
34 human services shall submit, for the premiums established in sections 76 and 77 of this act, a report  
35 on the department's success in collecting said premiums as well as the impact of the premiums on  
36 Medicaid enrollment. The first report shall be submitted by January 1, 2026, to the speaker of the  
37 house of representatives, the president of the senate, and the chairs of the senate health and human

1 services committee and the house of representatives health, human services, and elderly affairs  
2 committee. The department shall provide an updated report to the speaker of the house of  
3 representatives, the president of the senate, and the chairs of the senate health and human services  
4 committee and the house of representatives health, human services, and elderly affairs committee  
5 every 6 months.

6 79 Department of Health and Human Services; Medicaid Eligibility. To restore income  
7 verification for Medicaid redetermination to pre-public health emergency income verification  
8 standards for the biennium ending June 30, 2027, the department of health and human services  
9 shall allow the federal public health emergency Social Security Act Section 1902e(14)(A) waiver  
10 authorities to expire effective June 30, 2025.

11 80 Department of Health and Human Services; Appropriation; Child Care Scholarship Program.  
12 To avoid a waitlist for the New Hampshire child care scholarship program, the commissioner of the  
13 department of health and human services may request, with prior approval of the fiscal committee of  
14 the general court, that the governor and council authorize additional funding. If approved by  
15 governor and council, the governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said sum out of any money in  
16 the treasury otherwise not appropriated.

17 81 Department of Information Technology; Salary Grades for Certain Positions. Amend the  
18 following positions in RSA 94:1-a, I(b) to read as follows:

19 GG Department of information technology director, ***user services division***

20 GG Department of information technology director, ***user experience division***

21 GG Department of information technology assistant director, [~~agency software division~~]  
22 ***business relationship management division***

23 HH Department of information technology director, ***business relationship management***  
24 ***division***

25 HH Department of information technology director, ***infrastructure and operations***  
26 ***division***

27 82 Department of Justice; Division of Legal Counsel. Amend RSA 7:8-b to read as follows:

28 7:8-b Division of Legal Counsel.

29 I. There is hereby established, within the office of the attorney general, a division of legal  
30 counsel. The division shall be supervised by an associate attorney general appointed under RSA  
31 7:16.

32 II. The division of legal counsel shall consist of the following units:

33 (a) A bureau of civil law.

34 (b) [~~A transportation and construction bureau.~~] ***A public safety and infrastructure***  
35 ***bureau, as provided in RSA 21-M:12.***

36 (c) [~~An office of the solicitor general.~~] ***A civil rights unit, which shall be responsible***  
37 ***for enforcing the New Hampshire Law Against Discrimination and the New Hampshire***

1 *Civil Rights Act, bringing civil enforcement actions on behalf of the public to redress*  
2 *discriminatory acts and civil rights violations, and enforcing any other state or federal*  
3 *antidiscrimination laws that authorize the attorney general to enforce them.*

4 (d) *A charitable trusts unit, which shall be responsible for administering the*  
5 *duties assigned to the attorney general regarding charitable trusts under RSA 7:19*  
6 *through 7:32-a.*

7 (e) *An election law unit, which shall be responsible for enforcing violations of*  
8 *New Hampshire election laws under RSA 7:6-c and the Uniform Law on Notarial Acts.*

9 ~~[III. The division shall also be responsible for administering the duties assigned to the~~  
10 ~~attorney general regarding charitable trusts under RSA 7:19 through 7:32-a.]~~

11 83 Department of Justice; Division of Legal Counsel. Amend RSA 21-M:7 to read as follows:

12 21-M:7 Division of Legal Counsel.

13 I. There is established within the department a division of legal counsel. The division shall  
14 be supervised by an associate attorney general appointed under RSA 21-M:3.

15 II. The division of legal counsel shall consist of the following units:

16 (a) A bureau of civil law.

17 (b) A public safety and infrastructure bureau, *as provided in RSA 21-M:12.*

18 (c) *A civil rights unit, which shall be responsible for enforcing the New*  
19 *Hampshire Law Against Discrimination and the New Hampshire Civil Rights Act.*

20 (d) *A charitable trusts unit, which shall be responsible for administering the*  
21 *duties assigned to the attorney general regarding charitable trusts under RSA 7:19*  
22 *through 7:32-a.*

23 (e) *An election law unit, which shall be responsible for enforcing violations of*  
24 *New Hampshire election laws under RSA 7:6-c and the Uniform Law on Notarial Acts.*

25 ~~[III. The division shall also be responsible for administering the duties assigned to the~~  
26 ~~attorney general regarding charitable trusts under RSA 7:19 through 32-a.]~~

27 84 Repeal; Bureau of Civil Law; Regulation of Charitable Trusts. RSA 21-M:11, II(c), relative to  
28 responsibility for the regulation of charitable trusts by the bureau of civil law, is repealed.

29 85 Department of Justice; Private Practice Prohibited. Amend RSA 7:6-d to read as follows:

30 7:6-d Private Practice Prohibited. The attorney general, deputy attorney general, assistant  
31 attorneys general and all attorneys employed by the department of justice shall not directly or  
32 indirectly engage in the private practice of law, nor shall they accept any fees or emoluments other  
33 than their official salaries for any legal services. Private practice of law shall not include the  
34 provision of legal services without charge to the members of an attorney's family when the same  
35 shall not conflict with the attorney's official duties. The provisions of this section shall not apply to  
36 ~~[the director of charitable trusts, nor to]~~ special counsel retained by the attorney general.

37 86 Director of Charitable Trusts; Authority. Amend RSA 7:19, I to read as follows:

1 I. RSA 7:19 through [32-a] **7:32-b** inclusive shall apply to all trustees holding property for  
2 charitable purposes and to all persons soliciting for charitable purposes or engaging in charitable  
3 sales promotions; and the attorney general shall have and exercise, in addition to all the common  
4 law and statutory rights, duties and powers of the attorney general in connection with the  
5 supervision, administration and enforcement of charitable trusts, charitable solicitations, and  
6 charitable sales promotions, the rights, duties and powers set forth in RSA 7:19 through [32-a] **7:32-**  
7 **b** inclusive. The attorney general shall also have the authority to prepare and maintain a register of  
8 all charitable trusts heretofore or hereafter established or active in this state. However, this  
9 subdivision does not apply to the United States; any state, territory or possession of the United  
10 States; the District of Columbia; the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico or to any of their agencies or  
11 governmental subdivisions or to any religious organization which holds property for charitable or  
12 religious purposes or their integrated auxiliaries or to conventions or associations of churches.

13 87 Attorney General; Enforcement of the Election Laws. Amend RSA 7:6-c, I to read as follows:

14 I. Upon receipt of a signed written complaint, or upon his or her own motion, the attorney  
15 general may in his or her discretion, conduct investigations to determine whether any violation of  
16 the election *or lobbying* laws has occurred and may prosecute anyone responsible for such a  
17 violation. In conducting an investigation under this section the attorney general may enlist the aid  
18 of the county attorneys, the state police, and other public officers. In the exercise of his or her  
19 powers and duties under this section, the attorney general may hold hearings and require the  
20 attendance of individuals by the use of subpoena and may require the production of books,  
21 documents, records, and other tangible goods by use of subpoena duces tecum. Any testimony  
22 required by the attorney general at a hearing which he or she is empowered to hold under this  
23 section shall be given under oath. The attorney general shall maintain records of complaints and  
24 investigations of alleged violations of the election laws.

25 88 Education; School Money; Educated Trust Fund Created and Invested. Amend RSA 198:39,  
26 I(m)-(n) to read as follows:

27 (m) To distribute payments to education service providers on behalf of school districts  
28 for children with disabilities in certain court ordered placements [~~or placements for an episode of~~  
29 ~~treatment~~] pursuant to RSA 186-C:19-b.

30 (n) *To distribute payments to providers for costs of special education and*  
31 *education services related to an episode of treatment pursuant to RSA 193:27, VII.*

32 (o) To distribute grants for leased space to approved chartered public schools pursuant  
33 to RSA 198:15-hh.

34 (p) *To fund grants from the public school infrastructure fund under RSA*  
35 *198:15-y.*

36 (q) *To fund department of education operating costs, as authorized under RSA*  
37 *198:39, III.*

1 89 Chartered Public Schools; Funding. Amend RSA 194-B:11, I(c) to read as follows:

2 (c) The ~~[commissioner of the]~~ department of education shall calculate and distribute  
3 chartered public school tuition payments as set forth herein. The first payment shall be 30 percent  
4 of the per pupil amount multiplied by the number of eligible pupils *enrolled and* present on the  
5 first day of the current school year. Such payment shall be made no later than 15 days after the  
6 department of education receives the ~~[attendance]~~ *approved enrollment* report. The December 1  
7 payment shall be 30 percent of the per pupil amount multiplied by the membership on ~~[November]~~  
8 *October* 1, and the March 1 payment shall be 30 percent of the per pupil amount multiplied by the  
9 membership on February 1. To calculate the final payment, ~~[the commissioner of]~~ the department of  
10 education shall multiply the per pupil amount by the average daily membership in attendance for  
11 the full school year, and subtract the total amount of the first 3 payments made. The remaining  
12 balance shall be the final payment. Eligible chartered public schools shall report membership in  
13 accordance with RSA 189:1-d. In this subparagraph, "membership" shall be as defined in RSA 189:1-  
14 d, II. Tuition amounts shall be prorated on a per diem basis for pupils attending a school for less  
15 than a full school year. *The average daily membership in attendance for the Virtual  
16 Learning Academy Charter School shall be calculated by converting each credit completed  
17 into an average daily membership metric utilizing the basis that 12 half-credits equal 1.0  
18 average daily membership. No full-time enrolled pupil at the Virtual Learning Academy  
19 Charter School shall have an average daily membership that exceeds 1.0.*

20 90 New Subparagraph; Chartered Public Schools; Funding. Amend RSA 194-B:11, I by  
21 inserting after subparagraph (e) the following new subparagraph:

22 (f) The first 3 payments made pursuant to subparagraph (c) to the Virtual Learning  
23 Academy Charter School shall be made based on the estimated end of year full-time student and full-  
24 time equivalent student average daily membership in attendance calculation. The department may  
25 make a May 1 payment distribution to the Virtual Learning Academy using the most current data to  
26 ensure the Virtual Learning Academy Charter School receives an estimated 90 percent of adequacy  
27 distribution before the end of the fiscal year. The department of education may adjust down the  
28 December 1 or March 1 payment on the estimated average end of year enrollment during the school  
29 year for any charter school with a 20 percent or greater enrollment decline after the first day of  
30 school.

31 91 Determination of Education Grants. Amend RSA 198:41, VI to read as follows:

32 VI. ~~[When final determination year data is available, but not later than April 1,]~~ The  
33 department shall make a final determination of grant amounts *by October 1*. A municipality's  
34 grant estimate shall not be less than 95 percent of the estimate reported pursuant to paragraph IV.  
35 The department shall adjust the April grant disbursement required pursuant to RSA 198:42 so that  
36 the total amount disbursed for the fiscal year shall match the final grant determination.

1           ***VI-a. The final determination of the grant amount can be modified after October 1***  
2 ***after a vote in the affirmative by the state board under the following conditions:***

3                   ***(a) The department or a school district petitioned the state board to modify the***  
4 ***October 1 grant determination prior to January 15 of the same fiscal year and the state***  
5 ***board votes in the affirmative to accept the petition by February 15;***

6                   ***(b) The change being considered within the scope of the petition shall have a***  
7 ***total adequacy dollar impact greater than \$10,000 for at least one municipality; and***

8                   ***(c) The petition specifically identifies the municipality or municipalities***  
9 ***requiring change in the final grant amount and the amount being modified.***

10           92 Adequate Representation for Indigent Defendants in Criminal Cases; Services Other Than  
11 Counsel. RSA 604-A:6 is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

12           604-A:6 Services Other Than Counsel.

13           I. In any criminal case in which counsel has been appointed to represent a defendant who is  
14 financially unable to obtain investigative, expert or other services necessary to an adequate defense  
15 in his or her case, counsel may apply therefor to the court, and, upon finding that such services are  
16 necessary and that the defendant is financially unable to obtain them, the court shall authorize  
17 counsel to obtain the necessary services on behalf of the defendant. The court may, in the interests  
18 of justice and upon finding that timely procurement of necessary services could not await prior  
19 authorization, ratify and approve such services after they have been obtained. The court shall  
20 determine reasonable compensation for the services and direct payment upon the filing of a claim for  
21 compensation supported by an affidavit specifying the time expended, the nature of the services  
22 rendered, the expenses incurred on behalf of the defendant, and the compensation, if any, received in  
23 the same case for the same services from any other source.

24           II. The administrative judges of the circuit and superior court may designate classes of  
25 routine, necessary services, under \$1,500 per service, that are not subject to the procedure above.  
26 Invoices classified as routine and necessary may be submitted directly to the judicial council for  
27 review and payment. These invoices shall include a certification by the attorney assigned to the case  
28 that the services were necessary to representation in the matter that the attorney was assigned to.

29           III. The executive director of the judicial council may, upon review of any particular invoice,  
30 decline to process such invoice without judicial review, and may direct the attorney to go through the  
31 process outline in paragraph I.

32           IV. Vendor invoices and certifications under this section will be retained by the judicial  
33 council.

34           V. Any indigent defendant appearing pro se may seek services as outlined in paragraph I.

35           93 Contract Services. Amend RSA 604-A:6-a to read as follows:

36           604-A:6-a Contract Services. The state of New Hampshire, by the judicial council and with the  
37 approval of governor and council, may, within the limits of appropriations, contract with qualified

1 firms or individuals in the state to provide stenographic, *interpretation, translation,*  
2 *transportation, investigation, and psychological, psychiatric, mental health, and*  
3 *substance abuse evaluations* and clerical services where, pursuant to RSA 604-A:6, the defendant  
4 has been found to be eligible for such services. The executive director of the judicial council shall  
5 authorize payments to such individuals and firms as provided for under this section.

6 94 Compensation of Counsel. Amend RSA 604-A:4 to read as follows:

7 604-A:4 Compensation of Counsel.

8 **I.** [~~Subject to the provisions of RSA 604-A:6,~~] Counsel appointed pursuant to this chapter to  
9 represent the defendant, at the conclusion of the representation or any segment thereof, shall be  
10 reasonably compensated therefor and shall be reimbursed for expenses reasonably incurred. A  
11 separate claim for compensation and reimbursement shall be made to each court before which the  
12 counsel represented the defendant. Each claim shall be supported by a written statement specifying  
13 the time expended, services rendered and expenses incurred while the case was pending before the  
14 court. Each court before which the counsel represented the defendant shall fix the compensation  
15 and reimbursement to be paid the counsel for services rendered and expenses incurred while  
16 representing the defendant in proceedings before the court; however, no justice shall approve any  
17 unreasonable or unnecessary charge.

18 **II.** *The administrative judges of the circuit and superior court may order that any*  
19 *invoice for fees that falls within the limits of the supreme court rules governing assigned*  
20 *counsel may be submitted directly to the judicial council for review and payment.*

21 **III.** *The executive director of the judicial council may, upon review of any*  
22 *particular invoice, decline to process such invoice without judicial review, and may direct*  
23 *the attorney to go through the process outline in paragraph I.*

24 **IV.** *Vendor invoices and certifications under this section shall be retained by the*  
25 *judicial council.*

26 95 New Section; Protective Legislation; Payment of Wages; Wage Claim Settlement Account.  
27 Amend RSA 275 by inserting after section 53 the following new section:

28 275:53-a Wage Claim Settlement Account. A special fund is hereby established in the state  
29 treasury for the purpose of receiving and distributing wages in accordance with RSA 275:53, II. The  
30 commissioner shall administer the fund. The state treasurer shall be the custodian of the fund, and  
31 all moneys in the fund shall be held in trust by the state treasurer and shall not constitute money or  
32 property of the state.

33 96 New Subparagraph; Wage Claim Settlement Account. Amend RSA 6:12, I(b) by inserting  
34 after subparagraph (399) the following new subparagraph:

35 (400) Moneys deposited in the wage claim settlement account fund established  
36 pursuant to RSA 275:53-a.

37 97 Repeal. RSA 281-A:30, relative to the special fund for active cases, is repealed.

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1       98 Effective Date. Section 97 of this act shall take effect September 1, 2025.

2       99 Workers Compensation; Hearings and Awards. Amend RSA 281-A:43, II to read as follows:

3           II. A decision of the commissioner, the commissioner's authorized representative, or the  
4 board shall take effect and shall become final, in the absence of an appeal from it, 30 days from the  
5 date of the decision. Payment of weekly compensation and entitlement to medical and vocational  
6 benefits, if necessary and so ordered by the commissioner or the board, shall begin or continue as  
7 soon as possible, but no later than 5 working days after ~~[the decision's effective date]~~ **issuance of**  
8 **the decision**, and shall not be terminated except in accordance with the terms of the decision or of a  
9 final court determination. If the commissioner determines that the employer or carrier has failed to  
10 comply with any order, then the commissioner may assess a penalty not to exceed \$100 for each day  
11 of noncompliance, beginning on the date of notification of its assessment. Upon continued failure to  
12 comply with an order to make payment of the compensation or medical benefits, or to institute  
13 vocational rehabilitation, or to pay the penalty, or any combination thereof, the commissioner shall  
14 petition the superior court for an injunction to comply. The commissioner shall deposit into the  
15 department of labor restricted fund established in RSA 273:1-b any penalty collected under this  
16 section.

17       100 Workers Compensation; Appeals Board; Composition. Amend RSA 281-A:42-a, I to read as  
18 follows:

19           I. There is established a compensation appeals board. ~~[Until January 1, 2024,]~~ The board  
20 shall consist of a pool of ~~[33]~~ **27** members, of which ~~[11]~~ **9** members shall represent labor, ~~[11]~~ **9**  
21 members shall represent employers or workers' compensation insurers and ~~[11]~~ **9** members shall be  
22 attorneys who shall be neutral. ~~[On January 1, 2024, the commissioner shall identify 2 seats from~~  
23 ~~each of the 3 sectors that are vacant or of an expired term, and eliminate those seats, reducing the~~  
24 ~~entire pool to 27 members in total.]~~ Members of the board shall be appointed by the governor and  
25 council from a list of nominees submitted by the commissioner. The commissioner shall submit at  
26 least 2 nominees for each vacancy to be filled. Any person appointed by the governor and council  
27 who is not qualified or who ceases to be qualified in the capacity in which such person is serving on  
28 the appeals board shall be replaced by the governor and council. Terms of board members shall be 3  
29 years, except the initial appointments shall be staggered so that no more than 1/3 of the members'  
30 terms shall expire in the same year. Members of the board shall have at least 5 years' experience in  
31 the area of workers' compensation or human resources or administrative law. As a condition to  
32 maintaining eligibility to hear appeals, board members shall have at least 10 hours annually of  
33 training and briefing in the area of workers' compensation and relevant disciplines. The  
34 commissioner, or designee, with the assistance of the attorney general's staff shall supervise and  
35 approve the training. The commissioner shall have the authority to suspend the eligibility of any  
36 member of the board who is not in compliance with such annual training requirements, and to  
37 reinstate such member's eligibility upon compliance. The commissioner may suspend from active

1 participation any board member who fails to render a decision or order within 30 days of the hearing  
2 as required by RSA 281-A:43, I(b). The commissioner may rescind the suspension once the board  
3 member is in compliance with RSA 281-A:43, I(b). Appeals from a decision of the commissioner or  
4 the commissioner's representative shall be heard de novo by a 3-member panel, composed of an  
5 attorney who shall serve as chair, one member representing labor and one member representing  
6 employers or workers' compensation insurers. At least 2 like votes shall be necessary for a decision  
7 by the panel. The board shall hear appeals, in accordance with RSA 281-A:43, I(b), from the  
8 decisions of the commissioner made pursuant to RSA 281-A:43. No person who is an interested  
9 party or an employee of an interested party shall participate as a member of the panel. The board  
10 shall conduct its proceedings in such a manner as to ensure a fair and impartial hearing.

11 101 Confidentiality of Workers Compensation Claims. Amend RSA 281-A:21-b to read as  
12 follows:

13 281-A:21-b Confidentiality of Workers' Compensation Claims. Proceedings and records of the  
14 department of labor **and the compensation appeals board** with respect to workers' compensation  
15 claims under RSA 281-A shall be exempt from RSA 91-A. Nothing in this section shall prohibit the  
16 department of labor **or the compensation appeals board** from releasing information on a person's  
17 claim or claims to the person, the person's legal representative, attorney, health care providers,  
18 employer, the employer's workers' compensation insurer, the attorneys for the employer or  
19 employer's insurer, or state and federal agencies with relevant jurisdiction. Notwithstanding the  
20 provisions of this section, information relating to a person's claim or claims may be released to other  
21 parties only with the prior written permission of the claimant.

22 102 Department of Labor; Reports. Amend RSA 273:10 to read as follows:

23 273:10 Reports. [~~He~~] **The labor commissioner** shall transmit to the legislature a report upon  
24 these matters when [~~he~~] **the labor commissioner** shall deem the occasion of sufficient importance,  
25 with such recommendations as [~~he~~] **the labor commissioner** shall think advisable. [~~He~~] **The labor**  
26 **commissioner** shall biennially make a report of the proceedings of the department of labor to the  
27 governor and council, containing the transactions of the office and such other matters and  
28 recommendations as [~~he~~] **the labor commissioner** shall deem proper.

29 103 Workers Compensation; Hearings and Awards. Amend RSA 281-A:43, I(a) to read as  
30 follows:

31 I.(a) In a controversy as to the responsibility of an employer or the employer's insurance  
32 carrier for the payment of compensation and other benefits under this chapter, any party at interest  
33 may petition the commissioner in writing for a hearing and award. The petition shall be sent to the  
34 commissioner at the department's offices in Concord and shall set forth the reasons for requesting  
35 the hearing and the questions in dispute which the applicant expects to be resolved. The  
36 commissioner or the commissioner's authorized representative shall schedule a hearing, either in  
37 Concord or at a location nearest the employee as determined by the commissioner, by fixing its time

1 and place and giving notice at least 14 days prior to the date for which it is scheduled. The hearing  
2 date shall be set for a time not to exceed 6 weeks from the date the petition was received. In those  
3 instances where an expedited hearing is requested, the petition for hearing shall set forth the facts  
4 in sufficient detail to support the request for an expedited hearing. The commissioner, or his or her  
5 authorized agent shall, in his or her discretion, determine whether the need exists for an expedited  
6 hearing. Any requests for an expedited hearing shall be periodically reviewed by the commissioner  
7 to determine whether such requests are given proper attention. The commissioner shall also identify  
8 any overutilization by the requesting parties and responses given to such requests by the  
9 commissioner. An annual report of the expedited requests, responses, the number of continuances,  
10 the reasons for such continuances, the number of requests for hearing, and the time within which  
11 the hearings were held shall be made annually to the advisory council established in RSA 281-A:62.  
12 The notice may be given in hand, via first class mail, or, ~~[upon consent of the parties,]~~ by electronic  
13 transmission ***to any party with that party's consent.*** Continuances of any hearing are  
14 discouraged; however, should a continuance be necessary, the parties requesting such continuance  
15 shall file with the department a written petition for such continuance at least 7 days prior to the  
16 hearing. Failure to file such a petition shall bar any right to a continuance. Thereafter, a  
17 continuance may only be granted upon the commissioner's finding that a compelling need exists so  
18 as to require a continuance. At such hearing, it shall be incumbent upon all parties to present all  
19 available evidence and the person conducting the hearing shall give full consideration to all evidence  
20 presented. In addition, the person conducting the hearing shall freely and comprehensively examine  
21 all witnesses to determine the merits of the matter. Also, the person conducting the hearing may  
22 recess the hearing to a date certain and direct the parties, or either of them, to provide such further  
23 information that may be necessary to decide the matter. No later than 30 days after the hearing, the  
24 commissioner or the commissioner's authorized representative shall render a decision and shall  
25 forthwith notify the parties of it. When appropriate, the commissioner, or his or her authorized  
26 representative, may render a decision at the hearing. Unless excused for good cause shown, or a  
27 party has not received notice, failure of any or all parties at interest to appear at a duly scheduled  
28 hearing or to petition for a continuance shall bar such parties from any further action concerning an  
29 adverse decision, a decision by default, or a dismissal of a petition for hearing and award. The  
30 commissioner, or his or her authorized representative, shall serve notice of a pending default, default  
31 decision, or dismissal of a petition for hearing and award on the defaulting party via certified mail,  
32 return receipt requested. Upon receipt of undeliverable certified mail, the commissioner, or his or  
33 her authorized representative, shall stay the proceedings for up to one year from the date of the  
34 receipt of undeliverable certified mail during which time the commissioner, or his or her authorized  
35 representative, shall make all reasonable attempts to provide notice to the defaulting party. If  
36 notice cannot be provided within one year, the commissioner, or his or her authorized representative,  
37 shall render a decision in favor of the non-defaulting party.

1           104 Elevator and Accessibility Lifts; Inspection Report and Certificates; Fee; Penalty. Amend  
2 RSA 157-B:5, I to read as follows:

3           I. Subsequent to the inspection of an elevator or accessibility lift, an inspector shall file with  
4 the commissioner an inspection report on a form prescribed by the commissioner indicating whether  
5 or not the elevator or accessibility lift is certifiable and shall provide a copy of the inspection report  
6 to the owner or the owner's designee. When an elevator or accessibility lift passes inspection, the  
7 commissioner shall furnish an ~~[inspection certificate to its owner or the owner's designee on a form~~  
8 ~~prescribed by the commissioner. A fee of \$50 shall be charged for each certificate. If the fee is not~~  
9 ~~paid within 30 days of the date on which the certificate is issued, the certificate shall be void.]~~  
10 **invoice for a fee of \$75 to the unit owner or designee. Upon receipt of the fee, the**  
11 **commissioner shall issue an inspection certificate to its owner or the owner's designee on a**  
12 **form prescribed by the commissioner, with a separate fee required for each certificate.**

13           105 Labor Commissioner; Civil Penalties. Amend RSA 273:11-a, I to read as follows:

14           I. In addition to any criminal penalty provided under this title, the commissioner may, after  
15 hearing, impose a civil penalty not to exceed \$2,500, **unless specifically authorized to do so by**  
16 **another provision of law**, as determined by the commissioner, for any violation of the provisions  
17 of, or any rule adopted pursuant to, this title, except RSA 273-A, RSA 273-C, and RSA 282-A. All  
18 moneys collected under this section shall be deposited into the department of labor restricted fund  
19 established in RSA 273:1-b.

20           106 New Subparagraphs; Labor Commissioner; Civil Penalties. Amend RSA 273:11-a, III by  
21 inserting after subparagraph (h) the following new subparagraphs:

22                   (i) Failure to comply with RSA 281-A regarding the workers compensation law.

23                   (j) Violations pursuant to RSA 276-A relative to youth labor laws.

24           107 New Hampshire Retirement System. The funds in accounting unit 1051 shall not lapse  
25 until June 30, 2027.

26           108 Department of Safety; General Fund Lapse to Fire Standards and Training and Emergency  
27 Medical Services Fund. Unspent general funds appropriated to the fire safety administration  
28 accounting unit 66310000 shall lapse to the fire standards and training and emergency medical  
29 services fund established in RSA 21-P:12-d, on June 30, 2026.

30           109 Effective Date. Section 108 of this act shall take effect on June 30, 2026.

31           110 Department of Safety; Prohibitions. Amend RSA 263:12, VI to read as follows:

32           VI. Manufacture, advertise for sale, sell, or possess any fictitious, facsimile or simulated  
33 license to drive a motor vehicle **unless specifically authorized by the director.**

34           111 Department of Safety; Provision for Federal Identification Database Prohibited. Amend  
35 RSA 260:14-a, VIII to read as follows:

1 VIII. Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the department may provide driver history  
2 records to a federal entity *or their authorized agents* for uses authorized in RSA 260:14, IV, RSA  
3 260:14, IV-a, and RSA 260:14, V.

4 112 Department of Safety; Division of Fire Safety. Amend RSA 21-P:15-a to read as follows:

5 21-P:15-a Hazardous Materials Incident Response Coordinator. There is created within the  
6 department of safety, division of fire safety, the classified~~[, full-time]~~ position of hazardous materials  
7 incident response coordinator. ~~[The position shall be at labor grade 23.]~~ The coordinator~~[shall be~~  
8 ~~appointed by the state fire marshal and]~~ shall oversee the preparedness of the state's regional  
9 hazardous materials response teams as provided in RSA 21-P:12, III. ***During full-time service as***  
10 ***hazardous materials incident response coordinator, the hazardous materials incident***  
11 ***response coordinator shall be eligible to be a group II member, if he or she was a group II***  
12 ***member or receiving a group II retirement allowance prior to being hired into this***  
13 ***position.***

14 113 Department of Safety; Division of Fire Standards and Training and Emergency Medical  
15 Services. Amend RSA 153-A:1, I to read as follows:

16 I. The general court declares that it is the policy of the state of New Hampshire to save lives  
17 and speed the healing of persons in need of medical services by providing an emergency medical and  
18 trauma services system that will bring an injured or sick person under the care of properly trained  
19 individuals in the shortest practical time, and that will provide safe transportation to the most  
20 appropriate treatment center prepared to receive the sick or injured person. It is the policy of the  
21 state of New Hampshire to ~~[insure]~~ ***ensure*** that the sick or injured person is safely transported in  
22 properly equipped vehicles which are designed to supply supportive care and which are able to  
23 communicate with medical treatment centers. ~~[The use of properly licensed wheelchair vans for hire~~  
24 ~~is to ensure that patients confined to a wheelchair are transported in equipped vehicles driven by~~  
25 ~~personnel approved by the division.]~~

26 114 Department of Safety; Division of Fire Standards and Training and Emergency Medical  
27 Services. Amend RSA 21-P:12-b, II(f) to read as follows:

28 (f) License emergency medical care providers, emergency medical service units,  
29 emergency medical service instructor/coordinators, emergency medical service training agencies,  
30 ~~[emergency medical services dispatchers,]~~ and emergency medical service vehicles~~[, including~~  
31 ~~wheelchair vans for hire].~~

32 115 Repeal. RSA 21-P:12-b, II(d), relative to division of fire standards and training and  
33 emergency medical services responsibility for a communications network for EMS units, is repealed.

34 116 Department of Safety; Chief of Policy and Planning. Amend RSA 21-P:5-b to read as  
35 follows:

36 21-P:5-b Chief of Policy and Planning. The commissioner of safety shall nominate a chief of  
37 policy and planning for appointment by the governor, with the consent of the council. The chief of

1 policy and planning shall serve at the pleasure of the commissioner and shall be qualified to hold  
2 that position by reason of education and experience and shall perform such duties as are assigned.  
3 ***Notwithstanding RSA 100-A:3 or any other law to the contrary, membership in the***  
4 ***retirement system shall be optional. If the incumbent opts to become a member of the***  
5 ***retirement system, the incumbent may enroll as a group II member if he or she was a group***  
6 ***II member or was receiving a group II retirement allowance prior to appointment.***

7 117 Repeal. RSA 11:6, RSA 6:12, I(b)(134), RSA 624:16, V, and 1909, 131, relative to the  
8 Benjamin Thompson trust fund, are repealed.

9 118 Budget and Appropriations; Revolving Funds. Amend RSA 9:16-a, II-a(e) to read as follows:

10 (e) The following classes shall not lapse in the first year of the operating budget: class  
11 028-transfers to general services, class 040-indirect costs, class 041-audit funds set aside, class 042-  
12 additional fringe benefits, class 061-unemployment compensation, class 062-workers compensation,  
13 class 064-retiree pension benefit-health insurance, class-210 bond insurance, ~~and~~ class-211  
14 property casualty insurance, ***class-043 debt service treasury, and class 044 debt service other***  
15 ***agencies.***

16 119 Revenue Sharing; Suspension. RSA 31-A, relative to revenue sharing with cities and towns,  
17 shall be suspended for the biennium ending June 30, 2027.

18 120 Repeal. 2023, 79:512 and 2023, 79:513, relative to wastewater state aid grants, are  
19 repealed.

20 121 Record of Wells; Monitoring Wells. Amend RSA 482-B:10, I(c)(1) to read as follows:

21 (1) Coordinates provided by global positioning technology in units of ***decimal***  
22 ***degrees*** ~~[and decimal minutes]~~ of latitude and longitude, with at least ~~[3]~~ ***5*** decimal places of  
23 precision and referenced to the World Geodetic System 1984 (WGS 84) datum or its successor;

24 122 Repeal. RSA 485-A:4, IX-a, relative to water pollution and waste disposal, is repealed.

25 123 Repeal. RSA 487:43, relative to aquatic invasive species decal, is repealed.

26 124 New Paragraph; Acquisition by State of Certain Dams and Water Rights; Acquisition  
27 Authorized. Amend RSA 482:48 by inserting after paragraph XI the following new paragraph:

28 XII. For a consideration of \$1, the department of environmental services may accept an  
29 easement from the abutting property owners of all rights necessary for access, and to store  
30 equipment during repair, reconstruction, maintaining, and operation of Pequawket Dam in the Town  
31 of Conway, Horn Pond Dam in the Town of Wakefield, and Souhegan Site #35 in the Town of New  
32 Ipswich for the purpose of repairing and reconstructing these dams. The rights and easements the  
33 department is authorized to acquire for the benefit of the state shall be exempt from taxation as long  
34 as the easements are held by the state. Except for the \$1 consideration, nothing in this paragraph  
35 shall mandate or authorize the expenditure of any funds or capital in relation to its provisions.

36 125 Department Of Environmental Services; Commissioner; Assistant Commissioner; Directors;  
37 Chief Operations Officer; Compensation. Amend RSA 21-O:2, III(c) to read as follows:

1 (c) The commissioner shall, after consulting with the waste management council,  
2 nominate for appointment by the governor and council a director of waste management. Each  
3 nominee shall hold a *baccalaureate or* master's degree from a recognized college or university with  
4 major study in environmental sciences, chemistry, civil engineering, public health, public  
5 administration, or a related field, and have 5 years' experience in a high level supervisory or  
6 administrative position in a public or private agency engaged in waste management, environmental  
7 health, or a related discipline.

8 126 Department of Environmental Services; Air Resources Council. Amend RSA 21-O:11, I to  
9 read as follows:

10 I. There is hereby established an air resources council which shall be composed of 11  
11 members, including one representing the [~~steam-power~~] *electric* generating industry; one  
12 representing the oil industry; one representing the natural gas industry; *one representing the*  
13 *renewable energy industry*; one representing the manufacturing component of industry; one  
14 representing the field of municipal government; and [6] 5 members appointed at large who shall  
15 represent the public interest, one of whom shall be [~~a licensed practicing physician or other health~~  
16 ~~care professional possessing expertise in the field of public health and the health-related impacts of~~  
17 ~~air pollution~~] *in the field of public health*, one of whom shall represent the field of recreation, and  
18 at least one of whom shall represent environmental interests. The council members who shall  
19 represent the public interest may not derive any significant portion of their income from persons  
20 subject to permits or enforcement orders, and may not serve as attorney for, act as consultant for,  
21 serve as officer or director of, or hold any other official or contractual relationship with any person  
22 subject to permits or enforcement orders. All potential conflicts of interest shall be adequately  
23 disclosed. The members shall be residents of the state and shall be appointed by the governor with  
24 the consent of the executive council. Each member shall serve for a term of 4 years.

25 127 Department of Environmental Services; Waste Management Council. Amend RSA 21-O:9,  
26 I-II to read as follows:

27 I. There is established a waste management council consisting of the following, appointed by  
28 the governor and council, each of whom shall serve a 4-year term:

29 (a) A chairman, representing the public interest;

30 (b) Three municipal officials, at least 2 of whom shall be elected officials, representing  
31 the public interest [~~, nominated by the New Hampshire Municipal Association~~];

32 (c) An expert in public health, representing the public interest;

33 (d) A local conservation commission member, representing the public interest [~~,~~  
34 ~~nominated by the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions~~];

35 (e) A professor or assistant professor of environmental science or sanitary engineering,  
36 representing the public interest;

37 (f) A representative of the private waste management industries;

1 (g) A licensed sanitary or environmental engineer from private industry;

2 (h) A representative of the municipal public works field;

3 (i) A representative of the business or financial communities;

4 (j) [Repealed.]

5 (k) A representative of communities which recycle or recover solid waste, representing  
6 the public interest[~~, nominated by the New Hampshire Resources Recovery Association~~]; and

7 (l) A representative of private industries that generate hazardous waste.

8 II. One member of the council shall be elected vice chairman by the members of the council.

9 ***When the chairman is absent, it shall be the duty of the vice-chairman to assume and***  
10 ***administer the duties of the chairman.*** All members shall be New Hampshire residents. The  
11 members representing the public interest shall not have any official or contractual relationship with,  
12 or receive any significant portion of their income from, any person subject to division of waste  
13 management permits or enforcement orders. Members shall disclose all potential conflicts of  
14 interest, and shall not vote on matters in which they have a direct interest. The council may elect  
15 other officers.

16 128 Department of Environmental Services; Water Council. Amend RSA 21-O:7, I(a) to read as  
17 follows:

18 (a) Thirteen of the members shall be public members appointed by the governor, with  
19 the consent of the council, who shall serve for terms of 4 years. Of these members, 2 shall represent  
20 the industrial interests of the state; one shall represent the vacation home or private recreational  
21 interests of the state; one shall represent the agricultural interests of the state; one shall be an  
22 employee of any municipal or privately-owned waterworks in the state; one shall be a representative  
23 of the septage hauling industry[~~, nominated by the New Hampshire Association of Septage Haulers~~];  
24 one shall be a member of a statewide nonprofit conservation or environmental organization; one  
25 shall be a treatment plant operator; one shall be a designer or installer of septic systems[~~, nominated~~  
26 ~~by the Granite State Designers and Installers Association~~]; one shall represent ***a*** New Hampshire  
27 rivers ***council***[~~, nominated by the New Hampshire Rivers Council~~], and one shall represent ***a*** New  
28 Hampshire lakes ***association***[~~, nominated by the New Hampshire Lakes Association~~]. The 2  
29 remaining members shall be appointed and commissioned respectively as the chairman and vice  
30 chairman of the council;

31 129 Department of Environmental Services; Wetlands Council. Amend RSA 21-O:5-a, I(f) to  
32 read as follows:

33 (f) Eight members of the public appointed by the governor and council for a term of 3  
34 years or until a successor is chosen. One of these shall be a member of a municipal conservation  
35 commission at the time of appointment[~~, and be one of 3 nominees submitted by the New Hampshire~~  
36 ~~Association of Conservation Commissions~~]; one shall be a supervisor, associate supervisor, former  
37 associate supervisor, or former supervisor, of a conservation district at the time of appointment[~~, and~~

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1 ~~be one of 3 nominees submitted by the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Districts~~; one  
2 shall be a municipal official other than a member of the conservation commission at the time of  
3 appointment, [~~and be nominated by the New Hampshire Municipal Association~~]; one shall be a  
4 natural resource scientist[~~and be one of 3 nominees submitted by the New Hampshire Association of~~  
5 ~~Natural Resource Scientists~~]; one shall be a member of the construction industry[~~and be one of 3~~  
6 ~~nominees submitted by the Associated General Contractors of New Hampshire~~]; one shall be a  
7 member of the marine industry[~~and be one of 3 nominees submitted by the New Hampshire Marine~~  
8 ~~Trades Association~~]; one shall have experience in environmental protection and resource  
9 management at the time of appointment[~~and be one of 4 nominees submitted, 2 each, by the New~~  
10 ~~Hampshire Audubon Society and the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests~~]; and one  
11 shall be a farm or forest landowner[~~and be one of 2 nominees submitted, one each, by the New~~  
12 ~~Hampshire Farm Bureau Federation and the New Hampshire Timberland Owners Association~~].  
13 One member of the council shall be elected annually as chairperson by the members of the council.

14 130 Water Management and Protection; Water Pollution and Waste Disposal; Sewage Disposal  
15 Systems; Fees. Amend RSA 485-A:30 to read as follows:

16 485-A:30 Fees.

17 I. Any person submitting plans and specifications for a subdivision of land shall pay to the  
18 department a fee of [~~\$300~~] **\$450** per lot. Said fee shall be for reviewing such plans and specifications  
19 and making site inspections. Any person submitting plans and specifications or an application for a  
20 permit by rule as provided in RSA 485-A:33, IV for sewage or waste disposal systems shall pay to the  
21 department a fee of [~~\$290~~] **\$450** for each system. Said fee shall be for reviewing such plans and  
22 specifications or application for permit by rule, making site inspections, the administration of sludge  
23 and septage management programs, and establishing a system for electronic permitting for waste  
24 disposal systems, subdivision plans, and permits and approvals under the department's land  
25 regulation authority. The fees required by this paragraph shall be paid at the time said plans and  
26 specifications or application for permit by rule are submitted and shall be deposited in the  
27 subsurface systems fund established in paragraph I-b. For the purposes of this paragraph, the term  
28 "lot" shall not include tent sites or travel trailer sites in recreational parks which are operated on a  
29 seasonal basis for not more than 9 months per year.

30 I-a. In addition to fees required under paragraph I, any person submitting plans and  
31 specifications or an application for a permit by rule as provided in RSA 485-A:33, IV for sewage or  
32 waste disposal systems shall pay to the department a fee of [~~\$10~~] **\$25** for each system for use in the  
33 septage handling and treatment facilities grant program to municipalities under RSA 486:3, III. The  
34 fees required by this paragraph shall be paid at the time said plans and specifications or application  
35 for permit by rule are submitted and shall be deposited in the septage management fund established  
36 in paragraph I-c.

1 I-b. The fees collected under paragraph I shall be deposited in the water resources fund  
2 established in RSA 482-A:3, III for the purpose of paying all costs and salaries associated with the  
3 subsurface systems program and other land resources management programs.

4 I-c. There is hereby established the septage management fund into which the fees collected  
5 under paragraph I-a shall be deposited. The fund shall be a separate, nonlapsing fund, continually  
6 appropriated to the department for the purpose of paying costs associated with the septage handling  
7 and treatment facilities grant program or for research, engineering analysis, or septage sampling  
8 and analysis by the department to advance septage management in the state of New Hampshire.

9 II. [Repealed].

10 III. Any person submitting plans and specifications as a resubmission for reapproval of such  
11 shall not be required to pay any additional fee under RSA 485-A:30, I or I-a if changes to such plans  
12 and specifications would not constitute a new subdivision under the provisions of RSA 485-A:2, XIII.

13 131 Unfunded Positions; Authorization. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the  
14 contrary, any executive branch department or agency may fill unfunded positions during the  
15 biennium ending June 30, 2027, provided that the total expenditures for such positions shall not  
16 exceed the amount appropriated for personnel and benefit services.

17 132 Highways and Other Public Works; Application for and Administration of Federal Aid.  
18 Amend RSA 124:4 to read as follows:

19 124:4 Application for and Administration of Federal Aid. Notwithstanding any other provision  
20 of law, the governor and council are hereby authorized to designate from time to time, as they may  
21 deem in the best interest of the state, the proper persons or agencies in the state government to take  
22 all necessary action to apply for, receive, and administer any federal benefits, facilities, grants-in-  
23 aid, or other federal appropriations or services made available to assist state activities, for which the  
24 state is, or may become eligible. All such moneys in excess of [~~\$50,000~~] **\$100,000** made available,  
25 after designation by the governor and council, may be expended by the proper persons or agencies in  
26 the state government only with the prior approval of the joint legislative fiscal committee. In  
27 addition to such other instruments, documents, and agreements as may be executed under the  
28 authority of this section, such persons or agencies may execute indemnification agreements, with the  
29 approval of governor and council, in the name of the state with and for the benefit of the United  
30 States whenever such execution is required as a condition of receipt of such federal assistance.

31 133 Appropriations; Transfers Authorized. Amend RSA 9:16-a, I to read as follows:

32 I. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, every department as defined in RSA 9:1 is  
33 hereby authorized to transfer funds within and among all accounting units within said department,  
34 ***with the approval of the commissioner of the department of administrative services,***  
35 provided that any transfer of \$100,000 or more shall require prior approval of the fiscal committee of  
36 the general court and the governor and council, and provided that no funds may be transferred in  
37 violation of the provisions of RSA 9:17-a, 9:17-b, 9:17-c, or 9:17-d or in violation of any restrictions

1 otherwise provided by law. The restrictions included in RSA 9:17-a, 9:17-b, 9:17-c, or 9:17-d shall  
2 not apply if a transfer is necessary to satisfy a federal maintenance of effort requirement to ensure  
3 the receipt of federal funds.

4 134 Bridges House Special Account; Establishing the Bridges House Special Account Fund.  
5 Amend RSA 4:9-s to read as follows:

6 4:9-s Establishing the Bridges House Special Account Fund. There is hereby established in the  
7 state treasury the bridges house special account fund. [~~The funds may be comprised of~~] **The**  
8 **governor is authorized to accept** public funds, gifts, grants, donations or any other source of  
9 funds, [~~and~~] **which** shall be used for the purposes of the care, maintenance, repair of, and additions  
10 to, the bridges house, or for any other relevant purpose deemed appropriate by the bridges house  
11 advisory board. The fund shall be non-lapsing and shall be continually appropriated to the  
12 department **of administrative services**.

13 135 Capital Project Overview Committee; Duties. Amend RSA 17-J:4 to read as follows:

14 17-J:4 Duties. The capital project overview committee shall review the status of capital [~~budget~~]  
15 projects both during and between legislative sessions. Each state agency with capital [~~budget~~]  
16 projects shall report to the department of administrative services, in the format the department of  
17 administrative services prescribes, for the quarters ending September 30, December 31, March 31,  
18 and June 30. The department of administrative services shall combine these reports and present the  
19 summarized report to the capital project overview committee for review quarterly on the first of  
20 November, February, May, and August. The department of administrative services, division of  
21 public works design and construction shall, within 90 days of the approval of funding for any capital  
22 [~~budget~~] project, submit a timeline or schedule for such project to the capital project overview  
23 committee for review.

24 136 General Provisions; Divisions of Procurement and Support Services, Public Works Design  
25 and Construction, and Plant and Property. Amend RSA 21-I:11, I(a)(6)(A)-(B)(i) to read as follows:

26 (A) Be sufficiently high to defray all administrative, warehousing, processing,  
27 distribution, and transportation costs incurred by the surplus distribution section and to allow the  
28 accumulation of a working capital reserve equal to the cost of [~~6~~] **3** months' operation of the surplus  
29 distribution section so that the operation of said section shall result in no expense to the state; and

30 (B) Be maintained by the treasurer in one of 2 separate, restricted funds:

31 (i) The surplus distribution section administrative assessments fund, into which shall be  
32 deposited funds received by the department by virtue of the disposition of surplus property **and**  
33 **which shall be continually appropriated and nonlapsing**; and

34 137 New Subparagraph; General Provisions; Division of Accounting Services. Amend RSA 21-  
35 I:8, I by inserting after subparagraph (h) the following new subparagraph:

36 (i) After exhausting any relevant appeal process, state agencies may use funds in  
37 existing class 60, or other appropriate budget class, to pay any penalties, fines, interest or other

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1 costs imposed on the state of New Hampshire by the NH retirement system or by the IRS, relating to  
2 employer payments, reporting or audits. The department of administrative services will seek  
3 concurrence of the department of justice prior to processing any such payment and will facilitate and  
4 charge applicable state agencies as necessary.

5 138 Games, Amusements, and Athletic Exhibitions; Horse and Dog Racing; Administrative and  
6 Rulemaking Provisions. Amend RSA 284:21-i, II(c)(1) to read as follows:

7 (1) The price for which tickets for drawings shall be sold; not to exceed [~~\$30~~] **\$50** per  
8 ticket.

9 139 Business Profits Tax; Distribution of Funds. Amend RSA 77-A:20-a, I to read as follows:

10 I. The commissioner shall determine [44] **35.5** percent of the revenue produced by the tax  
11 imposed by RSA 77-A:2 for each fiscal year and shall certify such amounts to the state treasurer by  
12 October 1 of that year for deposit in the education trust fund established by RSA 198:39.

13 140 Business Enterprise Tax; Distribution of Funds. Amend RSA 77-E:14, I to read as follows:

14 I. The commissioner shall determine [44] **35.5** percent of the revenue produced by the tax  
15 imposed by RSA 77-E:2 for each fiscal year and shall certify such amounts to the state treasurer by  
16 October 1 of that year for deposit in the education trust fund established by RSA 198:39.

17 141 Tobacco Tax; Distribution of Funds. RSA 78:24 is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:  
18 78:24 Distribution of Funds.

19 I. Tax revenue on all tobacco products sold at retail in this state imposed by RSA 78:2 shall  
20 be divided with 35.5 percent of that total revenue deposited in the education trust fund established  
21 by RSA 198:39 and the remaining revenue deposited in the general fund.

22 II. The commissioner shall certify such amount to the state treasurer for deposit in the  
23 education trust fund established by RSA 198:39. Such estimates shall be certified on June 1,  
24 September 1, December 1, and March 1 of each year.

25 142 Tax on Transfer of Real Property; Distribution of Funds. RSA 78-B:13, I, is repealed and  
26 reenacted to read as follows:

27 I. Tax revenue collected by RSA 78-B:1 shall be divided, with 35.5 percent of that total  
28 revenue deposited in the education trust fund established by RSA 198:39 and the remaining revenue  
29 deposited in the general fund.

30 143 Appropriation; Cannon Mountain Tramway. 2023, 79:510 is repealed and reenacted to read  
31 as follows:

32 79:510 Appropriation; Cannon Mountain Tramway. The sum of \$18,000,000 for the fiscal year  
33 ending June 30, 2023, is hereby appropriated to the department of natural and cultural resources for  
34 the maintenance and operation of the tramway at Cannon Mountain. The governor is authorized to  
35 draw a warrant for said sum out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated. Any  
36 remaining funds hereby appropriated shall lapse to the general fund on June 30, 2025.

37 144 Effective Date. Section 143 of this act shall take effect June 30, 2025.

1 145 County Reimbursement of Funds; Limitations on Payments. Amend RSA 167:18-a, II(a) to  
2 read as follows:

3 II.(a) *Notwithstanding subparagraph III(a), due to exigent circumstances, an*  
4 *additional one percent shall be added to the annual increase on the cap on county billings*  
5 *for each year of the biennium ending June 30, 2027, resulting in annual increases of 3*  
6 *percent for each year of that biennium.* The total billings to all counties made pursuant to this  
7 section shall not exceed the amounts set forth below for state fiscal years ~~[2024-2025]~~ **2026-2027**:

8 (1) State fiscal year ~~[2024]~~ **2026**, ~~[\$131,849,659]~~ **\$135,805,149.**

9 (2) State fiscal year ~~[2025]~~, **2027** ~~[\$131,849,659];~~ **\$139,879,303.**

10 146 New Paragraph; Revenue Stabilization Reserve Account. Amend RSA 9:13-e by inserting  
11 after paragraph V the following new paragraph:

12 VI. Notwithstanding any other provision of RSA 9:13-e, in the event of a general fund  
13 operating budget deficit at the close of fiscal year 2025, as determined by the official audit performed  
14 pursuant to RSA 21-I:8, II(a), the state comptroller shall notify the fiscal committee and the  
15 governor of such deficit and request approval to transfer funds from the revenue stabilization  
16 reserve account to eliminate such deficit.

17 147 Department of Energy; Transfer of Funds. The department of energy shall transfer any  
18 uncommitted moneys from the renewable energy fund, established in RSA 362-F:10, to the general  
19 fund on July 1, 2025.

20 148 Electric Renewable Portfolio Standard; Renewable Energy Fund. Amend RSA 362-F:10, I to  
21 read as follows:

22 I. There is hereby established a renewable energy fund. This nonlapsing special fund shall  
23 be continually appropriated to the department of energy to be expended in accordance with this  
24 section; provided that at the start of the period in which there is no adopted state operating budget,  
25 the department of energy shall in a timely manner seek the approval of the fiscal committee of the  
26 general court to continue using moneys from the renewable energy fund to support renewable energy  
27 rebate and grant programs in order to ensure there are no interruptions to the programs. The state  
28 treasurer shall invest the moneys deposited therein as provided by law. Income received on  
29 investments made by the state treasurer shall also be credited to the fund. All payments to be made  
30 under this section shall be deposited in the fund. Any remaining moneys paid into the fund under  
31 paragraph II of this section, excluding class II moneys, shall **first** be used by the department of  
32 energy to **fund administrative cost for the office of offshore wind industry development and**  
33 **energy innovations, as determined by the department. After funding of the administrative**  
34 **costs, up to \$1,000,000 annually shall** support thermal and electrical renewable energy  
35 initiatives, **pursuant to RSA 362-F:10, VIII, and shall not be used to support residential solar**  
36 **initiatives.** ~~[and offshore wind initiatives, including the office of offshore wind industry~~  
37 ~~development and energy innovation]~~ **Any monies remaining shall be transferred to the general**

1 *fund.* Class II moneys shall primarily be used to support solar energy technologies in New  
2 Hampshire. All initiatives supported out of these funds shall be subject to audit by the department  
3 of energy as deemed necessary. All fund moneys including those from class II may be used to  
4 administer this chapter, but all new employee positions shall be approved by the fiscal committee of  
5 the general court. No new employees shall be hired by the department of energy due to the inclusion  
6 of useful thermal energy in class I production.

7 149 2027 Prospective Change; Electric Renewable Portfolio Standard; Renewable Energy Fund.  
8 RSA 362-F:10, I is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

9 I. There is hereby established a renewable energy fund. This nonlapsing special fund shall  
10 be continually appropriated to the department of energy to be expended in accordance with this  
11 section; provided that at the start of the period in which there is no adopted state operating budget,  
12 the department of energy shall in a timely manner seek the approval of the fiscal committee of the  
13 general court to continue using moneys from the renewable energy fund to support renewable energy  
14 rebate and grant programs in order to ensure there are no interruptions to the programs. The state  
15 treasurer shall invest the moneys deposited therein as provided by law. Income received on  
16 investments made by the state treasurer shall also be credited to the fund. All payments to be made  
17 under this section shall be deposited in the fund. Any remaining moneys paid into the fund under  
18 paragraph II of this section, excluding class II moneys, shall be used by the department of energy to  
19 support thermal and electrical renewable energy initiatives and offshore wind initiatives, including  
20 the office of offshore wind industry development and energy innovation. Class II moneys shall  
21 primarily be used to support solar energy technologies in New Hampshire. All initiatives supported  
22 out of these funds shall be subject to audit by the department of energy as deemed necessary. All  
23 fund moneys including those from class II may be used to administer this chapter, but all new  
24 employee positions shall be approved by the fiscal committee of the general court. No new employees  
25 shall be hired by the department of energy due to the inclusion of useful thermal energy in class I  
26 production.

27 150 Effective Date. Section 149 of this act shall take effect July 1, 2027.

28 151 Mechanical Licensing; Inspectors. Amend RSA 153:34, I and II to read as follows:

29 I. The [~~office of professional licensure and certification~~] **department of safety** with the  
30 approval of the [~~board and the executive director of the office of professional licensure and~~  
31 ~~certification~~] **state fire marshal** shall have the authority to appoint such inspectors as are  
32 necessary to insure compliance throughout the state with practices consistent with the public safety  
33 and welfare. Any person so employed shall be under the administration and supervisory direction of  
34 the [~~office of professional licensure and certification~~] **department of safety**.

35 II. An inspector appointed under this subdivision shall have the authority to enter any  
36 premises in which a fuel gas fitter or plumber subject to regulation is performing, or has completed,  
37 work regulated under this subdivision for the purpose of making such inspection as is necessary to

1 carry out his or her duties under this subdivision. If consent for such inspection is denied or not  
2 reasonably obtainable, the **state fire marshal** [~~executive director of the office of professional~~  
3 ~~licensure and certification~~], or his or her designee, may obtain an administrative inspection warrant  
4 under RSA 595-B.

5 152 Electricians; Inspectors. Amend RSA 319-C:5, I to read as follows:

6 I. The [~~office of professional licensure and certification~~] **state fire marshal** shall be  
7 empowered to appoint such inspectors as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this chapter  
8 **and RSA 319-C**. Any person so employed shall be under the administration and supervisory  
9 direction of the [~~office of professional licensure and certification~~] **state fire marshal**.

10 153 New Paragraph; Barbering, Cosmetology, and Esthetics; Definitions. Amend RSA 313-A:1  
11 by inserting after paragraph XIII the following new paragraph:

12 XIII-a. "Shop" means barbershop, mobile barbershop, and salon as defined in this section, as  
13 well as any other business location for barbering, cosmetology, or esthetics in New Hampshire.

14 154 Barbering, Cosmetology, and Esthetics; Rulemaking Authority. Amend RSA 313-A:8, VI to  
15 read as follows:

16 VI. The regulation of tanning facilities including:

17 (a) Sanitation and hygiene standards to be met and maintained by tanning facilities;

18 (b) Standards for approving the training curricula and programs used for training  
19 tanning device operators;

20 (c) Registering tanning facilities;

21 (d) Standards for the inspection of tanning devices **upon application for initial**  
22 **licensure**;

23 (e) Standards for the consumer consent form required under RSA 313-A:30, IV.

24 155 New Paragraph; Barbering, Cosmetology, and Esthetics; Rulemaking Authority. Amend  
25 RSA 313-A:8 by inserting after paragraph XIV the following new paragraph:

26 XV. Criteria for determining what other one-time certification programs are the equivalent  
27 of an OSHA certificate that meets or exceeds 10 hours and is earned in barbering, cosmetology,  
28 manicuring, and/or esthetics for the purposes of operating a shop or school under this chapter.

29 156 Barbering, Cosmetology, and Esthetics; Licensure Required. Amend RSA 313-A:9, II(a) to  
30 read as follows:

31 (a) Operate a [~~barbershop, salon,~~] **shop** or school unless such establishment is at all  
32 times under the direct supervision and management of a professional licensed under this chapter.

33 157 Barbering, Cosmetology, and Esthetics; Qualifications; Barbers. Amend RSA 313-A:10,  
34 I(c)(1) to read as follows:

35 (1) A minimum of 800 hours of training in a school of barbering approved by the  
36 office of professional licensure and certification in accordance with **this chapter and** criteria  
37 established by the board pursuant to RSA 541-A; or

1 158 Barbering, Cosmetology, and Esthetics; Qualifications; Barbers. Amend RSA 313-A:10,  
2 III(c)(1) to read as follows:

3 (1) A minimum of 1,500 hours of training in a school of master barbering approved  
4 by the ~~[board]~~ **office of professional licensure and certification in accordance with this**  
5 **chapter and criteria established by the board pursuant to RSA 541-A**; or

6 159 Qualifications; Cosmetologists. Amend RSA 313-A:11, I(c)(1) to read as follows:

7 (1) A minimum of ~~[1,500]~~ **1,200** hours of training in a school of cosmetology approved  
8 by the board; or

9 160 Effective Date. Section 159 of this act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

10 161 Barbering, Cosmetology, and Esthetics; Qualifications; Manicurists. Amend RSA 313-A:12,  
11 I to read as follows:

12 I. Have completed a course of at least 300 hours of professional training in manicuring, in a  
13 school approved by the ~~[board]~~ **the office of professional licensure and certification in**  
14 **accordance with this chapter and criteria established by the board pursuant to RSA 541-A**  
15 and passed an examination; or

16 162 Barbering, Cosmetology, and Esthetics; Qualifications; Estheticians. Amend RSA 313-A:13  
17 to read as follows:

18 313-A:13 Qualifications; Estheticians. To be issued an esthetics license by the office of  
19 professional licensure and certification, an applicant shall, in addition to satisfying the requirements  
20 of RSA 313-A:11, I(a), (b), and (e), have completed a course of at least 600 hours of training in a  
21 school approved by the ~~[board]~~ **the office of professional licensure and certification in**  
22 **accordance with this chapter and criteria established by the board pursuant to RSA 541-A**  
23 and have passed an examination. An apprenticeship approved by the board may be substituted for  
24 the required training. Estheticians who have practiced professionally in this state for a period of at  
25 least 3 years prior to July 1, 1989, and who have satisfied the requirements of RSA 313-A:11, I(a),  
26 (b), and (e) and the training requirements of this section shall not be required to take the  
27 examination provided for in this section to be eligible for licensure under this chapter. Credit  
28 towards the hours requirement for esthetician training may be given to a licensed cosmetologist or  
29 barber for equivalent training in the cosmetology or barber program in a school approved by the  
30 board upon certification of the training by the school. Credit towards the hours requirement for  
31 esthetician training may be given to a licensed massage therapist for massage therapy training  
32 deemed equivalent by the board. Cosmetologists licensed under this chapter may obtain the training  
33 hours in subjects required by the board in increments at separate schools, but must present  
34 certifications to the office for all required hours and curriculum subjects.

35 163 Barbering, Cosmetology, and Esthetics; Shop Licensure. Amend RSA 313-A:19 to read as  
36 follows:

37 313-A:19 Shop Licensure.

1 I. It shall be a misdemeanor for any person, as owner, manager, or agent, to open, establish,  
 2 conduct, or maintain a ~~[salon, barbershop, or mobile barbershop]~~ **shop** without first having obtained  
 3 a shop license from the board. Application for such shop license shall be made to the ~~[board]~~ **office**  
 4 **of professional licensure and certification** in writing and shall state the name and address of  
 5 the owner of such shop, the shop's address or, in the case of a mobile barbershop, the business  
 6 mailing address of the owner, and such other information as may be required by the board **or office**  
 7 **of professional licensure and certification**. Licenses under this section shall be conspicuously  
 8 posted within the licensed establishment.

9 II. Any licensed barber, cosmetologist, manicurist, or esthetician shall, upon written  
 10 application accompanied by the required fees, receive a license to operate a salon, barbershop, or  
 11 mobile barbershop in this state, provided that the salon, barbershop, or mobile barbershop meets all  
 12 requirements established in the rules of the board, **including passing an inspection**.

13 III. In the event of a change of location of any licensed shop and upon notice thereof, the  
 14 ~~[board]~~ **office of professional licensure and certification** shall issue a transfer of licensure of  
 15 such shop to its new location, provided such new location meets the requirements of this section.  
 16 The board may ~~[revoke]~~ **take disciplinary action, in accordance with RSA 310, against** any  
 17 shop license upon a finding that such shop fails to comply with this chapter or the rules adopted by  
 18 the board, **or has committed professional conduct as defined in RSA 310f**; ~~provided that,~~  
 19 ~~before any such certificate shall be revoked, the holder shall have notice thereof and be granted a~~  
 20 ~~proper hearing~~. **Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent the board from taking**  
 21 **disciplinary action in accordance with RSA 310 against any licensee managing or working**  
 22 **at a shop**.

23 IV. In addition to licenses issued under paragraph II, the board may issue a license to an  
 24 owner of a salon or barbershop who does not personally engage in cosmetology, barbering, or  
 25 esthetics, provided the salon or barbershop shall fulfill all requirements ~~[set forth in the rules of the~~  
 26 ~~board]~~ **for licensure** and provided further that the owner has paid the required license fee for such  
 27 salon or barbershop and employs a licensed cosmetologist, barber, manicurist, or esthetician as  
 28 manager in the salon or barbershop. However, this section shall not authorize such owner to  
 29 practice cosmetology, barbering, manicuring, or esthetics unless the owner has a cosmetologist,  
 30 barber, or esthetician license.

31 V. **Anyone holding a shop license may obtain a one-time Occupational Safety and**  
 32 **Health Administration (OSHA) certificate that meets or exceeds 10 hours, or its equivalent,**  
 33 **relative to health, safety, disinfection, and sanitation, in the professional service that is**  
 34 **regulated by this chapter and is offered at the shop. The board may adopt rules pursuant**  
 35 **to RSA 541-A as to what other one-time certification programs may be considered**  
 36 **equivalent to an OSHA certificate that meets or exceeds 10 hours earned in barbering,**  
 37 **cosmetology, esthetics, or manicuring.**

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1       164 New Section; Barbering, Cosmetology, and Esthetics; Operating a School. Amend RSA 313-  
2 A by inserting after section 19 the following new section:

3       313-A:19-a Operating a School.

4           I. Applicants for initial licensure as a school shall meet all requirements established in the  
5 rules of the board, including passing an inspection.

6           II. Anyone holding a school license may obtain a one-time Occupational Safety and Health  
7 Administration (OSHA) certificate that meets or exceeds 10 hours, or its equivalent, relative to  
8 health, safety, disinfection, and sanitation in each professional service that is regulated by this  
9 chapter and taught at the school. The board may adopt rules pursuant to RSA 541-A as to what  
10 other one-time certification programs are the equivalent of an OSHA certificate that meets or  
11 exceeds 10 hours earned in barbering, cosmetology, esthetics, or manicuring.

12           III. It shall be the obligation of any individual who opens, establishes, conducts, maintains,  
13 or manages a school to ensure it maintains compliance with this chapter and board rules. Failure to  
14 maintain compliance shall constitute conduct sufficient to support disciplinary proceedings initiated  
15 pursuant to RSA 310. This provision shall not be construed to prevent the board from also taking  
16 disciplinary action against any licensee working at such school.

17       165 Barbering, Cosmetology, and Esthetics; Inspectors. RSA 313-A:21 is repealed and reenacted  
18 to read as follows:

19       313-A:21 Inspectors.

20           I. The executive director of the office of professional licensure and certification or his or her  
21 designees shall be authorized to enter and make reasonable examination and inspection of any shop  
22 or school during business hours for the purpose of ascertaining whether or not the administrative  
23 rules of the board and the provisions of this chapter are being observed. The executive director or  
24 his or her designees shall file a report with the board of such findings with respect to each inspection  
25 made. Any salaries and necessary expenses of employed inspectors shall be charged against the fees  
26 and other moneys collected by the board.

27           II. Sanitary inspections of all shops and schools shall be made at the time of initial licensure  
28 and biannually thereafter, unless a shop or school has obtained an Occupational Safety and Health  
29 Administration (OSHA) certificate or its equivalent pursuant to RSA 313-A:19 or RSA 313-A:19-a.  
30 Sanitary inspections may also be made for investigations conducted pursuant to RSA 310:9,  
31 regardless of whether a shop or school has obtained a certificate.

32       166 Repeal. RSA 313-A:24, V, relative to applicants for apprentice certificates providing a social  
33 security number, is repealed.

34       167 Agriculture, Horticulture; and Animal Husbandry; Pesticide Controls; Registration  
35 Certificates and Permits. Amend RSA 430:33, I to read as follows:

36           I. No person shall engage in the commercial application of pesticides or in the private  
37 application of restricted pesticides within this state without possessing a valid certificate of

1 registration issued by the division. An annual application for a certificate of registration with a fee  
2 of [~~\$20~~] **\$60** shall be collected by the division for each commercial *application registration* [~~or~~]  
3 **and \$20 shall be collected by the division for each** private applicator registration, except that no  
4 fee shall be collected from any nonprofit entity or from any governmental entity. The board shall by  
5 rule establish the criteria for eligibility for, and the limits on the use of, certificates of registration  
6 for commercial applicator, private applicator, and commercial applicator for hire. Each application  
7 for registration shall contain such information regarding the applicant's qualifications and proposed  
8 operations and other relevant matters as the division may require. Every person applying for a  
9 registration certificate shall be required to demonstrate by examination, or by such other means as  
10 the board by rule may establish, his competency and ability to use pesticides in accordance with  
11 standards of the board. The division shall require from each applicant proof of financial  
12 responsibility in amounts to be determined under rules adopted by the board. Registered applicators  
13 shall maintain routine operational records pursuant to the rules of the board, which records shall be  
14 open to inspection at reasonable times by the division or its agents. Operational records for the  
15 preceding calendar year shall be submitted by an applicant for renewal of a certificate of  
16 registration. Upon submission of such records and satisfaction of such other conditions as the board  
17 may by rule impose, the division shall renew a certificate of registration.

18 168 Agriculture; Horticulture and Animal Husbandry; Insect Pests and Plant Diseases;  
19 Application for Registration and Permits. Amend RSA 430:34, III to read as follows:

20 III. Each application for initial examination of a commercial or private applicator shall be  
21 accompanied by an examination fee of [~~\$5~~] **\$15** for each category or commodity group in which such  
22 examination is requested. When an applicator has been examined by the division and found not  
23 qualified, the applicant shall be re-examined at a subsequent date in accordance with rules adopted  
24 by the board, provided that each application for re-examination shall be accompanied by a re-  
25 examination fee of [~~\$5~~] **\$15** for each category or commodity group in which re-examination is  
26 requested. A separate application and re-examination fee shall be filed by the applicant each time a  
27 re-examination is requested.

28 169 Agriculture; Horticulture and Animal Husbandry; Insect Pests and Plant Diseases;  
29 Pesticide Dealer License. Amend RSA 430:35, II and III to read as follows:

30 II. Application for a license shall be accompanied by a [~~\$20~~] **\$60** annual license fee. Dealer  
31 applications for renewal received beyond the December 31 deadline shall be subject to a \$10 late  
32 registration fee. Application for a license shall be on a form prescribed by the division and shall  
33 include the full name of the person applying for such license. If such applicant is an individual,  
34 receiver, trustee, firm, partnership, association or corporation, the full name of each member of the  
35 firm or partnership or the names of the officers of the association or corporation shall be given on the  
36 application. Such application shall further state the principal business address of the applicant in  
37 the state and elsewhere and the name of a person domiciled in this state authorized to receive and

1 accept service of summons of legal notices of all kinds for the applicant, and any other necessary  
2 information prescribed by the division; provided that the provisions of this section shall not apply to  
3 a pesticide applicator who sells pesticides only as an integral part of his pesticide application service  
4 when such pesticides are dispensed only through apparatuses used for such pesticide application;  
5 provided, further, that the provisions of this section shall not apply to any federal, state, or county  
6 agency which provides pesticides for their own programs.

7 III. Each applicant shall satisfy the division as to his knowledge of the laws and rules  
8 governing the use and sale of pesticides and his responsibility in carrying on the business of a  
9 pesticide dealer through examination. In addition, each employee or agent of a pesticide dealer who  
10 sells or recommends restricted-use pesticides or state restricted-use pesticides shall obtain a  
11 pesticide dealer license. Each application for initial examination for a dealer license shall be  
12 accompanied by an examination fee of [~~\$5~~] **\$15**. When an applicant has been examined by the  
13 division and found not qualified, the applicant shall be re-examined at a subsequent date in  
14 accordance with rules adopted by the board, provided that each application for re-examination shall  
15 be accompanied by a fee of [~~\$5~~] **\$15**.

16 170 Agriculture; Horticulture and Animal Husbandry; Insect Pests and Plant Diseases;  
17 Statement Required. Amend RSA 430:38, III to read as follows:

18 III.(a) The registrant shall pay an annual fee *of at least \$220* for each pesticide registered  
19 as follows:

- 20 (1) A restricted use pesticide.
- 21 (2) A general use pesticide, other than a specialty/household pesticide.
- 22 (3) A specialty/household pesticide.

23 (b) The commissioner shall adopt rules, pursuant to RSA 541-A, relative to the amount  
24 of the fees charged under subparagraph (a). [~~Until such rules are adopted, the fees under~~  
25 ~~subparagraph (a) shall be the same as the fees which were in effect on June 30, 2015.~~]

26 171 Agriculture; Horticulture and Animal Husbandry; Soil and Plant Additives; Registration.  
27 Amend RSA 431:4, I to read as follows:

28 I. Each brand and grade of fertilizer shall be registered in the name of that person whose  
29 name appears upon the label before being distributed in this state. The application for registration  
30 shall be submitted to the commissioner on a form furnished by the commissioner and shall be  
31 accompanied by a fee of [~~\$75~~] **\$128** per grade of each brand sold.

32 172 Agriculture; Horticulture and Animal Husbandry; Soil and Plant Additives; Registration.  
33 Amend RSA 431:27, I to read as follows:

34 I. Each separately identified product shall be registered before being distributed in this  
35 state. The application for registration shall be submitted to the commissioner on a form furnished or  
36 approved by the commissioner and shall be accompanied by a fee of [~~\$50~~] **\$100** per product. The fees  
37 collected under this section shall be deposited with the state treasurer into the agricultural products

1 regulatory fund. Upon approval by the commissioner, a copy of the registration shall be furnished to  
2 the applicant. All registrations expire on January 1 of the following year.

3 173 Agriculture; Horticulture and Animal Husbandry; Horticultural Growing Media;  
4 Registration and Inspection Fees; Fund Established. Amend RSA 433-A:6 to read as follows:

5 433-A:6 Registration and Inspection Fees; Fund Established. The commissioner shall collect a  
6 ~~[\$50]~~ **\$96** annual registration and inspection fee for each product registered. The fees collected  
7 under this section shall be deposited with the state treasurer into the agricultural products  
8 regulatory fund established in RSA 435:20, IV. Moneys from the fund shall be used to offset costs  
9 associated with registration and inspection of horticultural growing media.

10 174 Agriculture; Horticulture and Animal Husbandry; Animal Care, Breeding and Feed. Amend  
11 RSA 435:20, II and III to read as follows:

12 II. No person shall distribute in this state a commercial feed, except a customer-formula  
13 feed, which has not been registered pursuant to the provisions of this section. Applications for  
14 registration, accompanied by a ~~[\$75]~~ **\$120** per-product registration fee, shall be submitted in a  
15 manner prescribed by the commissioner. Upon approval by the commissioner, a registration shall be  
16 issued to the applicant. All registrations shall expire on December 31 of each year.

17 III. The commissioner may refuse to register any commercial feed not in compliance with  
18 the provisions of this subdivision and to cancel any registration subsequently found not to be in  
19 compliance with any provision of this subdivision; provided that upon the refusal of registration, the  
20 ~~[\$75]~~ **\$120** registration fee shall be returned to the applicant; and provided further that no  
21 registration shall be refused or ~~[cancelled]~~  **canceled** unless the applicant or registrant has been  
22 given an opportunity to appear at a hearing before the commissioner and to amend his or her  
23 application in order to comply with the requirements of this subdivision.

24 175 Agriculture; Horticulture and Animal Husbandry; Standards for Farm Products; Official  
25 Grades and Standards. Amend RSA 426:1 to read as follows:

26 426:1 Official Grades and Standards. The commissioner of agriculture, markets, and food,  
27 whenever, in the commissioner's opinion, the public good so requires, may adopt rules, pursuant to  
28 RSA 541-A, establishing official grades and standards for farm products which are produced within  
29 the state for purposes of sale. ***Fees for maple product permits shall not be less than \$33 and***  
30 ***other product permits shall not be less than \$13.***

31 176 Agriculture; Horticulture and Animal Husbandry; Soil and Plant Additives; Inspection Fees  
32 and Tonnage Reports. Amend RSA 431:6, I to read as follows:

33 I. There shall be paid to the commissioner for all fertilizers distributed in this state to  
34 nonregistrants an inspection fee ***of at least \$0.37*** on each ton of fertilizer sold ***with a minimum fee***  
35 ***of at least \$9 as*** ~~[in a manner and at a fee]~~ prescribed by the commissioner by rules; provided, that  
36 sales or exchanges between importers, manufacturers, distributors, or registrants are exempted.

1       177 Agriculture; Horticulture and Animal Husbandry; New Hampshire Seed Law; Duties and  
2 Authority of Commissioner; Rulemaking. Amend RSA 433:7, III(l)-(m) to read as follows:

3           (l) Seed labeling license standards and procedures, including, but not limited to,  
4 application forms [~~and fees~~].

5                   **(m) Establish licensing fee of not less than \$94 per company.**

6           ~~(m)~~ **(n)** The enforcement of this subdivision.

7       178 Weights and Measures Fees. Amend RSA 438:10-a to read as follows:  
8 438:10-a Fees for Licensing Commercial Devices.

9       The following annual device license fees shall be charged for the following categories:

- 10       I. Scales 100 pounds or less, other than precision scales, [~~\$18~~] **\$35** each;  
11       II. Scales over 100 pounds to 2,000 pounds, [~~\$27~~] **\$50** each;  
12       III. Scales over 2,000 pounds to 5,000 pounds, [~~\$54~~] **\$100** each;  
13       IV. Non-vehicle scales over 5,000 pounds, [~~\$90~~] **\$165** each;  
14       V. Vehicle scales, [~~\$180~~] **\$330** each;  
15       VI. Lift truck/forklifts, on board weighing systems/scales, [~~\$90~~] **\$165** each;  
16       VII. On board weighing systems/scales, refuse or recyclable materials collection trucks, [~~\$90~~]  
17 **\$165** each;  
18       VIII. Precision scales, [~~\$36~~] **\$65** each;  
19       IX. Retail motor fuel dispensers, except liquefied petroleum gas and natural gas  
20 dispensers, [~~\$18~~] **\$35** per meter;  
21       X. Liquefied petroleum gas retail motor fuel dispensers, [~~\$54~~] **\$100** per meter;  
22       XI. Natural gas retail motor fuel dispensers, [~~\$54~~] **\$100** per meter;  
23       XII. Liquid vehicle tank meters, except liquefied petroleum gas and natural gas meters,  
24 [~~\$54~~] **\$100** per meter;  
25       XIII. Liquid bulk storage meters, [~~\$90~~] **\$165** per meter;  
26       XIV. Liquefied gas meters, [~~\$90~~] **\$165** per meter;  
27       XV. Taxi meters, [~~\$27~~] **\$50** per meter; and  
28       XVI. Linear and cordage measures, [~~\$18~~] **\$35** per meter.

29       179 New Section; Weights and Measures; Registered Service Agencies. Amend RSA 438 by  
30 inserting after section 438:14-a the following new section:

31       438:14-b Registered Service Agencies. Registered service agencies that employ a service  
32 technician who is registered with the division of weights and measures to test, adjust, repair, certify,  
33 reject, add, remove, or replace a commercial weighing or measuring device, shall pay an annual  
34 registration fee of \$250, to be collected by the division.

35       180 Water Management and Protection; Dams, Mills, and Flowage; Annual Registration Fee.  
36 Amend RSA 482:8-a to read as follows:

1 482:8-a Annual Registration Fee. Annual registration fees for dams shall be payable to the  
2 department on January 1 of each calendar year. Yearly dam registration fees shall be based on  
3 classification as follows: Low hazard potential = [~~\$400~~] **\$800**; Significant hazard potential = [~~\$750~~]  
4 **\$1,500**; High hazard potential = [~~\$1,500~~] **\$3,000**. If the hazard classification designated by the  
5 Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for a dam differs from the classification designated by the  
6 department, the annual dam registration fees shall be based on the classification designated by the  
7 Federal Energy Regulatory Commission except that a dam which is classified as a non-menace dam  
8 by the department shall be exempt from the annual dam registration fee for as long as the dam is  
9 classified by the department as a non-menace dam. Revenues from this annual registration are to be  
10 collected by the department and deposited in the dam maintenance fund established in RSA 482:55  
11 to be used for the inspection of dams.

12 181 Water Management and Protection; Dams, Mills, and Flowage; Preliminary Filing of  
13 Information. Amend RSA 482:9, II(a)-(d) to read as follows:

- 14 (a) Non-hazard potential dam [~~\$2,000~~] **\$4,000**  
15 (b) Low hazard potential dam [~~\$3,000~~] **\$6,000**  
16 (c) Significant hazard potential dam [~~\$4,000~~] **\$8,000**  
17 (d) High hazard potential dam [~~\$4,000~~] **\$8,000**

18 182 Public Health; Hazardous Waste Cleanup Fund; Automotive Oil Fee. Amend RSA 147-B:12,  
19 I to read as follows:

20 I. A fee of [~~\$.02~~] **\$0.05** per gallon of automotive oil shall be assessed at the time of import to  
21 this state. Persons licensed under RSA 146-A:11-b, II shall be liable for payment of this additional  
22 fee which shall be collected and enforced by the department of safety in the manner described in  
23 RSA 146-A:11-b. The department of environmental services may waive all or any portion of  
24 penalties or interest for good cause. All fee revenues shall be deposited in the hazardous waste  
25 cleanup fund in accordance with RSA 147-B:6, I-d.

26 183 Hazardous Waste Generator Self-Certification. Amend RSA 147-A:5, IV(b) to read as  
27 follows:

28 (b) Each hazardous waste generator that generates less than 220 pounds/100 kilograms  
29 of hazardous waste per month shall pay non-refundable fees at a rate of [~~\$60~~] **\$90** per year for the  
30 period of [~~January 1, 2004 to June 30, 2007~~] **July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2025**, and at a rate of [~~\$90~~]  
31 **\$140** per year beginning July 1, [~~2007~~] **2025**, to cover department expenses for conducting the self-  
32 certification program and hiring of program staff. Total fees due for each year shall be submitted  
33 with the self-certification declaration form required under subparagraph (a).

34 184 Public Health; Hazardous Waste Cleanup Fund; Hazardous Waste Cleanup Fund Fees.  
35 Amend RSA 147-B:8, I to read as follows:

1           I. Each hazardous waste generator that generates in a 3-month period 660 pounds or more  
2 of unrecycled hazardous waste shall pay a quarterly fee of [~~\$0.06~~] **\$0.12** per pound or a minimum of  
3 \$100, to the department.

4           185 Public Health; Solid Waste Management Fund. RSA 149-R:4-6 are repealed and reenacted  
5 to read as follows:

6           149-R:4 Purpose and Use of the Fund.

7           I. The fund shall be used to support the administration and implementation of the  
8 department's solid waste technical assistance, planning, regulatory and permitting activities,  
9 including, but not limited to, waste reduction and diversion technical assistance, reducing the  
10 expense to municipalities of hazardous waste materials disposal and recycling, long term solid waste  
11 management planning, education and outreach efforts, and administration of payments in  
12 accordance with paragraphs II and III.

13           II. The fund shall be used to provide quarterly payments to New Hampshire municipalities  
14 for source reduction and recycling efforts to offset payments made by the municipality associated  
15 with the solid waste disposal surcharge established under RSA 149-R:5, based upon the tonnage of  
16 solid waste for which the municipality was financially responsible for disposal at a New Hampshire  
17 landfill, incinerator, or waste-to-energy facility. Administration of the payment program shall be in  
18 accordance with procedures established by rulemaking under the authority of RSA 149-R:6, IV and  
19 V. Such rulemaking shall specifically address the unique circumstances for municipalities that own  
20 and operate a facility that is subject to RSA 149-R:5, or that are part of a solid waste district that  
21 owns and operates such a facility, to ensure that the costs incurred by those municipalities are offset  
22 consistent with this chapter.

23           III. The fund shall be used to provide matching grant funding to New Hampshire  
24 municipalities, private entities, and businesses for projects that will provide a demonstrated,  
25 significant improvement in waste diversion methods and contribute to a reduction of wastes,  
26 including hazardous waste materials, requiring disposal, including a regional or municipal materials  
27 recovery facility operated by a public or private entity, and other regional recycling efforts.

28           IV. The fund may be used to hire consultants or contractors, or to pay other necessary  
29 expenses directly associated with approved activities in this chapter.

30           V. The department is authorized to solicit funds from any source, including the United  
31 States Environmental Protection Agency and other federal agencies, gifts, donations of money,  
32 grants, legislative appropriations, or any matching funds and incentives. Notwithstanding RSA 4:8  
33 and RSA 14:30, VI, the commissioner may accept and deposit such funds directly into the solid waste  
34 management fund to be used for the purpose described in RSA 149-R:4.

35           149-R:5 Solid Waste Disposal Surcharge.

36           I. Beginning January 1, 2026, solid waste disposed of at a New Hampshire landfill,  
37 incinerator, or waste-to-energy facility shall be subject to a surcharge at the rate of \$3.50 per ton.

1 Notwithstanding RSA 149-M:4, XXII, materials used as cover at landfills shall not be subject to the  
2 surcharge.

3 II. Such surcharge shall be paid by the customer of a facility that holds a permit issued  
4 pursuant to RSA 149-M for a New Hampshire landfill, incinerator, or waste-to-energy facility. This  
5 surcharge will be paid by the customer in addition to any other disposal tipping fee collected by the  
6 disposal facility, and such disposal facility shall remit the surcharge quarterly to the department on  
7 forms and with supporting documentation as provided for in rulemaking conducted pursuant to RSA  
8 149-R:6, I, II, and III.

9 III. The first payment of the surcharge shall be due to the department no later than April  
10 30, 2026, and within 30 days of each quarter's end thereafter.

11 IV. The department shall deposit surcharges collected under this section into the fund.

12 V. Failure to pay surcharges within 30 days of the date due shall result in the assessment of  
13 interest at a rate established by rule pursuant to RSA 149-R:6, VII. The commissioner may waive all  
14 or any portion of interest for good cause. The department shall deposit interest collected under this  
15 section into the fund.

16 149-R:6 Rulemaking. The commissioner shall adopt rules, after public hearing and pursuant to  
17 RSA 541-A, relative to:

18 I. The time, amount, and manner of payment of solid waste disposal surcharges.

19 II. Required records to be kept by facility permit holders of the type and quantity of solid  
20 waste disposed.

21 III. Certified reports required to be submitted with surcharge payments by facility permit  
22 holders.

23 IV. The time, amount, and manner of payments to New Hampshire municipalities pursuant  
24 to RSA 149-R:4, II.

25 V. Certified reports required to be submitted by municipalities requesting payments  
26 pursuant to RSA 149-R:4, II.

27 VI. Administering matching grants pursuant to RSA 149-R:4, III.

28 VII. Establishment of the interest rate applied to late payments pursuant to RSA 149-R:5,  
29 V.

30 149-R:7 Penalties and Other Enforcement.

31 I. Any person who violates any of the provision of this chapter or any rule adopted under  
32 this chapter shall be subject to a civil penalty not to exceed \$1,000 for each violation. Each day a  
33 surcharge is not paid after it is due in accordance with RSA 149-R:5, III shall be a separate violation.

34 II. In addition to an action to recover unpaid surcharges and interest owed, any violation of  
35 the provisions of this chapter or of any rule adopted under this chapter, may be enjoined by the  
36 superior court upon application of the attorney general.

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1           III. The provisions of RSA 7:15-a shall not apply to the collection of unpaid surcharges, and  
2 all money collected under this section shall be deposited into the fund.

3           149-R:8 Biennial Report. The department shall include in its biennial report required under  
4 RSA 149-M:29, II, information relative to the activities and finances of the solid waste management  
5 fund.

6           186 Certified Hazardous Waste Coordinator Program. Amend RSA 147-A:5, III(b) to read as  
7 follows:

8                   (b) Each application for initial or renewal of a hazardous waste coordinators certification  
9 shall be accompanied by a non-refundable fee of [~~\$125~~] **\$225** per year to cover department expenses  
10 for conducting the certification program.

11           187 Boat Fee Decals. Amend RSA 270-E:5-a, II(a) to read as follows:

12                   (a) [~~\$9.50~~] **\$12.50** for each decal specified in paragraph I. The fees collected under this  
13 subparagraph shall be paid into the lake restoration and preservation fund established under RSA  
14 487:25.

15           188 Per Diem; Public Employee Labor Relations Board. Amend RSA 273-A:2, VII to read as  
16 follows:

17                   VII. The members of the public employee labor relations board shall be paid [~~\$50~~] **\$250** a  
18 day and their necessary expenses while actually engaged in the performance of their duties.

19           189 Court Fees and Fines; Equitable Fee Schedule; Credit Card Service Charge. Amend RSA  
20 490:26-a to read as follows:

21           490:26-a Court Fees and Fines; Credit Card Payments.

22                   I. The supreme court shall establish by rule an equitable fee schedule for all courts in the  
23 state.

24                   II. [~~(a) Except as provided in subparagraph (b), a \$25 surcharge shall be added to each civil~~  
25 ~~filing fee for all courts. This surcharge shall be deposited in the general fund.~~

26                           ~~(b) The following shall be exempt from the surcharge under subparagraph (a):~~

27                                   ~~(1) Actions relating to children under RSA 169-B, RSA 169-C, and RSA 169-D.~~

28                                   ~~(2) Domestic violence actions under RSA 173-B.~~

29                                   ~~(3) Small claims actions under RSA 503.~~

30                                   ~~(4) Landlord/tenant actions under RSA 540, RSA 540-A, RSA 540-B, and RSA 540-C.~~

31                                   ~~(5) Stalking actions under RSA 633:3-a~~

32                   ~~II-a.]~~ The supreme court may establish by rule an equitable fee of not less than \$25 to be  
33 added to a fine whenever a court extends the time for the payment of the fine. An equitable fee  
34 assessed by a court under this paragraph shall be paid prior to or simultaneously with the payment  
35 of the fine.

36                   III. **(a)** All court fees, surcharges, and fines paid into any court may be paid by credit card in  
37 lieu of cash payment.

1           **(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the supreme court may, in**  
2 **establishing a fee schedule, establish a service charge for the acceptance of a credit card,**  
3 **debit card, or such other means of electronic payment.**

4           190 Sununu Youth Services Center; Possession and Relinquishment. Amend 2023, 2:4 to read  
5 as follows:

6           2:4 Possession and Relinquishment of the Sununu Youth Services Center (SYSC). As of the date  
7 of the opening of the youth development center set forth in section 2 of this act, and notwithstanding  
8 RSA 4:40, the department of administrative services shall take possession of the entire property  
9 currently housing the SYSC on South River Road in Manchester, New Hampshire. The department  
10 shall relinquish the property and any revenues received shall be deposited in the general fund.  
11 **Until such time the property is relinquished, the department shall request an**  
12 **appropriation, subject to the approval from the fiscal committee and the governor and**  
13 **executive council, funds necessary to maintain the property. The governor shall draw a**  
14 **warrant from funds not otherwise appropriated.** The department shall consult with the city of  
15 Manchester, the New Hampshire department of business and economic affairs, and other  
16 organizations, as appropriate, prior to any sale of the property. In relinquishing the property, the  
17 return of the property to an entity that will enhance the tax and business tax rolls of the city of  
18 Manchester and the state of New Hampshire shall be a high priority. Any relinquishment of the  
19 SYSC shall be approved by the governor and council.

20           191 Youth Detention Center; Construction Funds. Amend 2023, 79:443 to read as follows:

21           79:443 Youth Detention Center; Construction Funds. Notwithstanding any other act of the  
22 legislature or law to the contrary, any secured treatment facility constructed to replace the current  
23 Sununu Youth Services Center shall ~~[be funded entirely with]~~ **maximize** federal discretionary funds  
24 appropriated in the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Public Law 117-2, including any funds which  
25 have previously been allocated by the governor but which have not been expended. ~~[No state general~~  
26 ~~funds shall be appropriated for the purpose of constructing the replacement facility and]~~ Any funds  
27 appropriated to the project shall not be transferred or used for any other purpose. **The use of**  
28 **general funds, with prior approval of the fiscal committee of the general court, or federal**  
29 **discretionary funds which may become available, may be utilized to support activities or**  
30 **infrastructure to integrate facilities or operations between Hampstead Hospital and the**  
31 **replacement facility. The department shall undertake an initiative to consider**  
32 **establishment of a new permanent name for the Youth Development Center.**

33           192 Youth Development Center Settlement Fund; Appropriations. The sum of \$20,000,000 for  
34 fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, is hereby appropriated to the youth development center settlement  
35 fund established in RSA 21-M:11-a, II. The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said sum  
36 out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

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1       193 Department of Justice; Approval of Settlement Agreement in Michael Gilpatrick v. N.H.  
2 D.H.H.S, et al.

3       Pursuant to RSA 14:35-b, the settlement agreement executed by the department of justice in the  
4 case of *Michael Gilpatrick v. N.H. D.H.H.S, et al.*, Docket No. 217-2021-CV-00479, including the  
5 payment of \$10,000,000 to plaintiff Michael Gilpatrick and all other terms of the settlement  
6 agreement dated March 5, 2025, is hereby approved, and the sum of \$10,000,000 is hereby  
7 appropriated for the purpose of fulfilling the state's obligations under the settlement agreement.  
8 The payment of \$10,000,000 to plaintiff Michael Gilpatrick shall be made pursuant to the processes  
9 established by the department of justice and department of administrative services pursuant to RSA  
10 99-D:2, RSA 541-B, and the terms of the settlement agreement.

11       194 The State and Its Government; State Treasurer and State Accounts; Application of Receipts.  
12 Amend RSA 6:12, I(b)(103) to read as follows:

13               (103) Moneys deposited in the ~~[state art]~~ ***granite patron of the arts*** fund under  
14 RSA 19-A:9.

15       195 The State and Its Government; Council on the Arts; State Art Fund; Granite Patron of the  
16 Arts Fund. RSA 19-A:9 is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

17       19-A:9 Granite Patron of the Arts Fund.

18               I. There is hereby established in the office of the state treasurer a fund to be known as the  
19 granite patron of the arts fund, which shall be kept separate and distinct from all other funds and  
20 shall be continually appropriated to the division of the arts and the New Hampshire council of the  
21 arts. Such fund shall be the depository of all gifts, grants, federal funds, or donations made to the  
22 division of the arts or the New Hampshire council of the arts pursuant to RSA 19-A and RSA 12-A:2-  
23 K, IV. Implementation expenses, the expenses of the division and council, any employees of the  
24 division or council, and operations and initiatives of the division and council shall be paid from such  
25 fund. Any moneys in such fund shall not lapse into the general fund of the state.

26               II. The division and the council are authorized to institute programs to solicit and receive  
27 any gifts, grants, donations, or to receive federal matching funds made for the encouragement of the  
28 arts and to deposit such gifts, grants, or donations in the New Hampshire council on the arts fund  
29 under this section. The division and the council shall acknowledge receipt of any gifts, grants, or  
30 donations within 15 days of receipt on a form provided by the commissioner of the department of  
31 revenue administration.

32       196 New Paragraph; Taxation; Business Profits Tax; Credits. Amend RSA 77-A:5 by inserting  
33 after paragraph XVI the following new paragraph:

34               XVII. There shall be allowed a granite patron of the arts tax credit, according to the  
35 following:

36               (a) The credit shall be the lesser of 50 percent of donations made to the granite patron of  
37 the arts fund or the proportional share of the maximum aggregate credit amount allowed. The

1 department of revenue administration shall oversee and administer the granite patron of the arts  
2 tax credit, and may make additional rules, pursuant to RSA 541-A, concerning the credit under this  
3 paragraph. No carry forward of this credit shall be allowed. The maximum credit allowed for all  
4 taxpayers shall be \$350,000 per fiscal year.

5 (b) Taxpayers shall apply for the tax credit on forms provided by the commissioner and  
6 shall be accompanied by information or records required by the commissioner. Such application  
7 shall be filed no later than June 30 following the tax year during which the donations occurred.

8 (c) A determination on the final amount of the credit awarded by the commissioner to  
9 each taxpayer claiming the credit shall be made no later than September 30 of each year.

10 197 New Section; Business Enterprise Tax; Granite Patron of the Arts Credit. Amend RSA 77-E  
11 by inserting after section 3-e the following new section:

12 77-E:3-f Granite Patron of the Arts Credit. The unused portion of any granite patron of the arts  
13 tax credit awarded by the commissioner under RSA 77-A:5, XVII, shall be available to apply to the  
14 business enterprise tax.

15 198 Department of Natural and Cultural Resources; Division of Parks and Recreation; Bureau  
16 of Trails; Grant-in-Aid. For the biennium ending June 30, 2027, and notwithstanding any provision  
17 of law or administrative rule to the contrary, the limitations on percentages of grant-in-aid  
18 administered by the department of natural and cultural resources, division of parks and recreation,  
19 bureau of trails, for the development and maintenance of OHRV trails on private, municipal, state,  
20 or federal lands shall be as follows:

21 I. For the grant period of June 1, 2025, to May 31, 2026:

- 22 (a) Eighty percent of the cost of renting equipment required to complete a project.
- 23 (b) Eighty percent of the cost of purchasing trail maintenance equipment.
- 24 (c) Eighty percent of the cost of reconditioning trail grading equipment.
- 25 (d) Eighty percent of the cost of operations for summer trail grading.

26 II. For the grant period of June 1, 2026, to June 30, 2027:

- 27 (a) Eighty percent of the cost of renting equipment required to complete a project.
- 28 (b) Eighty percent of the cost of purchasing trail maintenance equipment.
- 29 (c) Eighty percent of the cost of reconditioning trail grading equipment.
- 30 (d) Eighty percent of the cost of operations for summer trail grading.

31 199 Powers and Duties of the Hampton Beach Commission. Amend the introductory paragraph  
32 to RSA 216-J:3 to read as follows:

33 ***Subject to available funds***, the Hampton Beach area commission shall:

34 200 Hampton Beach Master Plan Fund. Amend RSA 216-J:5 to read as follows:

35 216-J:5 Hampton Beach Master Plan Fund. There is hereby established in the office of the state  
36 treasurer a fund to be known as the Hampton Beach master plan fund which shall be kept separate  
37 and distinct from all other funds and shall be continually appropriated to the commission. Such

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1 fund shall be the depository of all gifts, grants, or donations made to the commission pursuant to  
2 RSA 216-J:4. Implementation expenses, the expenses of the commission, its commissioners, ~~and~~  
3 any employees of the commission, **and operations and initiatives of the commission**, shall be  
4 paid from such fund. Any moneys in such fund shall not lapse into the general fund of the state.

5 201 Assistant State Treasurers. Amend RSA 6:28 to read as follows:

6 6:28 Appointment; Removal. The state treasurer may appoint [2] assistant state treasurers who  
7 shall hold office during good behavior. The governor and council may remove an assistant for cause  
8 as they may remove the treasurer.

9 202 Treasury Department; Transfer of Funds. Notwithstanding any provision of RSA 195-H:12  
10 to the contrary, the state treasury shall transfer any uncommitted moneys from the governor's  
11 scholarship fund, established in RSA 195-H:12, to the general fund on July 1, 2025.

12 203 New Paragraph; Use of Word "Child". Amend RSA 21-V:1 by inserting after paragraph III  
13 the following new paragraph:

14 III-a. Any use of the word "child" within the definition of critical incident in this chapter  
15 means "child" as defined by RSA 21-V:1, IV.

16 204 Child Advocate; Oversight Duties. Amend RSA 21-V:2, II(d)-(e) to read as follows:

17 (d) ~~Examine~~ **Prioritize examining**, on a system-wide basis, the care and services that  
18 agencies provide children, and provide recommendations to improve the quality of those services in  
19 order to provide each child the opportunity to live a full and productive life.

20 (e) Advise **in a non-partisan manner** the public, governor, commissioners, speaker of  
21 the house of representatives, senate president, and oversight commission about how the state may  
22 improve its services to and for children and their families.

23 205 Child Advocate; Educational Outreach and Advocacy; Partisan Advocacy Prohibited.  
24 Amend RSA 21-V:2, VI to read as follows:

25 VI. Perform educational outreach and advocacy initiatives **in a non-partisan manner**, in  
26 furtherance of the mission and responsibilities of the office.

27 206 New Paragraph; Office of Child Advocate; Investigations. Amend RSA 21-V:2 by inserting  
28 after paragraph VIII the following new paragraph:

29 IX. The office of the child advocate may conduct investigations at the request of the governor  
30 or the oversight commission.

31 207 Child Advocate; Nominations. Amend RSA 21-V:3, II to read as follows:

32 II. The child advocate shall be ~~appointed~~ **nominated** by the governor and **approved by**  
33 **the** executive council~~[, upon the recommendation of the oversight commission]~~.

34 208 Child Advocate; Assistant Child Advocate. Amend RSA 21-V:3, IV to read as follows

35 IV. Upon any vacancy in the position of the child advocate, and until such time as a  
36 candidate has been appointed by the governor and council, ~~the associate~~ **an assistant** child

1 advocate shall serve as the acting child advocate and be entitled to the compensation, privileges, and  
2 powers of the child advocate.

3 209 Child Advocate; Travel Expenditures. Amend RSA 21-V:3, VII to read as follows:

4 VII. The child advocate [~~shall appoint an associate child advocate, and~~] may, subject to  
5 appropriation, appoint such other personnel as the child advocate deems necessary for the efficient  
6 management of the office. The duties of these personnel shall be performed under and by the advice  
7 and direction of the child advocate. ***Out-of-state travel expenditures, except travel ensuring***  
8 ***children are receiving appropriate services to meet their needs, shall be subject to approval***  
9 ***by the joint legislative fiscal committee.***

10 210 Office of the Child Advocate, Access to Information and Facilities. Amend RSA 21-V:4  
11 to read as follows:

12 21-V:4 Access to Information and Facilities.

13 I. The office shall have access to the following information, ***for children who are or have***  
14 ***been involved with the division for children, youth, and families or who are receiving***  
15 ***services in a residential treatment facility licensed by the state:***

16 (a) All case records, all third party records, including the healthcare records of any child  
17 receiving services from an executive agency, and all records submitted to the courts.

18 (b) Executive agencies' policies and procedures, including draft policies and procedures.

19 (c) Executive agencies' records or reports, including draft records and reports.

20 (d) Autopsy reports from the chief medical examiner, which shall be provided in a timely  
21 manner upon the request of the child advocate.

22 II. The office shall be entitled to prompt electronic access to division records within the scope  
23 of its mission.

24 III. The office, in performance of its duties under this chapter, may communicate privately  
25 with any child or person who has received, is receiving, or should have received services from the  
26 state. Such communications shall be confidential and not be subject to disclosure except as provided  
27 in RSA 21-V:5.

28 ***IV. The office may have access to the records of other children when such records***  
29 ***are directly relevant to the review of a case involving a child within the office's***  
30 ***jurisdiction, as allowable by state and federal law.***

31 211 Office of the Child Advocate; Funding Authorization. The office of child advocate may  
32 request, with prior approval of the fiscal committee, that the governor and council authorize  
33 additional funding for staffing costs. The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said sum out  
34 of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

35 212 Magistrates; Permitted to Continue Duties. Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary,  
36 any magistrate appointed to that position before January 31, 2025, pursuant to RSA 491-B:1 as that  
37 law existed on January 31, 2025, may continue to exercise the duties of the magistrate, as provided

1 by RSA 491-B:2 as that law existed on January 31, 2025, except no magistrate shall conduct bail  
2 hearings or make bail determinations. Any magistrate so appointed may continue to exercise those  
3 duties until the end of any term commenced before January 31, 2025, or the end of their employment  
4 with the judicial branch, whichever is earlier, but in no event later than January 1, 2030.

5 213 Effective Date. Section 212 of this act shall take effect September 21, 2025, at 12:01 a.m.

6 214 New Chapter; Office of State and Public Sector Labor Relations. Amend RSA by inserting  
7 after chapter 273-D the following new chapter:

8 CHAPTER 273-E

9 OFFICE OF STATE AND PUBLIC SECTOR LABOR RELATIONS

10 273-E:1 Definitions.

11 In this chapter:

12 I. "Office" means the office of state and public sector labor relations created by RSA 273-E:2.

13 II. "Public employee labor relations board" means the board created by RSA 273-A:2.

14 III. "Personnel appeals board" means the board created by RSA 273-D:1, I.

15 IV. "Right to know ombudsman" means the position created by RSA 91-A:7-a.

16 273-E:2 The Office.

17 I. There is hereby created an office of state and public sector labor relations consisting of the  
18 public employee labor relations board, the personnel appeals board, and the right to know  
19 ombudsman. The purpose of the office is to consolidate the physical location of the public employee  
20 labor relations board, the personnel appeals board, and the right to know ombudsman and to have  
21 the public employee labor relations board provide administrative support to the personnel appeals  
22 board and the right to know ombudsman.

23 II. The public employee labor relations board shall be responsible for the operations of the  
24 office and shall provide the personnel appeals board and the right to know ombudsman with use of  
25 its hearing room for the conduct of official business. The public employee labor relations board shall  
26 also provide administrative support and workspace to the personnel appeals board and the right to  
27 know ombudsman to the extent of their respective budgets, the public employee labor relation  
28 board's available staff, and its other resources.

29 III. The public employee labor relations board, the right to know ombudsman, and the  
30 personnel appeals board shall have separate budgets organized under category 2 "Administration of  
31 Justice and Public PRTN" and department "Office of State and Public Sector Labor Relations."

32 IV. The public employee labor relations board shall continue to independently exercise the  
33 jurisdiction conferred upon it pursuant to RSA 273-A. The New Hampshire administrative rules  
34 Pub 100-300 shall remain in full force and effect.

35 V. The personnel appeals board shall continue to independently exercise the jurisdiction  
36 conferred upon it pursuant to RSA 273-D. The New Hampshire administrative rules Per 100-200  
37 shall remain in full force and effect.

1 VI. The right to know ombudsman shall continue to independently exercise the jurisdiction  
2 conferred upon it pursuant to RSA 91-A:7-a. The New Hampshire administrative rules Rko 100-300  
3 shall remain in full force and effect.

4 215 Definitions; Public Employee Labor Relations; Per Diem. Amend RSA 273-A:2, VII to read  
5 as follows:

6 VII. The members of the public employee labor relations board shall be paid ~~[\$50]~~ **\$250** a  
7 day and their necessary expenses while actually engaged in the performance of their duties.

8 216 Office of Right-to-Know Ombudsman. Amend the introductory paragraph of RSA 91-A:7-a  
9 to read as follows:

10 There is hereby established the office of the right-to-know ombudsman to be administratively  
11 attached to the ~~[department of state under RSA 21-G:10]~~ **office of state and public sector labor**  
12 **relations under RSA 273-E. The right-to-know ombudsman shall be paid a stipend of \$200**  
13 **in each biweekly state payroll cycle for such work performed outside of scheduled sessions.**  
14 **The right-to-know ombudsman shall also be paid \$400 for each day devoted to the work of**  
15 **the office and shall be reimbursed for travel, professional development, and other business-**  
16 **related expenses. The right-to-know ombudsman shall be paid \$50 per hour for time spent**  
17 **on the drafting of final decisions.** The ombudsman shall be appointed by the governor and  
18 council and shall have the following minimum qualifications:

19 217 Repeal. The following are repealed:

20 I. 2022, 250:5, relative to the right-to-know ombudsman.

21 II. 2022, 250:6, relative to repealing certain provisions relative to the right-to-know  
22 ombudsman.

23 III. 2022, 250:7, relative to the effective date of the repeal of certain provisions of the right to  
24 know ombudsman.

25 218 Effective Date. Section 217 of this act shall take effect June 30, 2025.

26 219 Town Property; Authority of Select Board. Amend RSA 41:11-a to read as follows:

27 41:11-a Town Property.

28 I. The ~~[selectmen]~~ **select board** shall have authority to manage all real property owned by  
29 the town and to regulate its use, unless such management and regulation is delegated to other public  
30 officers by vote of the town, or is governed by other statutes, including but not limited to RSA 31:112,  
31 RSA 35-B, RSA 36-A:4, and RSA 202-A:6.

32 II. The authority under paragraph I shall include the power to rent or lease such property  
33 during periods not needed for public use, provided, however, that any rental or lease agreement for a  
34 period of more than one year shall not be valid unless ratified by vote of the town.

35 III. Notwithstanding paragraph II, the legislative body may vote to ~~[authorize the board of~~  
36 ~~selectmen]~~ **grant the select board the authority** to rent or lease any municipal property for a term  
37 of up to 5 years ~~[without further vote or ratification of the town]~~. Once adopted, this authority shall

1 remain in effect until specifically rescinded by the legislative body at any duly warned meeting,  
2 [~~provided that the term of any lease entered into prior to the rescission shall remain in effect~~]  
3 ***however, such rescission shall not terminate any existing leases.***

4 ***IV. The governing body may choose to send to the planning board a list of real***  
5 ***property owned by the town and managed by the select board that is in their judgment***  
6 ***appropriate for development for residential use. No property acquired under tax deed***  
7 ***pursuant to RSA 80 shall be added to this list.***

8 220 New Paragraph; Duties of the Planning Board. Amend RSA 674:1 by inserting after  
9 paragraph VI the following new paragraph:

10 VII. The planning board may vote to designate any property recommended to it as  
11 appropriate for development as a residential use by the select board pursuant to RSA 41:11-a, IV, as  
12 appropriate for development for residential use and forward a description of said property to the  
13 office of planning and development pursuant to RSA 12-O:55, VIII.

14 221 New Paragraph; Data and Information Services; Descriptions of Property to be Compiled.  
15 Amend RSA 12-O:55 by inserting after paragraph VII the following new paragraph:

16 VIII. Pursuant to RSA 674:1, VII, compile descriptions of municipally and county-owned  
17 property determined to be appropriate for residential development by the select board as a  
18 residential use into a publicly available list of properties available for grant or loan funding  
19 pursuant to RSA 12-O:72-a.

20 222 New Section; Partners in Housing Program. Amend RSA 12-O by inserting after section 72  
21 the following new section:

22 12-O:72-a Partners in Housing Program. The department shall establish a program, known as  
23 the partners in housing program, for the purpose of building workforce housing. Properties  
24 identified on the list created pursuant to RSA 674:1, VII shall be given priority for program funding.  
25 Available funding may be made by the department to housing developers to whom a municipality or  
26 county, pursuant to RSA 28:8-c, transfers ownership of the municipally or county-owned property for  
27 the purpose of residential development where at least 20 percent of the housing units to be  
28 developed will be affordable for a period of at least 20 years. The department shall adopt rules  
29 pursuant to RSA 541-A to implement the provisions of this section no later than December 1, 2026.

30 223 New Paragraphs; Power to Review Site Plans. Amend RSA 674:43 by inserting after  
31 paragraph V the following new paragraphs:

32 VI. If the planning board has submitted a property description to the office of planning and  
33 development, then the local governing body may further vote to authorize that properties in the  
34 municipality on the list generated pursuant to RSA 12-O:55, VIII qualify for expedited review and  
35 approval pursuant to RSA 676:4, III.

36 VII. If the local legislative body of a municipality has by ordinance or resolution authorized  
37 minor site plan review pursuant to RSA 674:43, III, then all solely residential development projects

1 proposing to construct workforce housing, as defined in RSA 674:58, IV, that are included on the list  
2 generated pursuant to RSA 12-0:55, VIII, may also qualify for expedited review and approval  
3 pursuant to RSA 676:4, III.

4 VIII. The local legislative body of a municipality may by ordinance or resolution adopt  
5 pattern zoning regulations to accelerate the construction of infill housing in neighborhoods. To meet  
6 the definition of infill housing, projects must be new residential development constructed on vacant  
7 lots interspersed among lots with existing, non-vacant development. Pattern zoning provides  
8 permit-ready designs with appropriate zoning and regulations to speed the process of building high  
9 quality infill housing that is compatible with existing homes in the neighborhood.

10 224 Housing Champion Designation and Grant Program Fund; Compilation of Property. Amend  
11 RSA 12-O:74 to read as follows:

12 12-O:74 New Hampshire Housing Champion Designation and Grant Program Fund. There is  
13 hereby established in the state treasury the New Hampshire housing champion designation and  
14 grant program fund, for the purpose of funding the grant programs established in RSA 12-O:72  
15 and[.] RSA 12-O:73, *and the compilation of municipally and county-owned property*  
16 *determined to be appropriate for residential development pursuant to RSA 12-O:72-a and*  
17 *674:1, VII*. The fund shall be non-lapsing and shall be continually appropriated to the department.

18 225 Effective Date. Sections 219 through 224 of this act shall take effect June 30, 2025.

19 226 Adequate Representation for Indigent Defendants in Criminal Cases; Determination of  
20 Financial Ability. Amend RSA 604-A:2-c to read as follows:

21 604-A:2-c Determination of Financial Ability. The determination of a defendant's financial  
22 ability to obtain counsel shall be made by comparing the defendant's assets and incomes with the  
23 minimum cost of obtaining qualified private counsel. The defendant's assets shall include all real  
24 and personal property owned in any manner by the defendant, excluding only those assets which are  
25 exempt from attachment and execution under RSA 511:2. The defendant's income shall include all  
26 income, whether earned or not, from any source, unless exempt from attachment under any state or  
27 federal law, and shall be reduced only by the amount of expenses which are reasonably necessary for  
28 the maintenance of the defendant and his dependents. In determining a defendant's financial ability  
29 to obtain counsel, the rules adopted by the commissioner under RSA 604-A:10, IV, shall contain a  
30 method for considering the defendant's ability to borrow some or all of the necessary funds. [~~The~~  
31 ~~rules shall also consider the possibility of the defendant paying his counsel fees in periodic~~  
32 ~~installments.]~~

33 227 Adequate Representation for Indigent Defendants in Criminal Cases; Appointment of  
34 Counsel for Nonpayment or Nonperformance; Cross-Reference Deleted. Amend RSA 604-A:2-f, IV to  
35 read as follows:

36 IV. When the court appoints counsel to represent a defendant in a proceeding under this  
37 section, the court shall grant the defendant relief from the obligation to repay the state for appointed

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1 counsel fees [~~under RSA 604-A:9, I(b), if the court determines that the defendant is financially~~  
2 ~~unable to repay~~].

3 228 Repayment. RSA 604-A:9 is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

4 604-A:9 Repayment. As of the effective date of this section, all collections efforts under this  
5 section or former versions of this chapter shall be terminated. Any person subject to a court order  
6 for reimbursement may petition the court to vacate the reimbursement order.

7 229 Adequate Representation for Indigent Defendants in Criminal Cases; Commissioner of  
8 Administrative Services. Amend RSA 604-A:10, IV to read as follows:

9 IV. The [~~commissioner of administrative services~~] **judicial council** shall, with the approval  
10 of the attorney general, adopt rules pursuant to RSA 541-A, governing determinations of eligibility  
11 for [~~payment of~~] indigent defense [~~expenditures, determinations of repayment schedules, financial~~  
12 ~~and credit investigations, and any other matters the commissioner deems necessary or advisable for~~  
13 ~~the performance of duties under this chapter~~].

14 230 Directive; Department of Administrative Services. Upon the effective date of this act, the  
15 commissioner of the department of administrative services shall immediately cease all active  
16 collection efforts related to any money owed under RSA 604-A:9. The commissioner shall wind down  
17 all aspects of the program within a reasonable timeframe, and once the program is ended, the  
18 commissioner shall have all records related to payment of money owed under RSA 604-A:9  
19 destroyed.

20 231 Repeal. The following are repealed:

21 I. RSA 604-A:2-a, relative to additional inquiry regarding appointed counsel for indigent  
22 criminal defendants.

23 II. RSA 604-A:2-d, relative to partial liability regarding appointed counsel for indigent  
24 criminal defendants.

25 232 Education; Adequate Education; Education Trust Fund; Annual Adjustment. Amend RSA  
26 198:40-d to read as follows:

27 198:40-d Annual Adjustment. Beginning July 1, [2024] **2026**, and every year thereafter, the  
28 department of education shall adjust the following with an increase of 2 percent annually, **rounded**  
29 **up to the nearest whole dollar**:

30 I. Per pupil costs in RSA 198:40-a, II; **and**

31 II. [~~Extraordinary need grant "grant floor," "grant ceiling," "factor," and "max grant" as~~  
32 ~~defined in RSA 198:40-f, II, (a)-(d); and~~

33 ~~III.] Chartered public school additional grants under RSA 194-B:11, I(b)(1)(A) and (B).~~

34 233 Education; Adequate Education; Education Trust Fund; Extraordinary Need Grants. RSA  
35 198:40-f is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

1           I. In addition to aid for the cost of the opportunity for an adequate education provided under  
2 RSA 198:40-a, each year the commissioner shall calculate an extraordinary need grant for schools  
3 and provide that amount of aid to a municipality's school districts as follows:

4           (a) A municipality with an equalized valuation per pupil eligible to receive a free or  
5 reduced-priced meal of \$1,697,933 or less shall receive \$11,730 per pupil eligible to receive a free or  
6 reduced-price meal in the municipality's ADMR.

7           (b) A municipality with an equalized valuation per pupil eligible to receive a free or  
8 reduced-price meal between \$1,697,934 and \$7,003,972 shall receive a grant equal to \$0.00221069  
9 for each dollar of difference between its equalized valuation per pupil eligible to receive a free or  
10 reduced-price meal and \$7,003,972 for each pupil eligible to receive a free or reduced-price meal in  
11 the municipality's ADMR.

12           (c) A municipality with an equalized valuation per pupil eligible to receive a free or  
13 reduced-price meal of \$7,003,973 or more shall not receive an extraordinary need grant.

14           II. In this section:

15           (a) "Grant floor" means \$1,697,933 in equalized valuation per free or reduced-price meal  
16 pupil.

17           (b) "Grant ceiling" means \$7,003,973 in equalized valuation per free or reduced-price  
18 meal pupil.

19           (c) "Factor" means \$0.00221069 for each dollar difference between equalized valuation  
20 per free or reduced-price meal pupil.

21           (d) "Maximum grant" means \$11,730 per free or reduced-price meal pupil.

22           III. The extraordinary needs grants shall be calculated using the formula described in  
23 paragraph I, however, beginning July 1, 2027, and every year thereafter, the grant floor, grant  
24 ceiling, and maximum grant shall be increased by 2 percent. The factor shall be readjusted by  
25 taking the newly adjusted maximum grant and dividing by the difference between the grant floor  
26 and grant ceiling.

27           234 New Section; Education; Adequate Education; Education Trust Fund; Fiscal Capacity  
28 Disparity Aid. Amend RSA 198 by inserting after section 40-f the following new section:

29           198:40-g Fiscal Capacity Disparity Aid.

30           I. In addition to aid for the cost of the opportunity for an adequate education provided under  
31 RSA 198:40-a, each year the commissioner shall calculate a fiscal capacity disparity aid grant for  
32 schools and provide that amount of aid to a municipality's school districts as follows:

33           (a) A municipality with an equalized valuation per pupil of \$1,000,000 or less shall  
34 receive \$1,250 per pupil eligible in the municipality's ADMR.

35           (b) A municipality with an equalized valuation per pupil between \$1,000,001 and  
36 \$1,599,999 shall receive a grant equal to \$0.00208333 for each dollar of difference between its  
37 equalized valuation per pupil and \$1,599,999, for each pupil the municipality's ADMR.

1 (c) A municipality with an equalized valuation per pupil of \$1,600,000 or more shall not  
2 receive a fiscal capacity disparity aid grant.

3 II. In this section:

4 (a) "Grant floor" means \$1,000,000 in equalized valuation per pupil.

5 (b) "Grant ceiling" means \$1,600,000 in equalized valuation per pupil.

6 (c) "Factor" means \$0.00208333 for each dollar difference between equalized valuation  
7 per pupil.

8 (d) "Maximum grant" means \$1,250 per pupil.

9 III. The fiscal capacity disparity aid grants shall be calculated using the formula described  
10 in paragraph I, however, beginning July 1, 2027, and every year thereafter, the grant floor, grant  
11 ceiling, and maximum grant shall be increased by 2 percent. The factor shall be readjusted by  
12 taking the newly adjusted maximum grant and dividing by the difference between the grant floor  
13 and grant ceiling.

14 235 Education; Adequate Education; Education Trust Fund; Determination of Education  
15 Grants. Amend RSA 198:41, I(a)-(c) to read as follows:

16 (a) Add the per pupil cost of providing the opportunity for an adequate education for  
17 which each pupil is eligible pursuant to RSA 198:40-a, I-III, and from such amount;

18 (b) Subtract the amount of the education tax warrant to be issued by the commissioner  
19 of revenue administration for such municipality reported pursuant to RSA 76:8 for the next tax year;  
20 [~~and~~]

21 (c) Add the municipality's extraordinary need grant pursuant to RSA 198:40-f[-];

22 ***(d) Add the municipality's fiscal capacity disparity aid grant pursuant to RSA***  
23 ***198:40-g; and***

24 ***(e) For municipalities with a total ADMR of 5,000 or more, subtract the amount***  
25 ***necessary to limit the total additional targeted aid to \$3,750 per pupil in the municipality's***  
26 ***ADMR. For the purpose of this paragraph, additional targeted aid shall be the sum of a***  
27 ***municipality's extraordinary needs grant and fiscal capacity disparity aid grant.***

28 236 Effective Date. Sections 232-235 of this act shall take effect July 1, 2026.

29 237 Instruction in National and State History, Government, and Civics. Amend RSA 189:11, II  
30 to read as follows:

31 II.(a) As a component of instruction under this section, a locally developed competency  
32 assessment of United States government and civics that includes, but is not limited to, the nature,  
33 purpose, structure, function, and history of the United States government, the rights and  
34 responsibilities of citizens, and noteworthy government and civic leaders, shall be administered to  
35 students as part of the required high school course in history and government of the United States  
36 and New Hampshire.

1           **(b)** To be eligible for a graduation certificate, a student in a public, chartered public,  
2 non-public school, or a privately incorporated school that serves as a public school in the state, shall  
3 attain a locally sanctioned passing grade on the competency assessment, and ~~[a grade of]~~ **shall**  
4 **score** 70 percent or better on the 128 question civics (history and government) naturalization  
5 examination developed by the 2020 United States Citizen and Immigration Services. **Public and**  
6 **chartered public schools shall use the assessment provided by the department of education.**

7           **(c)** ~~[Schools are required to]~~ **The department of education shall** provide  
8 accommodations and may modify the naturalization examination for a child with a disability in  
9 accordance with the child's individualized education program.

10           **(d)** **Annually, the department shall publish a report of the state and district**  
11 **results of the civics assessment.**

12           **(e)** ~~[By June 30 of each year, each school district, chartered public or]~~ Non-public  
13 **schools** ~~[school, or a privately incorporated school that serves as a public school in the state,]~~ shall  
14 submit the results of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) test to the  
15 department of education.

16           238 Appropriations; Department of Education; Computer Science Professional Development.  
17 Amend 2023, 79:81, I-III to read as follows:

18           I. There is hereby appropriated to the department of education the sum of \$500,000 for the  
19 fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, for the purpose of encouraging New Hampshire certified educators  
20 to pursue eligible industry recognized credentials in the field of computer science. This  
21 appropriation shall not lapse **until June 30, 2025**. The governor is authorized to draw a warrant  
22 for said sum out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

23           II. There is hereby appropriated to the department of education the sum of \$2,741,871 for  
24 the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, for the purpose of encouraging individuals holding an eligible  
25 industry recognized credentials to teach computer science or related courses of study in New  
26 Hampshire approved education programs. This appropriation shall not lapse **until June 30, 2025**.  
27 The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said sum out of any money in the treasury not  
28 otherwise appropriated.

29           III. There is hereby appropriated to the department of education the sum of \$455,000 for the  
30 fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, for the purpose of implementing the experiential robotics platform  
31 in all New Hampshire classrooms for grades 6-12 including, but not limited to the purchase of  
32 robotics kits from First New Hampshire Robotics, Experiential Robotics Platform, career and  
33 technical education of community college fabrication sites, and professional development delivery  
34 and support. The sum appropriated shall not lapse **until June 30, 2025**. The governor is  
35 authorized to draw a warrant for said sum out of any money in the treasury not otherwise  
36 appropriated.

37           239 Effective Date. Section 238 of this act shall take effect June 30, 2025.

1           240 Motor Vehicles; Administration of Motor Vehicle Laws; Identification Cards. Amend RSA  
2 260:21, V(a) to read as follows:

3           V.(a) The fee for such card shall be [~~\$10~~] **\$20** and is not refundable, except that no fee shall  
4 be charged to any person who, for reason of health or age, turns in his or her driver's license before  
5 the expiration date of such license. For purposes of this section, reasons of age shall be deemed to  
6 apply only to those persons over age 65. A person who requires a photo identification card only for  
7 voter identification purposes may obtain a voucher in the form provided for in subparagraph (b) from  
8 his or her town or city clerk or the secretary of state exempting the voter from the identification card  
9 fee. Upon presentation of the voucher to the division, the actual costs of issuing the card shall be  
10 paid by the secretary of state from the election fund established under RSA 5:6-d. An identification  
11 card paid for by the secretary of state shall be valid for voter identification purposes only, and the  
12 card, which shall be known as a voter identification card, shall be marked "for voter identification  
13 only."

14           241 Motor Vehicles; Certificates of Title and Registration of Vehicles; Fees. Amend RSA 261:20,  
15 I(a)-(i) to read as follows:

16           (a) For filing an application for a first certificate of title, with or without a lienholder  
17 named, [~~\$25~~] **\$35**;

18           (b) For a certificate of title after a transfer, with or without a lienholder named, [~~\$25~~]  
19 **\$35**;

20           (c) For a duplicate certificate of title, [~~\$25~~] **\$35**;

21           (d) For an ordinary certificate of title issued upon surrender of a distinctive certificate,  
22 [~~\$20~~] **\$40**;

23           (e) For filing a notice of security interest, \$20;

24           (f) For a certificate of search of the records of the division, for each name or  
25 identification number searched against, \$20;

26           (g) For filing an assignment of security interest, \$2;

27           (h) For issuing a distinctive New Hampshire number in place of a vehicle identification  
28 number, [~~\$30~~] **\$40**;

29           (i) For issuing a salvage vehicle decal pursuant to RSA 261:22, IV, [~~\$50~~] **\$60**.

30           242 Motor Vehicles; Certificates of Title and Registration of Vehicles; Twenty-Day Registration.  
31 Amend RSA 261:57, I to read as follows:

32           I. Any resident of this state who intends to purchase a vehicle in another state or from  
33 another person or who is unable to register a vehicle because of limited hours of operation of the  
34 town clerk in the town where the person resides may apply to the division or its substation or  
35 authorized agent nearest his or her residence for a registration to drive said vehicle on the ways of  
36 the state in an unregistered condition. Said resident shall appear in person at the division or  
37 substation to obtain such registration and shall sign under penalty of perjury a statement that the

1 vehicle meets all New Hampshire inspection requirements, and in the case of a person seeking an  
2 extension of his or her registration, that he or she was unable to register the vehicle because of the  
3 limited hours of the town clerk, before said registration may be issued. Said registration shall be  
4 valid for 20 days from the time it is issued. Application blanks and permits in the form prescribed  
5 by the director shall be designed, printed, and supplied to the substations by the division. The fee  
6 for the issuance of a registration shall be ~~[\$10]~~ **\$20**. It shall be unlawful for any person to drive a  
7 vehicle on the ways of the state under a registration issued pursuant to this section unless said  
8 person has in his or her possession a valid bill of sale for the vehicle he or she is driving, or in the  
9 case of a person whose registration is extended, a copy of the form indicating he or she was unable to  
10 register because of the limited hours of the town clerk. No person shall make application for a 20-  
11 day registration on the same vehicle more than once within a 12-month period. Only 3 20-day  
12 registrations shall be issued on the same vehicle within a 12-month period.

13 243 Motor Vehicles; Certificates of Title and Registration of Vehicles; Fees to be Collected.  
14 Amend RSA 261:141, III to read as follows:

15 III. Prorated fees:

16 (a) For agricultural vehicles-~~[\$3.60]~~ **\$12**.

17 (b) For each agricultural tractor-~~[\$1.80]~~ **\$12**.

18 (c) For air compressors-~~[\$6]~~ **\$11**.

19 (d) For cement mixers-~~[\$6]~~ **\$11**.

20 (e) For saw rigs or log splitters-~~[\$6]~~ **\$11**.

21 (If the equipment cited in RSA 261:141, III(c)-(e), is towed exclusively within the limits of  
22 a single city or town, the state registration fee shall not be collected.)

23 (f) For antique motorcycles-~~[\$2.40]~~ **\$12**.

24 (g) For all motor vehicles other than those in RSA 261:141, I:

25 0-3000 lbs. [~~\$31.20 (\$2.60 per month)~~] **\$42 (\$3.50 per month)**

26 3001-5000 lbs. [~~\$43.20 (\$3.60 per month)~~] **\$48 (\$4 per month)**

27 5001-8000 lbs. [~~\$55.20 (\$4.60 per month)~~] **\$66 (\$5.50 per month)**

28 8001-73,280 lbs. [~~\$.96]~~ **\$1.06** per hundred lbs. gross weight.

29 (h) Truck-tractors to be used in conjunction with a semi-trailer, gross weight shall  
30 include the weight of such tractors, the weight of the heaviest semi-trailer to be used therewith, and  
31 the weight of the maximum load to be carried thereby: up to 73,280 pounds [~~\$.96]~~ **\$1.06** per 100  
32 pounds gross weight, over 73,280 pounds-~~[\$1.44]~~ **\$1.58** shall be charged for each 100 pounds gross  
33 weight or portion thereof in excess of 73,280 pounds.

34 (i) Each additional semi-trailer used in conjunction with such truck-tractor [~~\$24.00]~~  
35 **\$26.40**

36 (j) For semi-trailers or automobile utility trailers (the weight of the trailer shall include  
37 the maximum load to be carried thereby):

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- 1           0-1000 lbs. [~~\$ 3.00~~] **\$3.30**
- 2           1001-1500 lbs. [~~6.00~~] **\$6.60**
- 3           1501-3000 lbs. [~~12.00~~] **\$13.20**
- 4           3001-5000 lbs. [~~24.00~~] **\$26.40**
- 5           5001-8000 lbs. [~~36.00~~] **\$39.60**
- 6           8001-up [~~60~~] **\$0.66** per hundred lbs. gross weight.

7           (k) For each semi-trailer not registered in connection with a truck-tractor, the gross  
8 weight shall include the weight of such trailer and the weight of the maximum load to be carried  
9 thereby. The registration fee shall be [~~\$-60~~] **\$0.66** per hundred lbs. gross weight and such trailer  
10 shall not be registered for less than 10,000 lbs.

11           (l) For equipment mounted on trucks of which the equipment is an integral part of the  
12 unit and the truck is not capable of carrying freight or merchandise, the registration fee shall be 1/3  
13 of the regular fee charged as determined by the corresponding weight chart specified in  
14 subparagraph (i).

15           (m) For each farm truck or combination of motor type tractor and semi-trailer used only  
16 for transportation of agricultural products produced on and meant to be used in connection with the  
17 operation of a farm or farms owned, operated, or occupied by the registrant, for the first 16,000  
18 pounds-~~[\$24]~~ **\$36**, for any additional weight above 16,000 pounds-~~[\$.74]~~ **\$1.44** per hundred weight.

19           (n) For each additional or extra semi-trailer used in connection with a motor type tractor  
20 registered for farm purposes-~~[\$24]~~ **\$36**. (In the event that a farm truck registered under the ~~[\$24]~~  
21 **\$36** fee as provided in this subparagraph and thereafter registered for general use during the same  
22 registration year, such fee shall be applied toward the fee for such general registration.)

23           (o) For each motorcycle-~~[\$15]~~ **\$30**.

24           (p) For each moped-~~[\$3]~~ **\$14**.

25           (q) For each motor vehicle used exclusively as a school bus or owned by a religious  
26 organization or a non-profit organization used exclusively as a bus for the transportation of its  
27 members in connection with functions of the organization for which no fee is charged-~~\$24~~. (These  
28 provisions shall not apply to municipally owned vehicles nor to vehicles of public utilities or common  
29 carriers.)

30           (r) For antique motor vehicles other than antique motorcycles-~~[\$6]~~ **\$16**.

31           (s) For each road oiler or bituminous distributor-~~\$72~~.

32           (t) For plates issued to motor vehicle repairer-~~\$24~~ for the first set of plates, ~~[\$9]~~ **\$18** for  
33 each additional set of plates.

34           (u)(1) For each vehicle, owned by or under control of a manufacturer, wholesaler, or  
35 dealer-~~[\$200]~~ **\$400** for the first plate.

36           (2) For every additional plate-~~[\$12]~~ **\$24**.

1 (v) For motor vehicles owned by or under control of automotive recycling dealer licensee-  
2 [~~\$30~~] **\$60** up to first 7,000 lbs., over 7,000 lbs.-[~~\$74~~] **\$1.44** per 100 lbs. gross weight.

3 (w)(1) For motorcycles owned or under the control of a manufacturer or dealer in  
4 motorcycles-[~~\$12~~] **\$24** for the first plate.

5 (2) For every additional plate-[~~\$3~~] **\$6**.

6 (x)(1) For mopeds owned or under the control of a manufacturer or dealer in mopeds-  
7 [~~\$12~~] **\$24** for the first plate.

8 (2) For every additional plate-[~~\$3~~] **\$6**.

9 (y) For each transporter-[~~\$36~~] **\$72**. Additional sets of number plates at [~~\$18~~] **\$36** per  
10 set.

11 (z) For each utility dealer registration-[~~\$36~~] **\$72**. Additional number plates at [~~\$9~~] **\$18**  
12 per plate.

13 (aa) For ski area vehicles-\$6.

14 (bb) For construction equipment as defined by RSA 259:42-the exclusive fee charged by  
15 the state shall be [~~\$25~~] **\$40**.

16 (cc) For each vanity number plate set-[~~\$40~~] **\$60**.

17 (dd) For agricultural/industrial utility vehicles the registration fee shall be 1/3 of the  
18 registration fee determined by the corresponding weight chart specified in subparagraph (g).

19 244 Motor Vehicles; Certificates of Title and Registration of Vehicles; Fees to be Collected.  
20 Amend RSA 261:141, VII(f) to read as follows:

21 (f) For the replacement of lost or illegible validation sticker-[~~\$1~~] **\$5**.

22 245 Motor Vehicles; Certificates of Title and Registration of Vehicles; Fees to be Collected.  
23 Amend RSA 261:141, IX to read as follows:

24 IX. For every certified copy of and duplicate of a certificate of registration-[~~\$15~~] **\$20**.

25 246 Motor Vehicles; Drivers' Licenses; Driver's License Fees. Amend RSA 263:42, II-IV-a to  
26 read as follows:

27 II. For every certified copy of a registration, license, or driving record, [~~\$15~~] **\$20**, except that  
28 the commissioner shall waive the fee for local, state, and federal law enforcement and criminal  
29 justice agencies requesting such information for investigative purposes and may, for good cause,  
30 waive the fee in cases involving other government agencies or the public defender if the  
31 commissioner determines that such a waiver is in the public interest.

32 III. No fee shall be charged for a driver's license issued to a disabled veteran who because of  
33 being an amputee or a paraplegic has received a motor vehicle from the United States government.  
34 The provisions of this paragraph shall apply to a veteran who, because of a disability incurred in, or  
35 aggravated by such service, and upon satisfactory proof that the veteran is evaluated by the United  
36 States Department of Veterans Affairs to be permanently and totally disabled from such service-  
37 connected disability.

1 IV. A duplicate copy of a photographic license or a new license with a different classification  
2 because of a commercial driver license disqualification may be issued for a fee of [~~\$10~~] **\$20**. For the  
3 purpose of this chapter, the term "duplicate copy" shall mean an additional license containing an  
4 indicator that the license is a duplicate. A new photograph need not be taken.

5 IV-a. For a new driver's license because of a change of address, [~~\$3~~] **\$10**.

6 247 Vanity Number Plates; Fees. Amend RSA 261:89 to read as follows:

7 261:89 Vanity Number Plates. The director is hereby authorized to design and to issue, under  
8 such rules as the director deems appropriate, vanity number plates to be used on motor vehicles in  
9 lieu of other number plates. Such number plates shall be of such design and shall bear such letters  
10 or letters and numbers as the director shall prescribe, but there shall be no duplication of  
11 identification. Such number plates or a changeable designation of the effective period thereof, as the  
12 director shall determine, shall be issued only upon application therefor and upon payment of a  
13 special vanity plate service fee of [~~\$40~~] **\$60**, said special fee to be in addition to the regular motor  
14 vehicle registration fee and any other number plate manufacturing fee otherwise required by law for  
15 the particular vehicle. Plates shall be renewed on an annual basis for [~~\$40~~] **\$60** per set. All special  
16 fees collected under this section shall be paid to the state treasurer and distributed as provided by  
17 RSA 263:52. Upon rejection of an application for vanity number plates, the director shall refund or  
18 credit the collected special vanity plate service fee. The director shall recall any vanity number  
19 plates that have been issued which do not conform to applicable law and rules, regardless of when  
20 the plates were issued. Any person whose application for vanity number plates has been rejected or  
21 whose vanity number plates have been recalled shall be issued a number plate of the same  
22 classification as the plate that had been requested or recalled. The prorated by month portion of the  
23 special vanity plate service fee shall be refunded or credited to the person whose vanity number  
24 plates have been recalled.

25 248 Vanity Plates; Fee Collection. Amend RSA 261:141, VII(d) to read as follows:

26 (d) For vanity plate service fee-~~[\$40]~~ **\$60**.

27 249 Driver Training Fund; Application of Vanity Plate Fee. Amend RSA 263:52, II to read as  
28 follows:

29 II. The [~~\$40~~] **\$60** vanity plate service fee and the fee for renewal of vanity number plates  
30 shall automatically be credited to the driver training fund until all fees in such fund equal the  
31 amount of money estimated by the general court as available for expenditure for course materials,  
32 licensing of schools, and certification services in connection with driver training from that fund for  
33 that fiscal year. Once the driver training course materials, licensing of schools, and certification  
34 services have been funded in accordance with the legislative estimates for the current fiscal year, the  
35 next 1.5 million dollars shall be transferred to the department of safety as restricted revenue,  
36 thereafter the balance of all such fees shall be transferred to the general fund and shall be available  
37 as unrestricted revenue.

1 250 Effective Date. Sections 240 through 249 of this act shall take effect January 1, 2026.

2 251 Nonresident Who Establishes a Residency in the State. Amend RSA 263:35 to read as  
3 follows:

4 263:35 Nonresident Who Establishes a Residency in the State.

5 **I.(a)** Notwithstanding the provisions of RSA 261:44 or any other law to the contrary, any  
6 nonresident driver of a motor vehicle who holds a valid driver's license in another jurisdiction, upon  
7 the establishment of a bona fide residency in this state, shall have a maximum of 60 days from the  
8 date his or her residency was established to obtain a driver's license issued by the state of New  
9 Hampshire; provided that H-2A temporary agricultural workers satisfying the requirements under  
10 RSA 263:35-a shall have a maximum of 300 days.

11 **(b)** *An individual subject to subparagraph (a), who ceases to be a resident of*  
12 *this state within 60 days of establishing a bona fide residency and has not yet obtained a*  
13 *driver's license issued by the state of New Hampshire, shall notify the director of their*  
14 *departure from the state.*

15 **(c)** *A resident subject to subparagraph (a), whose out-of-state driver's license*  
16 *expires or is relinquished after becoming a resident of this state shall notify the director.*

17 **II.** *The director shall notify any individual in violation of paragraph I who is more*  
18 *than 30 days past a deadline provided in this section. The notification shall be sent to the*  
19 *in-state address and out-of-state address, if available. The director shall begin sending*  
20 *such notifications within one year of the effective date of this section.*

21 **III.** *The director, for good cause shown, may grant an extension of a deadline in*  
22 *this section to any individual.*

23 252 New Subparagraph; Centralized Voter Registration Database; Information Sharing. Amend  
24 RSA 654:45, IV(b) to read as follows:

25 (b) Voter database record data shall be verified by matching the records with those of  
26 the department of safety and the federal Social Security Administration as are required by law, and  
27 with the records of the state agency or division charged with maintaining vital records. For this  
28 purpose, the voter registration record database may be linked to the state agency or division charged  
29 with maintaining vital records and the department of safety, provided that no linked agency or  
30 division may save or retain voter information or use it for purposes other than verifying the accuracy  
31 of the information contained in the voter database. The link authorized by this subparagraph shall  
32 not allow the department of state or election officials direct access to the motor vehicle registration  
33 or driver's license records maintained by the division of motor vehicles; ***provided that such link***  
34 ***shall authorize the department of state to identify voter records with out-of-state driver's***  
35 ***license information where the record cannot be matched to an in-state driver's license***  
36 ***obtained within the deadline provided in RSA 263:35. The secretary of state shall***  
37 ***authorize the release of information from the voter database necessary for the department***

1 *of safety to notify an individual pursuant to RSA 263:35, II.* The commissioner of safety may  
 2 authorize the release of information from motor vehicle registration and driver's license records to  
 3 the extent that the information is necessary to department of state and department of safety  
 4 cooperation in a joint notification to individuals of apparent discrepancies in their records and to the  
 5 extent that the information is necessary to resolve those discrepancies. The commissioner of safety  
 6 and the secretary of state are authorized to enter into an agreement that establishes the services to  
 7 be provided by the department of safety and the cost for those services. The department of safety  
 8 shall not be required to provide any services under this subparagraph unless an agreement is in  
 9 place and there are sufficient funds in the election fund to pay the cost for the services. The system  
 10 shall facilitate the identification and correction of voter registration records whenever a registered  
 11 voter has died or has been disenfranchised pursuant to part I, article 11 of the New Hampshire  
 12 constitution or RSA 654:5 through RSA 654:6, or when the domicile address does not match the  
 13 address provided by the same individual to the department of safety.

14 253 Inspections Authorized. Amend RSA 266:1, I to read as follows:

15 I. The director may require the inspection of any vehicle, except an OHRV, snowmobile,  
 16 moped, roadable aircraft, or any other vehicle exempted under this chapter, to determine whether it  
 17 is fit to be driven. Such inspection shall be made at such times and in such manner as the director  
 18 may specify, subject to the requirements set forth in this section, *and shall consist of an*  
 19 *examination of:*

- 20 (a) *The registration certificate;*
- 21 (b) *The vehicle identification number;*
- 22 (c) *The steering and suspension systems;*
- 23 (d) *The braking system, odometer and speedometer;*
- 24 (e) *The horn;*
- 25 (f) *The starter safety switch;*
- 26 (g) *The reverse gear and parking position;*
- 27 (h) *The lights and reflectors, including headlight aim;*
- 28 (i) *The glass, glazing, and mirrors;*
- 29 (j) *The windshield wipers and defroster;*
- 30 (k) *The exhaust system;*
- 31 (l) *The body, chassis, and bumper height;*
- 32 (m) *The fuel system; and*
- 33 (n) *The tires and wheels.*

34 *I-a. Except for commercial motor vehicles and school buses, and notwithstanding*  
 35 *the provisions of RSA 266:59, an inspection shall ensure the vehicle's compliance with*  
 36 *applicable safety and operational standards. Items identified as mandatory failure items*  
 37 *shall require the vehicle to fail inspection if objective, measurable safety defects are found,*

1 *as set forth in this chapter. Items identified as advisory-only shall require the inspector to*  
2 *document and disclose deficiencies to the vehicle owner but shall not result in a safety*  
3 *inspection failure. No vehicle shall fail inspection except as expressly authorized by the*  
4 *provisions of this chapter.*

5 *I-b. Except for commercial motor vehicles and school buses, and notwithstanding*  
6 *the provisions of RSA 266:59-b, vehicle inspection failures shall be limited to the vehicle*  
7 *identification number (VIN); steering and suspension; brakes; reverse gear and parking*  
8 *position; horn; starter safety switch; lights and lighting, including aim; glass; mirrors;*  
9 *wiper function and defroster; body, chassis, and bumper height; fuel system; tires and*  
10 *wheels. No component outside of those listed shall serve as grounds for failure.*

11 254 Motor Vehicle Inspection; Grace Period. Amend RSA 266:1, IV to read as follows:

12 IV. ~~[Notwithstanding paragraphs II and III]~~ **Except as provided in paragraph VIII,**  
13 newly registered vehicles, other than vehicles transferred to a licensed dealer, OHRVs, snowmobiles,  
14 mopeds, **and** roadable aircraft~~[-and vehicles, other than vehicles transferred to a licensed dealer,~~  
15 ~~OHRVs, snowmobiles, mopeds, and roadable aircraft]~~, the ownership of which has been transferred,  
16 shall be inspected not later than ~~[10]~~ **30** days after the registration or transfer of ownership of said  
17 vehicle. However, if a new vehicle is purchased at retail from a licensed dealer, as defined in RSA  
18 259:18, the vehicle shall be inspected not later than ~~[20]~~ **30** days after the date of transfer. A used  
19 vehicle for which a dealer has issued a 20-day plate pursuant to RSA 261:109 shall be inspected by  
20 the dealer or an authorized inspection station on behalf of the dealer at the time of the attachment of  
21 the plate unless a valid inspection sticker issued by the dealer is in place, in which case the vehicle  
22 shall be inspected within ~~[20]~~ **30** days or before the sticker expires, whichever occurs first. All other  
23 expired motor vehicle inspections shall be subject to the ~~[10-day]~~ **30-day** grace period in RSA 266:5.

24 255 Motor Vehicle Inspection; Motorcycle-Only Station Designation. Amend RSA 266:1, V-a to  
25 read as follows:

26 V-a. An inspection station may, upon request, be designated a "motorcycle only" inspection  
27 station. A "motorcycle only" inspection station may inspect only motorcycles~~[-and shall not be~~  
28 ~~required to conduct OBD II emission testing under RSA 266:59-b or to purchase or lease any~~  
29 ~~equipment relating to the OBD II emission testing program].~~

30 256 Motor Vehicle Inspection; Inspection Fees. Amend RSA 266:1, VII-VIIa to read as follows:

31 VII. ~~[Except as provided in paragraph XII,]~~ Each inspection station shall conspicuously post  
32 on the outside of the building a sign showing the inspection fee charged ~~[and the additional fee~~  
33 ~~charged for OBD II testing under RSA 266:59-b. No inspection station shall include the cost of OBD~~  
34 ~~II testing or reporting in the inspection fee charged for a vehicle not subject to the OBD II~~  
35 ~~requirements under RSA 266:59-b].~~

36 VII-a. ~~[(a)]~~ The director is authorized to require inspection stations to submit inspection  
37 data to the department electronically, provided that if electronic submission is required the following

1 inspection stations shall be allowed to submit inspection data electronically or on a designated  
2 schedule and form prescribed by the department:

3           ~~[(1)]~~ **(a)** Inspection stations that are authorized to inspect only motorcycles.

4           ~~[(2)]~~ [Repealed.]

5           ~~[(3)]~~ **(b)** Fleet motor vehicle inspection stations ~~[for non-OBD II vehicles]~~.

6           ~~[(4)]~~ **(c)** Municipal and county government inspection stations.

7           ~~[(b) The department shall not require an inspection station to transfer inspection~~  
8 ~~information electronically for any vehicle of model year 1995 or older.]~~

9           257 Motor Vehicle Inspection; Inspection Fees. Amend RSA 266:1, VII-VIIa to read as follows:

10           (d) Each inspection station authorized pursuant to this paragraph shall conspicuously  
11 post on the outside of its vehicle or trailer a sign showing the inspection fee charged~~[-and the~~  
12 ~~additional fee charged for OBD II testing under RSA 266:59-b. No inspection station authorized~~  
13 ~~pursuant to this paragraph shall include the cost of OBD II testing or reporting in the inspection fee~~  
14 ~~charged for a vehicle not subject to the OBD II requirements under RSA 266:59-b].~~

15           258 Penalty for Failing to Obey Inspection Requirements. Amend RSA 266:5 to read as follows:

16           266:5 Penalty for Failing to Obey Inspection Requirements. The driver or owner of any motor  
17 vehicle failing to comply with the requirements of the director relative to inspection shall be guilty of  
18 a violation, and the director may refuse to register, or may suspend or revoke the registration of, any  
19 motor vehicle, trailer, or semi-trailer which has not been inspected as required or which is unsafe or  
20 unfit to be driven; provided, however, no person shall be charged with a violation of this section until  
21 a period of ~~[10]~~ **30** days has elapsed from the date the inspection was due. It shall be a rebuttable  
22 presumption that a vehicle that is required to be inspected is in violation of this section if the vehicle  
23 fails to display a valid inspection sticker. This section shall not apply to those vehicles required to be  
24 inspected under the provisions of RSA 266:1, IV. The fine for a violation of this section shall be \$60.

25           259 New Paragraphs; Inspection Upon Retail Sale. Amend RSA 266:1 by inserting after  
26 paragraph VIII the following new paragraphs:

27           VIII-a. Every new vehicle, with a certificate of origin, excluding commercial motor vehicles,  
28 school buses, shall be subject to inspection at the time of initial registration in accordance with  
29 paragraph IV, and thereafter prior to the last day of the registered owner's month of birth that  
30 occurs not more than 36 months following the date of initial registration.

31           VIII-b. The inspection sticker issued shall retain the originally scheduled expiration date  
32 corresponding to the registered owner's month of birth, provided such date does not exceed 36  
33 months from the date of initial registration. Notwithstanding paragraph VIII-a, any vehicle  
34 registered under this title, except an OHRV, snowmobile, moped, roadable aircraft, or other exempt  
35 vehicle, shall be inspected once a year, during the month in which the birth date of the owner is  
36 observed, if the owner is a natural person. An inspection sticker shall be valid for the same duration  
37 as the vehicle's registration, which shall not exceed 16 months. If the month in which the

1 anniversary of the owner's birth occurs will be one of the next 4 months, an inspection sticker may  
2 be issued, with an expiration date of the birth month in the following year, of the first person named  
3 on the title application. Nothing in this paragraph shall require any person who has registered and  
4 had inspected a vehicle with temporary plates to have the vehicle reinspected upon receipt of  
5 permanent motor vehicle plates. An inspection sticker shall not expire when a vehicle is transferred  
6 to a licensed dealer.

7 260 Rust. RSA 266:3-a is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

8 266-3:a Rust.

9 I. Every motor vehicle shall at all times be equipped with a body and frame in sound and  
10 safe condition. A vehicle operated on a way shall fail inspection as a result of body or frame-related  
11 conditions due to rust only when there is any of the following:

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

13 (b) A structural exterior panel, including doors, hood, fenders, trunk, or bumpers, that is  
14 missing, insecurely mounted, improperly latched, not at the correct height, or not constructed from  
15 materials meeting the manufacturer's specifications.

16 (c) A frame or unibody that is cracked, broken or rusted to the extent that it  
17 compromises structural integrity.

18 261 New Sections; Additional Equipment. Amend RSA 266 by inserting after section 3-a the  
19 following new sections:

20 266:3-b Starter Safety Switch. A motor vehicle shall fail inspection if it is manufactured with a  
21 starter safety switch and the engine starts with the gear selector in any position other than "park" or  
22 "neutral," or without engaging the clutch on a manual transmission.

23 266:3-c Steering and Suspension. Every motor vehicle shall be equipped with a steering and  
24 suspension system in good working order. A vehicle shall only fail inspection if any component is  
25 loose beyond manufacturer tolerances; improperly secured, bent, or damaged in a way that impairs  
26 control; excessively worn, corroded, or deteriorated such that it compromises the structural integrity;  
27 or repaired or modified in a manner inconsistent with manufacturer specifications or accepted  
28 industry standards.

29 266:3-d Fuel System.

30 I. Every motor vehicle shall at all times be equipped with a fuel system in good working  
31 order, free from leaks and maintained in such a condition that leakage is not present at any part of  
32 the system.

33 II. Fuel components shall be deemed to fail inspection only where there is evidence of  
34 leakage or improper connection in the fuel system, including lines, hoses, or tank.

35 266:3-e Reverse Gear.

36 I. All passenger vehicles, trucks, and buses shall be equipped with a functional reverse gear  
37 capable of moving the vehicle backward under its own power.

1 II. A vehicle shall fail inspection if the reverse gear is missing, inoperative, or otherwise  
2 incapable of propelling the vehicle in reverse under its own power.

3 262 Parking Brake. Amend RSA 266:27-a to read as follows:

4 266:27-a Parking Brakes Required.

5 I. Every motor vehicle and combination of vehicles except motorcycles, farm tractors and  
6 mopeds, shall have a parking brake system adequate to hold the vehicle or combination of vehicles  
7 on any grade on which it is driven under all conditions of loading on a surface free from snow, ice or  
8 loose material, and which shall comply with performance standards issued by the director by rule  
9 adopted pursuant to RSA 260:5.

10 II. ***A vehicle equipped with an automatic transmission shall only fail inspection if***  
11 ***it rolls or moves when placed in the "park" position on a grade.***

12 263 Brake Performance. Amend RSA 266:28 to read as follows:

13 266:28 Brake Performance.

14 I. Every motor vehicle and every combination of motor vehicle with trailer or semi-trailer  
15 when driven upon the ways of the state shall at a speed of 20 miles per hour be capable, at all times  
16 and under all conditions of loading, of stopping on a dry, smooth, approximately level pavement free  
17 from loose material, upon application of the foot or service brake, within a distance of 30 feet.

18 II. ***Braking systems shall only cause inspection failure when any component shows***  
19 ***fluid leakage; lines or hoses are improperly repaired or altered; brake linings are worn***  
20 ***below 2/32 inch; rivets are exposed, loose, or the lining is unsecured; or if drums or rotors***  
21 ***are cracked, damaged, excessively rusted, have defective grease retainers, collapsed vanes,***  
22 ***or fall below the minimum allowable thickness.***

23 264 Front Lights. Amend RSA 266:31 to read as follows:

24 266:31 Front Lights.

25 I. Every motor vehicle driven during the period from 1/2 hour after sunset to 1/2 hour before  
26 sunrise, and whenever rain, snow, or fog shall interfere with the proper view of the road so that  
27 persons and vehicles on the way are not clearly discernible at a distance of 1,000 feet ahead, shall  
28 display at least 2 lighted lamps on the front; provided, however, that one suitable lighted lamp on  
29 the front of a motorcycle shall be sufficient. The headlamp shall throw sufficient light ahead within  
30 the traveled portion of the way to make clearly visible all vehicles, persons, or substantial objects  
31 within a distance of 200 feet, except that the headlamps of motorcycles shall be sufficient if they  
32 make clearly visible objects within a distance of 150 feet. No headlamp shall be used unless it is  
33 approved by the director and is equipped with a proper lens or other device designed to prevent  
34 glaring rays. All headlamps on every motor vehicle shall be located at a height of not more than 54  
35 inches nor less than 24 inches from the ground on an unladen vehicle. The measurement shall be  
36 made from the ground to the center of the lens. No device which obstructs, reflects, or alters the  
37 beam of such headlamp shall be used in connection therewith unless approved by the director.

1 Every lens or other device to prevent glaring rays, the use of which on motor vehicles has been  
 2 approved by the director, shall be arranged, adjusted, and operated in accordance with the  
 3 requirements of the certificate approving the use thereof. Every lamp, bulb, or light used in any  
 4 headlamp shall be of such candle power as may be specified for the approved device in the certificate  
 5 approving the use thereof. Every reflector which is used as a part of such headlamp shall have a  
 6 reflecting surface approved by the director after satisfactory tests have been made~~[-and every~~  
 7 ~~reflecting surface shall be free from dents, rust, and other imperfections]~~. The driver of every motor  
 8 vehicle shall permit any properly authorized person to inspect the headlighting equipment of such  
 9 motor vehicle and to make such tests as he or she may deem necessary to determine whether the  
 10 provisions of this section are being complied with. **Headlamp aim shall only be checked if the**  
 11 **inspection reveals that the beams appear to be misaligned.** Any headlamp color approved by  
 12 the director for motor vehicles shall be considered approved for motorcycles. ~~[Any headlamp color~~  
 13 ~~approved by the director for motor vehicles shall also apply to headlamps approved for motorcycles.]~~

14 II. Headlamps shall shine white when shined against a white surface. All other forward  
 15 facing lights shall be amber or white.

16 III. Notwithstanding paragraph II, fog lights shall be permitted to shine yellow.

17 IV. The provisions of this section shall not apply to a vehicle with an original equipment  
 18 manufacturer (OEM) front lighting system, or a front lighting system of a similar type installed as  
 19 standard equipment by the vehicle manufacturer.

20 V. **A headlamp shall not cause inspection failure unless it fails to light or does not**  
 21 **function properly, does not meet the manufacturer's specifications or violates federal**  
 22 **motor vehicle safety standards, is a LED headlamp that is not 100 percent functional,**  
 23 **shows a color which is not approved by the director, is improperly aimed, is not securely**  
 24 **mounted in the manufacturer-specified location, is obscured, permits the accumulation of**  
 25 **water within the assembly excluding normal condensation, or provides a level of light**  
 26 **output and projection that is inferior to that of the vehicle's original equipment.**

27 VI. **Tape or a comparable sealing method shall be deemed an acceptable repair of a**  
 28 **headlamp assembly, provided it effectively prevents the pooling of water.**

29 VII. **A required colored lamp or lens shall not be missing or damaged in such a**  
 30 **manner that white light is emitted.**

31 265 Directional Signals. Amend RSA 266:42 to read as follows:

32 266:42 Directional Signals. It shall be unlawful to drive on any way in this state any motor  
 33 vehicle registered in this state which is manufactured or assembled after January 1, 1952, unless  
 34 such vehicle is equipped with directional signals approved by the director. The provisions of this  
 35 section shall not apply to motorcycles manufactured prior to January 1, 1973. **A directional signal**  
 36 **shall cause inspection failure only if fails to light or does not function properly, does not**  
 37 **meet the manufacturer's specifications or violates federal motor vehicle safety standards,**

1 *is a LED lamp that is more than 25 percent inoperable, shows a color which is not*  
2 *approved by the director, is not securely mounted in the manufacturer-specified location, is*  
3 *obscured from view, is damaged in a manner that causes the emission of white light,*  
4 *permits the accumulation of water within the assembly excluding normal condensation, or*  
5 *provides a level of light output and projection that is inferior to that of the vehicle's*  
6 *original equipment. Tape or a comparable sealing method shall be deemed an acceptable*  
7 *repair if it effectively prevents water accumulation.*

8 266 Additional Lighting Equipment. Amend RSA 266:45-a to read as follows:

9 266:45-a Additional Lighting Equipment.

10 **I.** Any vehicle 80 inches or more in overall width, if not otherwise required by this chapter,  
11 may be equipped with not more than 5 identification lamps showing to the front which shall emit an  
12 amber or white light without glare and with not more than 3 identification lamps showing to the  
13 rear which shall emit a red light without glare. Such lamps shall be grouped in a horizontal row,  
14 with lamp centers spaced not less than 6 nor more than 12 inches apart, and mounted on the  
15 permanent structure of the vehicle as close as practicable to the vertical center line. Any vehicle  
16 may be equipped with one or more side marker lamps, and any such lamp may be flashed in  
17 conjunction with turn or vehicular warning signals. Lamps allowed by this section shall be of a type  
18 approved by the director.

19 **II. Except as provided by RSA 266:31, the failure of an auxiliary light to illuminate**  
20 **shall not cause inspection failure.**

21 267 Wheel and Tire Requirements. RSA 266:49 is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

22 266:49 Wheel and Tire Requirements.

23 **I.** A tire shall be deemed to be in unsafe driving condition, and shall cause inspection failure,  
24 only if such tire has:

25 (a) A fabric break, or a cut in excess of one inch in any direction as measured on the  
26 outside of the tire and deep enough to reach the body cords, or has been repaired temporarily by the  
27 use of blowout patches or boots;

28 (b) Any bump, bulge, or knot related to separation or partial failure of the tire structure;

29 (c) Any portion of the ply or cord structure exposed;

30 (d) A portion of the tread design completely worn, provided such worn portion is of  
31 sufficient size to affect the traction and stopping ability of the tire; or

32 (e) With tread depth having been measured in accordance with the method prescribed  
33 under RSA 266:51, a tread depth in a major tread groove nearest the center of the tire which  
34 measures less than 2/32 inch or 4/32 inch on the front axles of any vehicle with a gross vehicle  
35 weight in excess of 10,000 pounds.

36 **II.** Notwithstanding paragraph I, the any of the following shall cause inspection failure:

37 (a) Radial and bias-ply tires on the same axle.

1 (b) Different tire sizes on the same axle, except for U.S. and metric sizes of compatible  
2 construction, dimensions and load capacity.

3 (c) Tires marked "for farm use only", "off highway use only", or "racing only" on any axle.

4 III. A wheel shall not be considered to be in safe operating condition and shall be cause for  
5 inspection failure only if any wheel bolt, nut, stud, or lug is loose, missing, or cracked.

6 268 Muffler, Horn and Lamps. Amend RSA 266:54 to read as follows:

7 266:54 Muffler, Horn and Lamps. Every motor vehicle driven on the ways of this state shall be  
8 provided with a muffler, a suitable and adequate horn or other device for signaling, and suitable  
9 lamps. ***A motor vehicle shall fail inspection if the horn is not securely mounted, fails to***  
10 ***emit a sound audible from a distance of at least 200 feet under normal operating***  
11 ***conditions, or is inoperative.***

12 269 Mirrors. Amend RSA 266:55 to read as follows:

13 266:55 Mirrors.

14 ***I.*** No person shall drive upon any way any closed motor vehicle, or motor vehicle so  
15 constructed, equipped, or loaded that the driver is prevented from having a constantly free and  
16 unobstructed view of the way immediately in the rear, unless there is attached to the vehicle a  
17 mirror or reflector so placed and adjusted as to afford the driver a clear, reflected view of the way in  
18 the rear of the vehicle.

19 ***II.*** ***No rule shall require inspection failure due to cracks in an exterior mirror***  
20 ***provided that the mirror continues to provide an unobstructed view to the rear of the***  
21 ***vehicle.***

22 ***III.*** ***No rule shall require inspection failure due to cracks in the interior mirror***  
23 ***provided that exterior mirrors are installed on both the left and right sides.***

24 270 Windshield Wipers and Defrosters. Amend RSA 266:56 to read as follows:

25 266:56 Windshield Wipers and Defrosters.

26 ***I.*** Every motor vehicle shall be equipped with a windshield wiper, or wipers so-called, for  
27 cleaning rain, ice, snow or other moisture from its windshield, and every motor vehicle  
28 manufactured after January 1, 1947, shall, in addition to such windshield wiper, be also equipped  
29 with a defroster, so-called, designed for melting snow and ice from the windshield. All such devices  
30 shall at all times be maintained in good working condition.

31 ***II.*** ***A vehicle manufactured after January 1, 1968, shall be rejected from inspection***  
32 ***if the windshield wiper system does not have at least two distinct operating speeds.***

33 ***III.*** ***A vehicle manufactured after January 1, 1947, shall be rejected from inspection***  
34 ***if not equipped with a functional defroster capable of melting snow and ice on the***  
35 ***windshield.***

36 271 Safety Glass. Amend RSA 266:58 to read as follows:

37 266:58 Safety Glass Required.

1           I. It shall be unlawful to register or to drive on any way in this state any motor vehicle  
2 which shall have been manufactured or assembled on or after January 1, 1936, unless it be equipped  
3 with safety glass wherever glass is used in partitions, doors, windows, or windshields. This section  
4 shall not apply to any motor vehicle registered in another state by a bona fide resident of said state.

5 ***Failure to comply with this requirement shall result in inspection failure.***

6           II. ***No windshield shall be deemed to be in safe driving condition and shall only fail  
7 inspection if it contains any intersecting cracks, or two or more star breaks or bullseyes  
8 larger than 1.5 inches, within the critical viewing area. For the purposes of inspection  
9 under this section, the critical viewing area shall mean the portion of the windshield  
10 extending 2 inches inward from the left-side windshield post, 2 inches down from the top  
11 edge, 2 inches up from the bottom edge, and 2 inches to the right of the vertical centerline.***

12           272 Emission Control Equipment. RSA 266:59-b, is repealed and reenacted as follows:

13           266:59-b Emission Control Equipment. Every motor vehicle driven on the ways of this state  
14 which is subject to inspection under this chapter shall be equipped with all of the emission control  
15 equipment which was part of that motor vehicle as originally equipped, and such equipment shall be  
16 properly connected to prevent excessive emissions.

17           273 Rulemaking Amendments. The department of environmental services shall submit  
18 amendments to the state implementation plan (SIP) that reduces the scope of the emissions testing  
19 program by January 1, 2026. The initial SIP amendment shall remove the emissions testing  
20 requirements under 266:59-b. Notwithstanding RSA 266, the department of safety shall establish  
21 draft amendments to its rules implementing the vehicle inspection program consistent with the  
22 proposed SIP amendments, as revised according to this section, necessary for review and  
23 concurrence by the Environmental Protection Agency in their review of the SIP submittals. The  
24 draft rules shall be finalized for inclusion in the final SIP submittals for the Environmental  
25 Protection Agency approval, and shall become effective when the commissioner of the department of  
26 environmental services certifies to the director of the office of legislative services that the  
27 Environmental Protection Agency has approved amendments to the SIP as it relates to emissions  
28 testing under the state's vehicle inspection program. These rules shall be exempt from the  
29 rulemaking process requirements under RSA 541-A.

30           274 Effective Date.

31           I. Section 273 shall take effect upon its passage.

32           II. Sections 253-272 of this act shall take effect January 1, 2027.

33           275 Ten-Year Transportation Improvement Program; State and Federal Funding. Amend RSA  
34 228:114 to read as follows:

35           228:114 State and Federal Funding.

1           I. Any public-private partnership projects utilizing federal or state funding shall be  
2 approved as part of the state 10-year transportation improvement program in accordance with RSA  
3 240.

4           **II. All proceeds or revenues to the state derived from public-private partnerships**  
5 **and intended for payment to the department of transportation shall be credited to the**  
6 **department of transportation, restricted in accordance with the approved public-private**  
7 **partnership agreement, continuously appropriated, and non-lapsing.**

8           276 Fish and Game; Gifts, Donations, and Raffles. Amend RSA 206:33-a to read as follows:

9           206:33-a Gifts, ~~and~~ Donations, **and Raffles**; Account Established.

10           I. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, individual gifts and donations  
11 not exceeding \$2,500 in value in a year may be received by the fish and game department with the  
12 consent of the commission and without the approval of the governor or the governor and council.  
13 Individual gifts and donations exceeding \$2,500 in value in a year may be received by the fish and  
14 game department with the consent of the commission and with the approval of the governor and  
15 council.

16           **I-a. The fish and game department is authorized to conduct raffles for fundraising**  
17 **purposes. Revenue received shall be credited to the gifts, donations, and raffles account**  
18 **established in RSA 206:33-a, II.**

19           II. There is established an account within the fish and game fund to be known as the gifts,  
20 ~~and~~ donations, **and raffles** account. Moneys in the gifts and donations account are nonlapsing and  
21 continually appropriated to the fish and game department. All gifts and donations shall be  
22 deposited in this account, except gifts and donations made to the department in support of a specific  
23 program that has an established dedicated account in title XVIII which shall be deposited into the  
24 appropriate dedicated account and expended in accordance with the purpose of the dedicated  
25 account.

26           III. This section shall not apply to gifts, grants, bequests, or donations received pursuant to  
27 RSA 206:33-c or RSA 212-B:6.

28           277 Fish and Game; Gifts, Donations, and Raffles. Amend RSA 6:12, I(b)(231) to read as  
29 follows:

30                       (231) Moneys deposited in the fish and game department gifts, ~~and~~ donations, **and**  
31 **raffles** account under RSA 206:33-a.

32           278 Pheasant License Revenues. Amend RSA 206:35-a to read as follows:

33           206:35-a Pheasant License Revenues. The state treasurer shall establish a separate account to  
34 which shall be credited all moneys collected by the fish and game department from issuance of  
35 pheasant licenses under RSA 214:9, X. The moneys in said account shall be used only for purchase  
36 or propagation of pheasants, **as well as for program management and implementation**, and is  
37 hereby appropriated for said purposes. Said funds shall be expended for the purposes hereof as

1 determined by the executive director with the approval of the commission. The moneys in said  
2 account shall be nonlapsing.

3 279 Fisheries Habitat Fee. Amend RSA 214:1-g to read as follows:

4 I. A [~~one-dollar~~] **\$5** fisheries habitat fee shall be required to be paid by all persons 16 years  
5 of age or older, in addition to each applicable fishing or combination license required by Title XVIII,  
6 in order to take fish in the fresh waters of this state. ***The \$5 fee shall be credited to the fisheries***  
7 ***habitat account under RSA 214:1-g, II.*** This paragraph shall not apply to any person who takes  
8 fish under a complimentary license, excluding any administrative fee, issued pursuant to RSA 214:3,  
9 RSA 214:7-a, RSA 214:13, RSA 214:13-b, or RSA 214:13-c, or a lifetime license issued pursuant to  
10 RSA 214:9-c that was purchased in a prior calendar year.

11 II. The state treasurer shall establish a separate nonlapsing account within the fish and  
12 game fund, to be known as the fisheries habitat account, to which shall be credited all fees collected  
13 under RSA 214:1-g, I. The state treasurer may accept public and private grants and donations for  
14 deposit into the account. ***The executive director may transfer any amount in this account in***  
15 ***excess of \$750,000 to the fish and game fund at the end of the fiscal year.***

16 280 Game Management Account Established; Report. Amend RSA 206:34-b, I to read as  
17 follows:

18 I. The state treasurer shall establish a separate nonlapsing account within the fish and  
19 game fund, to be known as the game management account. Each month the department shall  
20 determine the number of licenses, applications, or permits sold for moose, bear, turkey, and  
21 waterfowl and, for each, transfer \$10 to the game management account. The moneys in this account  
22 shall be used exclusively for the implementation of a comprehensive population and habitat  
23 management program, including research and management, protection, education, and outreach for  
24 game as defined in RSA 207:1, IX, fur-bearing animals as defined in RSA 207:1, VIII, and migratory  
25 game birds as defined in RSA 209:5 to include waterfowl, snipe, and woodcock. Funds in the game  
26 management account are hereby continually appropriated for said purposes. Said funds shall be  
27 expended for the purposes of this section as determined by the executive director with approval of  
28 the commission. ***The executive director may transfer any amount in this account in excess of***  
29 ***\$750,000 at the end of the fiscal year to the fish and game fund.***

30 281 Wildlife Habitat License. Amend RSA 214:1-f, V to read as follows:

31 V. The state treasurer shall establish a separate nonlapsing account within the fish and  
32 game fund, to be known as the wildlife habitat account, to which shall be credited all fees collected  
33 under RSA 214:9, XV from the sale of wildlife habitat licenses. The state treasurer may accept  
34 public and private grants and donations into the account. ***The executive director may transfer***  
35 ***any amount in this account in excess of \$750,000 at the end of the fiscal year to the fish and***  
36 ***game fund.***

1       282 Application; Hunting, Fishing, and Trapping Licenses. Amend RSA 214:9, XV to read as  
2 follows:

3           XV. If the applicant wishes to take wild animals, excluding fish and marine species, or wild  
4 birds, a fee set by the executive director pursuant to RSA 206:10, I, and the agent shall thereupon  
5 issue a wildlife habitat license as provided in RSA 214:1-f. For any year in which a license is issued,  
6 the agent shall be entitled to retain a portion of the fee as set by the executive director pursuant to  
7 RSA 206:10, I for each wildlife habitat license sold and all licenses sold at the department  
8 headquarters or any subagency thereof shall retain the same portion of the fee which,  
9 notwithstanding RSA 214:1-f, V, shall be credited to the general fish and game fund.  
10 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, there shall be no agent fee for a wildlife habitat license  
11 issued pursuant to RSA 214:1-f. ***The wildlife habitat fee shall be set no less than \$5.***

12       283 Repeal. The following are repealed:

13           I. RSA 206:35-c, relative to the fish food sales revenue account.

14           II. RSA 6:12, I(b)(182), relative to the fish food sales revenue account.

15       284 Effective Date.

16           I. Section 283 of this act shall take effect June 30, 2025.

17           II. Sections 279 and 282 of this act shall take effect January 1, 2026.

18       285 New Hampshire Retirement System; Membership; Division of Fire Safety. Amend RSA  
19 100-A:3, III-c to read as follows:

20           III-c. Notwithstanding the provisions of RSA 100-A:1, VIII, any permanent fireman who has  
21 been a group II member and who has 10 years' fire service experience, or any person included in the  
22 definition of "fire service personnel" as defined in RSA 21-P:25, II(c) who has 10 years' fire service  
23 experience, who is or becomes the director of the division of fire safety, the director of the division of  
24 homeland security and emergency management, the director of the division of fire standards and  
25 training and emergency medical services, any fire instructor, supervisor, instructor, or other  
26 technical specialist who has hazardous materials, firefighting, or rescue training functions and who  
27 has as a job requirement satisfied the fire standards and training commission's entrance and  
28 certification requirements for physical condition, education, and training shall be construed to be a  
29 permanent fireman for the purposes of membership in group II and shall remain in the system for  
30 the duration of service in that capacity with the fire standards and training commission ***or the***  
31 ***division of fire safety.***

32       286 Public School Infrastructure Fund. Amend the introductory paragraph of RSA 198:15-y, III  
33 to read as follows:

34           III. The public school infrastructure commission may authorize the department of education  
35 to fund expenditures [~~with approval of the fiscal committee of the general court~~] for the following  
36 purposes:

1       287 Education; Special Education; Program Approval, Monitoring, and Corrective Action.  
2 Amend RSA 186-C:5, IX to read as follows:

3       IX. The department, with input from the advisory committee on the education of  
4 children/students with disabilities, shall select and contract with an independent, nationally  
5 recognized organization in program evaluation and quality assurance to evaluate in 2010, 2015, and  
6 decennially thereafter, the effectiveness of the program approval and monitoring system, including  
7 whether it is carrying out activities in RSA 186-C:5 in an efficient manner. Such organization shall  
8 submit recommendations for any improvements to the commissioner, the state board of education,  
9 the governor, and the general court within 90 days of completing the program evaluation. On or  
10 before September 1, 2013, the department shall submit a written response to the report submitted  
11 by the organization that conducted the 2012 independent evaluation. The written response shall  
12 include a detailed plan for how the department will address the areas identified as needing  
13 improvement and the recommendations made in the initial evaluation required under this section.  
14 The written response shall include specific steps the department plans to take, along with a timeline  
15 for each step. The written response shall also provide an explanation for any actions the department  
16 will not implement or complete during the plan's timeframe. On or before December 30, 2013, and  
17 June 30, 2014, the department shall submit a report of its progress toward completing its plan. The  
18 plan and reports shall be submitted to the governor, to the chairpersons of the senate and house  
19 committees with jurisdiction over education policy, to the state advisory committee for the education  
20 of children with disabilities established in RSA 186-C:3-b, and to the state board of education. For  
21 the 2015 evaluation, the department shall invite the same organization that conducted the 2012  
22 evaluation to respond to a request for proposals. The 2015 evaluation shall include feedback on the  
23 steps the department has taken in response to the recommendations in the 2012 report. The  
24 department shall provide unimpeded access to all documents requested by the organization, except  
25 as otherwise required by law. ***For the 2025 evaluation, the department may utilize the Special  
26 Education Dispute Resolution performance audit and the Special Education performance  
27 audit from the audit division of the office of legislative budget assistant of the New  
28 Hampshire general court to meet this requirement.***

29       288 Education; Special Education; State Aid. Amend RSA 186-C:18, III(a)-(b) to read as follows:

30       III.(a) The ~~[state board of education through the commissioner,]~~ department of education~~[,]~~  
31 shall distribute aid available under this paragraph as entitlement to such school districts as have a  
32 special education pupil for whose costs they are responsible, for whom the costs of special education  
33 in the fiscal year exceed 3 ***and*** 1/2 times the ~~[estimated]~~ ***most current*** state average expenditure  
34 per pupil for the school year preceding the year of distribution. ~~[If in any year, the amount  
35 appropriated for distribution as special education aid in accordance with this section is insufficient  
36 therefor, the appropriation shall be prorated proportionally based on entitlement among the districts  
37 entitled to a grant.]~~ ***If in any year, the amount appropriated for distribution as special***

1 *education aid in accordance with this section is insufficient therefor, the appropriation*  
 2 *shall be prorated proportionally based on entitlement among the districts entitled to a*  
 3 *grant, provided that the department of education shall distribute to the school district not*  
 4 *less than 80 percent of the district's entitlement in the fiscal year.* [~~If there are unexpended~~  
 5 ~~funds appropriated under this paragraph at the end of any fiscal year, such funds shall be~~  
 6 ~~distributed for court ordered placements and episodes of treatment under RSA 186-C:19-b.] The  
 7 state may designate up to \$250,000 of the funds which are appropriated as required by this  
 8 paragraph, for each fiscal year, to assist those school districts which, under guidelines established by  
 9 rules of the state board of education, may qualify for emergency assistance to mitigate the impact of  
 10 special education costs. The state may designate up to an additional \$250,000 of the funds which are  
 11 appropriated under this paragraph for each fiscal year for any community of 1,000 or fewer residents  
 12 to mitigate the impact of special education costs when emergency assistance is necessary to prevent  
 13 significant financial harm to such district or community. Upon application to the commissioner of  
 14 education, and approval by the commissioner, such funds may be accepted and expended by school  
 15 districts in accordance with this chapter; provided, however, that if a school district has received  
 16 emergency assistance funds for certain children with disabilities, it shall not receive special  
 17 education aid for those same children with disabilities. If any of the funds designated for emergency  
 18 assistance under this paragraph are not used for such emergency assistance purposes, the funds  
 19 shall be used to assist school districts in meeting special education cost increases in their special  
 20 education programs as provided by this paragraph.~~

21 (b) The school district shall be liable for 3 *and* 1/2 times the estimated state average  
 22 expenditure per pupil for the school year preceding the year of distribution, plus 20 percent of the  
 23 additional cost, up to 10 times the estimated state average expenditure per pupil for the school year  
 24 preceding the year of distribution.

25 289 Effective Date. Section 288 of this act shall take effect September 1, 2025.

26 290 Education; Special Education; State Aid. Amend RSA 186-C:18, IV to read as follows:

27 IV. [~~The state shall appropriate an amount for each fiscal year to assist special education~~  
 28 ~~programs that are statewide in their scope, and that meet the standards for such programs~~  
 29 ~~established by the state board of education. Funds under this paragraph shall be administered and~~  
 30 ~~distributed by the state board of education through the commissioner.] *The amount necessary to*  
 31 *fund special education aid under this section is hereby appropriated to the department*  
 32 *from the education trust fund created under RSA 198:39. The governor is authorized to*  
 33 *draw a warrant from the education trust fund to satisfy the state's obligation under this*  
 34 *section. Such warrant for payment shall be issued regardless of the balance of funds*  
 35 *available in the education trust fund. If the balance in the education trust fund, after the*  
 36 *issuance of any such warrant, is less than zero, the state comptroller shall transfer*  
 37 *sufficient funds from the general fund to eliminate such deficit. The commissioner of the*~~

1 *department of administrative services shall inform the fiscal committee and the governor*  
2 *and council of such balance. This reporting shall not in any way prohibit or delay the*  
3 *distribution of payments.*

4 291 The State and Its Government; State Treasurer and State Accounts; New Hampshire  
5 Excellence in Higher Education Endowment Trust Fund Established. Amend RSA 6:38, I to read as  
6 follows:

7 I. There is hereby established in the office of the treasurer the New Hampshire excellence in  
8 higher education endowment trust fund which shall be kept distinct and separate from all other  
9 funds. ~~[Annual]~~ ***During the biennium ending June 30, 2027, annual*** assessments less any  
10 annual administrative costs received from the New Hampshire college tuition savings plan  
11 established under RSA 195-H, ***and less \$6,000,000 per year of gross proceeds from assessments***  
12 ***collected, which shall be allocated to the general fund,*** shall be credited to the trust fund to  
13 provide scholarships for the benefit of residents of the state pursuing programs of study at eligible  
14 educational institutions within the state.

15 292 The State and Its Government; State Treasurer and State Accounts; New Hampshire  
16 Excellence in Higher Education Endowment Trust Fund Established. Amend RSA 6:38, I to read as  
17 follows:

18 I. There is hereby established in the office of the treasurer the New Hampshire excellence in  
19 higher education endowment trust fund which shall be kept distinct and separate from all other  
20 funds. ~~[During the biennium ending June 30, 2027, annual]~~ ***Annual*** assessments less any annual  
21 administrative costs received from the New Hampshire college tuition savings plan established  
22 under RSA 195-H~~[, and less \$6,000,000 per year of gross proceeds from assessments collected, which~~  
23 ~~shall be allocated to the general fund,]~~ shall be credited to the trust fund to provide scholarships for  
24 the benefit of residents of the state pursuing programs of study at eligible educational institutions  
25 within the state.

26 293 Effective Date. Section 292 of this act shall take effect July 1, 2027.

27 294 Agency Directive; Department of Health and Human Services. For the biennium ending  
28 June 30, 2027, the department of health and human services shall not use general funds to enroll  
29 any new participants into the state loan repayment program (SLRP). The department may continue  
30 to use general funds to fund existing agreements with existing participants who enrolled in the  
31 SLRP prior to this section taking effect.

32 295 Department of Health and Human Services; Contracts. All department of health and  
33 human services contracts or contract amendments shall include a provision requiring the contractor  
34 to comply with the patients' bill of rights as applicable pursuant to RSA 151:21.

35 296 Applicability. Section 295 of this act shall apply to contracts or contract amendments  
36 entered into on or after the effective date of that section.

1       297 Repeal. Section 295 of this act, relative to department of health and human services  
2 contracts, is repealed.

3       298 Effective Date.

4           I. Section 297 of this act shall take effect November 30, 2026.

5           II. Sections 295 and 296 of this act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

6       299 New Subparagraphs; County Reimbursement of Funds; Limitation on Payments. Amend  
7 RSA 167:18-a, III(b) by inserting after subparagraph (4) the following new subparagraphs:

8           (5) For fiscal year 2026, in addition to the \$5,000,000 allocated pursuant to  
9 subparagraph III(b)(3), an aggregate credit of \$5,625,000 shall be allocated among the counties  
10 based upon their relative proportional share of overpayments in fiscal year 2020 and fiscal year  
11 2021.

12           (6) For fiscal year 2027, in addition to the \$5,000,000 allocated pursuant to  
13 subparagraph III(b)(3), an aggregate credit of \$5,625,000 shall be allocated among the counties  
14 based upon their relative proportional share of overpayments in fiscal year 2020 and fiscal year  
15 2021.

16           (7) For fiscal year 2028, in addition to the \$5,000,000 allocated pursuant to  
17 subparagraph III(b)(3), an aggregate credit of \$5,625,000 shall be allocated among the counties  
18 based upon their relative proportional share of overpayments in fiscal year 2020 and fiscal year  
19 2021.

20           (8) For fiscal year 2029, in addition to the \$5,000,000 allocated pursuant to  
21 subparagraph III(b)(3), an aggregate credit of \$5,625,000 shall be allocated among the counties  
22 based upon their relative proportional share of overpayments in fiscal year 2020 and fiscal year  
23 2021.

24       300 Department of Health and Human Services; Foster Grandparent Program. The  
25 reimbursements to the foster grandparent program through the senior volunteer grant program,  
26 established in RSA 161-F:40, are hereby suspended for the biennium ending June 30, 2027.

27       301 The State and Its Government; New Hampshire Recovery Monument Commission;  
28 Commission Established; Special Account. Amend RSA 4:9-p, II to read as follows:

29           II. The gifts of money, which are donated to contract, construct, and maintain the  
30 monument, shall be placed in a special nonlapsing account in the state treasury, to be expended for  
31 the purposes of the New Hampshire recovery monument. Any money remaining in the special  
32 account after construction of the monument is completed shall be used for the care, maintenance,  
33 repair, and additions to the monument. Any funds left in the special account after annual care,  
34 maintenance, and repair of the monument shall be deposited in the ~~alcohol abuse prevention~~  
35 ~~treatment~~ **addiction, treatment, and prevention** fund under RSA 176-A:1. Notwithstanding any  
36 other provision of law, the commission may expend the money raised or accepted as a gift without

1 the approval of governor and council, to contract for the construction and perpetual maintenance of  
2 the monument.

3 302 New Hampshire Recovery Monument Commission; Commission Membership. Amend RSA  
4 4:9-q to read as follows:

5 4:9-q Commission Membership and Duties.

6 **I.** The members of the commission established in RSA 4:9-p shall be as follows:

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

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

9 (c) Two directors of recovery organizations, appointed by the governor.

10 (d) Two persons in recovery, appointed by the governor.

11 (e) Two family members of persons lost to substance use disorder, appointed by the  
12 governor.

13 (f) The chairperson of the recovery task force of the governor's commission on ~~alcohol~~  
14 ~~and drug abuse, prevention,~~ **addiction**, treatment, and ~~recovery~~ **prevention**, or designee.

15 (g) The president of New Futures, or designee.

16 (h) The director of National Alliance for Mental Illness, New Hampshire (NAMI-NH), or  
17 designee.

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

19 **II.(a)** The members appointed pursuant to subparagraphs (a), (b), and (i) shall serve  
20 coterminous with their terms in office. The remaining members of the commission shall serve 3-year  
21 terms and may be reappointed.

22 (b) Legislative members of the commission shall receive mileage at the legislative rate  
23 while attending to the duties of the commission. The members of the commission shall elect a  
24 chairperson from among the members. The first named house member shall call the first meeting of  
25 the commission. Seven members of the commission shall constitute a quorum.

26 **III.** The commission shall select the location and design for the New Hampshire recovery  
27 monument and oversee the construction and maintenance of the monument. In selecting a design  
28 for the monument, the commission shall develop a request for proposals and criteria for the  
29 evaluation of proposals. Design criteria shall include, after public consultation with interested  
30 parties, a monument including central features of a figural, representational, symbolic, or abstract  
31 form that recognize inclusively the varied New Hampshire historical and contemporary aspects of  
32 recovery from substance use disorders, with appropriate inscriptions and that recognize inclusively  
33 those New Hampshire individuals whose lives were lost and those affected by lost lives due to  
34 substance use disorders, with appropriate inscriptions. The design may also include an area  
35 surrounding the central monument for permanent individual commemoration for those New  
36 Hampshire individuals whose lives were lost due to substance use disorders. The design criteria  
37 shall include, after public consultation with interested parties, an area around the central features of

1 the monument suitable for reflection and such commemorative activities as envisioned by the  
2 commission. The commission shall approve a memorandum of understanding with the host  
3 community governing the siting, design, and construction of the monument, and subsequent related  
4 activities.

5 IV. The commission shall privately raise all the money necessary for the planning, design,  
6 construction, and maintenance of the New Hampshire recovery monument.

7 303 The State and Its Government; State Treasurer; Application of Receipts. Amend RSA 6:12,  
8 I(b)(72) to read as follows:

9 (72) Moneys deposited in the [~~alcohol abuse prevention and treatment~~] **addiction,**  
10 **treatment, and prevention** fund established in RSA 176-A:1, as administered by [~~the governor's~~  
11 ~~commission on alcohol and drug abuse prevention, treatment, and recovery~~] **the governor's**  
12 **commission on addiction, treatment, and prevention** in accordance with RSA 12-J:1.

13 304 New Hampshire Drug Overdose Fatality Review Commission; Commission. Amend RSA  
14 126-DD:1, I(g) to read as follows:

15 (g) The chairperson of the governor's commission on [~~alcohol and drug abuse~~  
16 ~~prevention,~~] **addiction,** treatment, and [~~recovery~~] **prevention,** or designee.

17 305 New Hampshire Opioid Abatement Advisory Commission. Amend RSA 126-A:85, II to read  
18 as follows:

19 II. The commission shall consist of the following members:

20 (a) The governor, or designee.

21 (b) The attorney general, or designee.

22 (c) The state treasurer, or designee.

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

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

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

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

28 (h) The chairperson of the governor's commission on [~~alcohol and drug abuse,~~  
29 ~~prevention,~~] **addiction,** treatment, and [~~recovery~~] **prevention,** or designee.

30 (i) A county attorney appointed by the governor.

31 (j) A county corrections superintendent, or designee, appointed by the governor.

32 (k) A county nursing home supervisor, or designee, appointed by the New Hampshire  
33 Association of Counties.

34 (l) A New Hampshire municipal fire chief, appointed by the governor.

35 (m) A New Hampshire municipal police chief, appointed by the governor.

36 (n) One designee from a county with a population of 100,000 or more, appointed by the  
37 governor.

1 (o) One designee from a county with a population of less than 100,000, appointed by the  
2 governor.

3 (p) One designee of a city with a population over 75,000, appointed by the governor.

4 (q) One designee of a city or town with a population under 75,000, appointed by the  
5 governor.

6 (r) One designee representing a town with a population under 20,000, appointed by the  
7 governor.

8 (s) One designee representing victims of the opioid crisis, appointed by the attorney  
9 general.

10 (t) One member representing prevention, appointed by the governor's commission  
11 [~~alcohol and drug abuse prevention~~] **on addiction**, treatment, and [~~recovery~~] **prevention**, or  
12 designee.

13 (u) One member representing treatment, appointed by the governor's commission on  
14 [~~alcohol and drug abuse prevention,~~] **addiction**, treatment, and [~~recovery~~] **prevention**, or designee.

15 (v) One member representing recovery, appointed by the governor's commission on  
16 [~~alcohol and drug abuse prevention,~~] **addiction**, treatment, and [~~recovery~~] **prevention**, or designee.

17 (w) One public school superintendent, or designee, appointed by the New Hampshire  
18 School Administrators Association.

19 306 Opioid Abatement Advisory Commission; Duties. Amend the introductory paragraph of  
20 RSA 126-A:86, I to read as follows:

21 I. The opioid abatement advisory commission in coordination with the governor's  
22 commission on [~~alcohol and other drugs,~~] **addiction, treatment, and prevention**, and in alignment  
23 with relevant state plans, shall:

24 307 Controlled Drug Prescription Health and Safety Program; Advisory Council. Amend RSA  
25 126-A:96, I(j) to read as follows:

26 (j) Two public members appointed by the governor's commission on [~~alcohol and other~~  
27 ~~drugs,~~] **addiction, treatment, and prevention**, one of whom may be a member of the commission.

28 308 Alcoholic Beverages; The Liquor Commission; Funds. Amend RSA 176:16, III to read as  
29 follows:

30 III. Five percent of the preceding fiscal year gross profits derived by the commission from  
31 the sale of liquor shall be deposited into the [~~alcohol abuse prevention and treatment~~] **addiction,**  
32 **treatment, and prevention** fund established by RSA 176-A:1. For the purpose of this section, gross  
33 profit shall be defined as total operating revenue minus the cost of sales and services as presented in  
34 the state of New Hampshire annual comprehensive financial report, statement of revenues,  
35 expenses, and changes in net position for proprietary funds. Such deposit shall be processed in 2  
36 installments as follows:

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1 (a) The commission shall process the initial deposit on or before August 1st of the  
2 ensuing fiscal year. Such deposit shall be calculated based on an estimate of the preceding fiscal  
3 year gross profit derived by the commission from the sale of liquor.

4 (b) Upon issuance of the audited annual comprehensive financial report pursuant to  
5 RSA 21-I:8, II(a), the commission shall process a second and final deposit or adjustment.

6 (c) If the amount of the initial deposit exceeds the final amount calculated based on the  
7 audited annual comprehensive financial report pursuant to RSA 21-I:8, II(a), the comptroller shall  
8 transfer the excess amount from the [~~alcohol abuse prevention and treatment~~] **addiction,**  
9 **treatment, and prevention** fund established by RSA 176-A:1 to the liquor fund.

10 309 Alcoholic Beverages; Alcohol Abuse Prevention and Treatment Fund. Amend RSA 176-A:1  
11 to read as follows:

12 176-A:1 [~~Alcohol Abuse Prevention and Treatment~~] **Addiction, Treatment, and Prevention**  
13 Fund.

14 I. There is hereby established an [~~alcohol abuse prevention and treatment~~] **addiction,**  
15 **treatment, and prevention** fund to fund alcohol education and abuse **and problem gambling**  
16 prevention and treatment programs.

17 II. The fund shall be nonlapsing and continually appropriated for the purposes of funding  
18 alcohol education and abuse **and problem gambling** prevention and treatment programs. The  
19 commissioner of the department of health and human services may accept gifts, grants, donations, or  
20 other funding from any source and shall deposit all such revenue received into the fund. The state  
21 treasurer shall invest the moneys deposited in the fund as provided by law. Interest earned on  
22 moneys deposited in the fund shall be deposited into the fund.

23 III. Moneys received from all other sources other than the liquor commission pursuant to  
24 RSA 176:16, III, including any community benefit contribution made by New Hampshire's hospitals,  
25 shall be disbursed from the fund upon the authorization of [~~the governor's commission on alcohol and  
26 drug abuse prevention, treatment, and recovery~~] **the governor's commission on addiction,**  
27 **treatment, and prevention** established pursuant to RSA 12-J:1 and shall not be diverted for any  
28 other purposes. Funds disbursed shall be used for alcohol and other drug abuse prevention,  
29 **problem gambling prevention,** treatment, [~~and~~] recovery services, and other purposes related to  
30 the duties of the commission under RSA 12-J:3.

31 310 Occupations and Professions; Controlled Drug Act; Personal Possession of Marijuana.  
32 Amend RSA 318-B:2-c, VII to read as follows:

33 VII. All fines imposed pursuant to this section shall be deposited into the [~~alcohol abuse  
34 prevention and treatment~~] **addiction, treatment, and prevention** fund established in RSA 176-  
35 A:1 and utilized for evidence-informed substance abuse prevention programs.

36 311 Governor's Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery.  
37 Amend the chapter heading of RSA 12-J, and RSA 12-J:1 through RSA 12-J:4, to read as follows:

Chapter 12-J

~~[GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION,  
TREATMENT, AND RECOVERY]~~

***THE GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON ADDICTION, TREATMENT, AND PREVENTION***

12-J:1 Commission Established; Membership; Terms.

There is hereby established a commission which shall serve in an advisory capacity to the governor and the general court regarding ***the importance of prevention as well as*** the delivery of effective and coordinated alcohol and ***other*** drug ~~[abuse]~~ ***misuse programs of*** prevention, ***problem gambling prevention,*** treatment ***using a public health informed approach to address addiction,*** and recovery services throughout the state. The commission shall consist of the following members:

I. Seven public members, 2 of whom shall be professionals knowledgeable about alcohol and ***other*** drug ~~[abuse]~~ ***misuse*** prevention, one of whom shall be appointed by the governor and one of whom shall be appointed by the senate president; 2 of whom shall be professionals knowledgeable about alcohol and ***other*** drug ~~[abuse]~~ ***misuse*** treatment ***including reduction of societal and individual harm,*** one of whom shall be appointed by the governor and one of whom shall be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives; 2 of whom shall be public members who are not professionals within the alcohol and drug ~~[addiction]~~ ***misuse*** prevention and treatment system, one of whom shall be appointed by the senate president and one of whom shall be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives; and one member in long-term recovery, appointed by the governor.

II. Two members of the house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives, and 2 members of the senate, appointed by the president of the senate. The term of the legislative members of the commission shall be for the biennium and shall be coterminous with membership in the general court. Legislative members shall receive mileage at the legislative rate when attending to the duties of the commission.

III.(a)(1) The attorney general, or designee.

(2) The adjutant general, or designee.

(3) The administrative judge of the circuit court, or designee.

(4) The chairperson of the liquor commission, or designee.

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

(6) The director of juvenile justice services, department of health and human services, or designee.

(7) The commissioner of the department of education, or designee.

(8) The commissioner of the department of corrections, or designee.

(9) The commissioner of the department of safety, or designee.

1           (10) The director of the office of alcohol and drug policy, department of health and  
2 human services, or designee.

3           (11) The commissioner of the department of insurance, or designee.

4           (b) The members under this paragraph shall serve terms coterminous with their terms  
5 in office.

6           IV.(a)(1) A representative of the Business and Industry Association of New Hampshire,  
7 appointed by the association.

8           (2) A representative of the New Hampshire Medical Society, appointed by the  
9 society.

10          (3) The chancellor of the community college system of New Hampshire, or designee.

11          (4) The chairman of the New Hampshire Suicide Prevention Council.

12          (5) A representative of the New Hampshire Nurses' Association, appointed by the  
13 association.

14          (6) A representative of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, appointed by the  
15 foundation.

16          (7) A representative of the New Hampshire Hospital Association, appointed by the  
17 association.

18          (8) *The president of the New Hampshire Association of Chiefs of Police, or*  
19 *designee.*

20          (b) A representative of the state's faith-based community, who shall be a nonvoting  
21 member, appointed by the governor.

22          (c) The members under this paragraph shall serve 3-year terms.

23          12-J:2 Organization of Commission; Task Forces; Staffing.

24          I. The commission shall elect one of its members to serve as chairperson. The executive  
25 director of the commission shall be the director of the appropriate division responsible for alcohol  
26 and drug [abuse] ***misuse*** prevention and recovery, who shall serve without additional compensation.  
27 Twelve members of the commission shall constitute a quorum.

28          II.(a) To assist the commission in the performance of its duties, the chairperson shall create  
29 task forces. The chairperson shall initially create task forces to address the following issues:

30               (1) Prevention.

31               (2) Treatment ***and reduction of societal and individual harm.***

32               (3) Recovery.

33               (4) Program monitoring and evaluation.

34          (b) To assist the commission in the performance of its duties, the chairperson may create  
35 additional task forces.

36          (c) The commission chairperson shall appoint at least one commission member to serve  
37 on each task force as chairperson.

1 (d) Based upon recommendations from each task force, the commission chairperson may  
2 appoint non-commission members to serve as adjunct members of each task force for a term of one  
3 year. In appointing adjunct members, the chairperson shall ensure that youth have the opportunity  
4 to participate directly in the work of appropriate task forces.

5 (e) Each task force shall:

6 (1) Develop a mission statement, including its goals and objectives.

7 (2) Report to the commission on a regular basis concerning available programs,  
8 funding, and unmet needs.

9 (3) Identify program areas where improved coordination is needed.

10 II-a. The chairperson shall create a budget task force comprised of the individuals listed in  
11 RSA 12-J:1, III(a) to report biannually on financial expenditures for substance [~~abuse~~] **misuse**  
12 related work throughout state government as detailed in RSA 12-J:4, III and recommend budget  
13 policy priorities to the commission regarding the allocation of funding alcohol and **other** drug  
14 prevention, treatment **including reduction of societal and individual harm**, and recovery  
15 services across state agencies and throughout the state.

16 III. All executive branch departments shall provide administrative support to the  
17 commission. The executive director of the commission shall direct and coordinate the administrative  
18 support to the commission.

19 IV. All executive branch departments shall respond promptly to written requests from the  
20 commission for information concerning the alcohol and drug abuse prevention, treatment, and  
21 recovery programs and services provided by them and the costs and funding sources for such  
22 programs and services.

23 ***12-J:2-a Definition of Harm Reduction.***

24 ***I. For the purposes of this chapter, RSA 126-A, RSA 318-B:43, RSA 328-D:3, and RSA***  
25 ***329:16-g, "harm reduction" is an approach that emphasizes engaging directly with people***  
26 ***who use alcohol and other drugs to prevent overdose and infectious disease transmission,***  
27 ***improve the physical, mental, and social function of those served, and offer low-threshold***  
28 ***options for accessing substance use disorder treatment and other health care services.***  
29 ***Harm reduction shall be balanced by the imperative to protect society from the ravages of***  
30 ***alcohol or drug misuse.***

31 ***II. This approach shall be limited to the following:***

32 ***(a) Connecting individuals to overdose education, counseling, and referral to***  
33 ***treatment for infectious diseases and substance use disorders.***

34 ***(b) Distributing opioid overdose reversal medications, such as naloxone to***  
35 ***individuals at risk of overdose, or to those who might respond to an overdose, and provide***  
36 ***training in overdose reversal and prevention.***

37 ***(c) Making available substance test kits, including fentanyl test strips.***

1           (d) *Lessening harms associated with drug use and related behaviors that*  
2 *increase the risk of infectious diseases, including HIV, viral hepatitis, and bacterial and*  
3 *fungal infections; via referrals, syringe service programs, sharps disposal and medication*  
4 *disposal kits, wound care supplies medication lock boxes, education, testing, and*  
5 *prophylactic measures.*

6           (e) *Reducing infectious disease transmission among people who use drugs,*  
7 *including those who inject drugs by equipping them with accurate information and*  
8 *facilitating referral to resources.*

9           (f) *Reducing overdose deaths, promoting linkages to care, and facilitating*  
10 *appropriate co-location of services as part of a comprehensive, integrated approach.*

11           (g) *Providing education and public awareness programs to reduce stigma*  
12 *associated with substance use and co-occurring disorders.*

13           (h) *Promoting a philosophy of hope and healing by utilizing those with lived*  
14 *experience of recovery in the management of harm reduction services, and connecting those*  
15 *who have expressed interest to treatment, peer support workers and other recovery support*  
16 *services.*

17           (i) *Promoting a healthy society by mitigating the harmful effects of individual*  
18 *misuse of alcohol and other drugs.*

19           12-J:3 Duties.

20           The duties of the commission shall be to:

21           I. Develop and revise, as necessary, a statewide plan for the effective prevention of alcohol  
22 and **other** drug [abuse] **misuse and problem gambling**, particularly among youth, and a  
23 comprehensive system of treatment **including reduction of societal and individual harm** and  
24 recovery services for individuals and families affected by alcohol and **other** drug [abuse] **misuse**  
25 **and problem gambling**. **Nothing in RSA 12-J should be construed to limit care of chronic**  
26 **pain and hospice and palliative care patients, including use of the term “misuse” which**  
27 **shall be utilized, as intended, to broaden the scope of work across the substance use**  
28 **continuum of care.** The statewide plan shall:

29           (a) Identify the causes, the nature and scope, and the impact of alcohol and **other** drug  
30 [abuse] **misuse and problem gambling** in New Hampshire.

31           (b) Identify and prioritize unmet needs for prevention **as a leading state initiative**,  
32 treatment **including reduction of societal and individual harm**, and recovery services.

33           (c) Recommend initiatives and policy considerations to the general court to reduce the  
34 incidence of alcohol and **other** drug [abuse] **misuse and problem gambling** in New Hampshire.

35           (d) Identify and quantify public and private resources available to support alcohol and  
36 drug [abuse] **misuse and problem gambling** prevention, treatment **including reduction of**  
37 **societal and individual harm**, and recovery.

1 (e) Specify additional resources necessary to address unmet needs for prevention,  
2 treatment **including reduction of societal and individual harm**, and recovery.

3 (f) Specify evaluation and monitoring methodology.

4 II. Advise the governor and general court on and promote the development of effective  
5 community-based alcohol and **other drug [abuse] misuse and problem gambling** prevention  
6 strategies.

7 III. Advise the governor and the general court on and promote the development of treatment  
8 services, **including reduction of societal and individual harm**, to meet the needs of **society**  
9 **and** citizens addicted to alcohol or other drugs **and problem gambling**.

10 III-a. Advise the governor and the general court on and promote the development of recovery  
11 services to meet the needs of citizens in recovery from alcohol and other drug misuse **and problem**  
12 **gambling**.

13 IV. Identify unmet needs and the resources required to reduce the incidence of alcohol and  
14 drug [abuse] **misuse and problem gambling** in New Hampshire and to make recommendations to  
15 the governor and general court regarding legislation and funding to address such needs.

16 V. Authorize the disbursement of moneys from the [~~alcohol abuse prevention and treatment~~]  
17 **addiction, treatment, and prevention** fund, pursuant to RSA 176-A:1, III.

18 VI. Make presentations at least once each legislative session to the house and senate finance  
19 committees, the senate health and human services committee, the house health, human services and  
20 elderly affairs committee, and the fiscal committee of the general court.

21 VII. Develop a handout which shall describe the risks of opioid use and how to mitigate  
22 them for the purposes of RSA 318-B:16-a.

23 12-J:4 Meetings and Reports.

24 I. The commission shall meet at least 4 times each year and may convene public hearings as  
25 necessary to promote the goals of the commission.

26 II. The commission shall submit an annual report to the governor, speaker of the house of  
27 representatives, president of the senate, chairpersons of the house and senate finance committees,  
28 chairperson of the house health, human services and elderly affairs committee, the chairperson of  
29 the senate health and human services committee, and the chairperson of the fiscal committee of the  
30 general court by October 1 of each year regarding the activities of the commission. The annual  
31 report shall:

32 (a) Identify alcohol and **other drug [abuse] misuse and problem gambling** prevention  
33 **as a leading state initiative**, treatment **including reduction of societal and individual**  
34 **harm**, and recovery services and programs provided by state departments and agencies or funded in  
35 whole or in part by state or federal funds;

36 (b) Indicate the progress made during the prior year toward the implementation of the  
37 statewide plan developed by the commission pursuant to RSA 12-J:3, I;

1 (c) Recommend any revisions to the statewide plan developed pursuant to RSA 12-J:3, I;

2 (d) Identify and prioritize unmet needs for prevention, treatment *including reduction*  
3 *of societal and individual harm*, and recovery;

4 (e) Indicate the progress, or lack thereof, in addressing the unmet needs;

5 (f) Recommend initiatives and/or policy considerations to the governor and the general  
6 court to address the unmet needs;

7 (g) Specify the resources and any legislation necessary to support existing programs for  
8 prevention, treatment *including reduction of societal and individual harm*, and recovery and  
9 to develop, implement, support, and evaluate the initiatives recommended by the commission;

10 (h) In even-numbered years the report may include specific recommendations for funds  
11 to be included in the next state biennial budget to support alcohol and *other* drug [~~abuse~~] *misuse*  
12 *and problem gambling* prevention, treatment *including reduction of societal and individual*  
13 *harm*, and recovery services and programs; and

14 (i) Incorporate the findings and recommendations of the report required under  
15 paragraph II-a and make specific findings and recommendations regarding public awareness,  
16 education, and legislation to address the dangers of synthetic drugs.

17 (j) *Specify and itemize funds spent on prevention, treatment and reduction of*  
18 *societal and individual harm, recovery, and program monitoring and evaluation services*  
19 *and programs.*

20 II-a. The commission shall prepare a report, including recommendations for policies to be  
21 implemented for coordinating public awareness of and education in the *importance of prevention*  
22 *and health promotion, as well as the* dangers of synthetic drugs and other emerging or designer  
23 synthetic drug substances. The report shall include substantive input from the commission's  
24 member agencies, including the department of health and human services, bureau of drug and  
25 alcohol services, the attorney general, the department of safety, and the department of education.  
26 The commission shall submit its initial report, including recommendations, to the senate president,  
27 the speaker of the house of representatives, and the governor no later than 3 months after the  
28 effective date of this paragraph. The commission shall submit subsequent reports, including  
29 recommendations, to the senate president, the speaker of the house of representatives, and the  
30 governor annually thereafter.

31 III.(a) To assist the commission in the timely completion of its annual report, each  
32 commission member representing an executive branch department or entity shall provide the  
33 information specified in paragraph II for its department or entity to the commission on or before  
34 August 1 of each year.

35 (b) The commission shall submit a mid-year report to the governor, speaker of the house  
36 of representatives, president of the senate, chairpersons of the house and senate finance committees,  
37 chairperson of the house health, human services and elderly affairs committee, chairperson of the

1 senate health and human services committee, and chairperson of the fiscal committee of the general  
2 court by March 1 of each year regarding the current state of drug [abuse] **misuse**, prevention,  
3 treatment **including reduction of societal and individual harm**, and recovery. The commission  
4 shall include a dashboard of the following, both in the interim and the annual report as required in  
5 RSA 12-J:4, II, that includes but is not limited to:

6 (1) ***A summary of known prevention programs to include the general type***  
7 ***and approaches being followed.***

8 (1-a) The number of known drug overdoses, broken out by drug involved.

9 (2) The number of deaths attributable to overdoses, as reported by the chief medical  
10 examiner, broken out by drug involved.

11 (3) The number of people known to be in treatment or recovery programs supported  
12 by commission funding.

13 (4) The accessibility and availability of treatment programs, including waitlists.

14 (5) The number of individuals in drug court programs, as reported by the judicial  
15 branch.

16 (6) The number of individuals in diversion programs, as reported by the judicial  
17 branch.

18 (7) The number of convictions for drug related offenses, as reported by the judicial  
19 branch.

20 (8) The number of persons incarcerated for drug related offenses as reported by the  
21 department of corrections.

22 (9) Funds expended and balances remaining, programs and strategies created or  
23 sustained by the funds, and an estimate of the number of individuals served by these funds.

24 (10) Barriers to data access and availability, with proposed strategies to develop or  
25 enhance data capacity.

26 (11) Performance outcomes pursuant to National Outcomes Measurement Standards  
27 (NOMS) as required with federal funding sources.

28 (12) Any other information requested by the governor or general court.

29 (c) All data required in subparagraph (b) shall be presented in the aggregate to protect  
30 the privacy of the individual. The commission shall delete any data required in those paragraphs  
31 that enables the personal identification of an individual.

32 IV. In the reports submitted by the commission to the governor, speaker of the house of  
33 representatives, president of the senate, chairpersons of the house and senate finance committees,  
34 chairperson of the house health, human services and elderly affairs committee, chairperson of the  
35 senate health and human services committee, and chairperson of the fiscal committee of the general  
36 court, the report shall include outcome data and/or research citations about the efficacy of funded  
37 programs based upon evidence of program results.

1       312 Repeal. RSA 338-B, relative to council for responsible gambling, is repealed.

2       313 Home Dialysis; State Program Implementation. The department of health and human  
3 services shall, as part of the state Medicaid program, accelerate the implementation of the at home  
4 dialysis program. The department may, as part of its contracts with managed care organizations,  
5 provide incentives for such acceleration if the commissioner deems it necessary.

6       314 Education; Education Freedom Accounts; Program. Amend RSA 194-F:2, VII to read as  
7 follows:

8           VII. An EFA shall remain in force, and any unused funds shall roll over from quarter-to-  
9 quarter and from year-to-year until the parent withdraws the EFA student from the EFA program or  
10 until the EFA student graduates from high school, unless the EFA is closed because of a substantial  
11 misuse of funds. Any unused funds shall revert to the education trust fund established in RSA  
12 198:39 ~~[and be allocated to fund other EFAs].~~

13       315 New Subdivision; Substance Use Disorder Access Points. Amend RSA 126-A by inserting  
14 after section 105 the following new subdivision:

Substance Use Disorder Access Points

15       126-A:106 Substance Use Disorder Access Points Established.

16           I. With the availability of sufficient federal funding, the department of health and human  
17 services shall establish and administer statewide access points for delivery of substance use services  
18 and supports. The access points shall provide information and referrals for screening and  
19 evaluation; treatment, including medications for substance use disorders; prevention, and treatment  
20 including naloxone; supports and services to assist in long-term recovery; and peer recovery support  
21 services.  
22

23           II. The commissioner of the department of health and human services shall include the  
24 administration and operation of the access points in the department's report to the governor's  
25 commission on addiction, treatment, and prevention under RSA 12-J:4, III.

26           III. The program shall be funded through the state opioid response grant from the  
27 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. In addition, the department may  
28 accept funds from any source, including state appropriations, federal funds, and private gifts, grants,  
29 or donations to operate and sustain the access points.

30       316 Public Health; Department of Health and Human Services; Commissioner of Health and  
31 Human Services. Amend RSA 126-A:5, XIX-a(a)(1) to read as follows:

32           (1) The commissioner shall pursue contracting options to administer the state's  
33 Medicaid dental program with the goals of improving access to dental care for Medicaid populations,  
34 improving health outcomes for Medicaid enrollees, expanding the provider network, increasing  
35 provider capacity, fostering individual behaviors that promote good oral health, and retaining  
36 innovative programs that improve access and care through a value-based care model. *The*  
37 *commissioner shall prepare and submit a report that contains a clinical and financial*

1 *research study to determine cost-avoidance associated with adult dental benefits under*  
2 *this paragraph. The study shall consider the impact on emergency room visits, patient*  
3 *infections, and any other factors the commissioner determines should be included in the*  
4 *study. The commissioner shall submit their report to the chairs of the senate finance and*  
5 *house finance committees on or before January 1, 2027.*

6 317 The New Hampshire Granite Advantage Health Care Trust Fund. Amend RSA 126-  
7 AA:3, I to read as follows:

8 I. There is hereby established the New Hampshire granite advantage health care trust fund  
9 which shall be accounted for distinctly and separately from all other funds and shall be non-interest  
10 bearing. The fund shall be administered by the commissioner and shall be used solely to provide  
11 coverage for the newly eligible Medicaid population as provided for under RSA 126-AA:2, to pay for  
12 the administrative costs for the program, and reimburse the federal government for any over  
13 payments of federal funds. All moneys in the fund shall be nonlapsing and shall be continually  
14 appropriated to the commissioner for the purposes of the fund. The fund shall be authorized to pay  
15 and/or reimburse the cost of medical services and cost-effective related services, including without  
16 limitation, capitation payments to MCOs. No state general funds shall be deposited into the fund.  
17 Deposits into the fund shall be limited exclusively to the following:

18 (a) [Repealed.]

19 (b) Federal Medicaid reimbursement for program costs and administrative costs  
20 attributable to the program;

21 (c) Surplus funds generated as a result of MCOs managing the cost of their services  
22 below the medical loss ratio established by the commissioner for the managed care program  
23 beginning on July 1, 2019;

24 (d) Taxes attributable to premiums written for medical and other medical related  
25 services for the newly eligible Medicaid population as provided for under this chapter, consistent  
26 with RSA 400-A:32, III(b);

27 (e) Funds received from the assessment under RSA 404-G;

28 (f) Revenue from the Medicaid enhancement tax to meet the requirements provided in  
29 RSA 167:64; ~~and~~

30 (g) Funds recovered or returnable to the fund that were originally spent on the cost of  
31 coverage of the granite advantage health care program[-]; **and**

32 ***(h) Revenue that is attributable to premiums received from granite advantage***  
33 ***health care program enrollees.***

34 318 Department of Health and Human Services; Office of Health Access; Name Change; Hiring  
35 Freeze. The department of health and human services, office of health equity shall be renamed the  
36 office of health access. The office shall remain in compliance with the terms of Executive Order  
37 2025-02, regarding executive branch hiring for the biennium ending June 30, 2027, even if the

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1 executive order is lifted. Furthermore, the office of health access shall serve every person with equal  
2 dignity and respect. The office shall not contract with or pay vendors who fail to serve every person  
3 with equal dignity and respect. The office and all vendors shall comply with RSA 354-B, also known  
4 as the "civil rights act."

5 319 New Paragraph; Medicaid to Schools Program; Termination. Amend RSA 186-C:25 by  
6 inserting after paragraph VII the following new paragraph:

7 VIII. The program shall terminate statewide if the federal government or state adopts any  
8 policy contrary to a policy requiring parental control of all medical services provided to children. If a  
9 local school district adopts such a contrary policy, the program shall terminate for that school only.

10 320 Lapse Extension; Department of Health and Human Services; Granite United Way. Amend  
11 2023, 79:559 to read as follows:

12 79:559 Appropriation; Department of Health and Human Services. There is hereby  
13 appropriated to the department of health and human services, the sum of \$2,054,360 for the fiscal  
14 year ending June 30, 2023, which shall not lapse until June 30, ~~2025~~ 2027, for the purpose of  
15 Granite United Way administering the Recovery Friendly Workplace Initiative, which promotes  
16 individual wellness for Granite Staters by empowering workplaces to provide support for people  
17 recovering from substance use disorder. The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said sum  
18 out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

19 321 Effective Date. Section 320 of this act shall take effect June 20, 2025.

20 322 Department of Health and Human Services; Availability of Funds Directive. The  
21 department of health and human services shall seek all available Title IV-E, Administration for  
22 Children and Families funds to maximize federal participation in expenses associated with eligibility  
23 screening, training, accounting, technology upgrades, and implementation of a child-centered  
24 approach to utilizing and conserving federal benefits to which children in its care might be eligible.  
25 The department shall twice annually provide a detailed report of its efforts to seek such funds and  
26 results of those efforts to the oversight committee on health and human services established in RSA  
27 126-A:13, the senate finance and children and family law committees, the house children and family  
28 law and finance committees, and the fiscal committee of the general court.

29 323 Directive; Department of Health and Human Services. The department of health and  
30 human services shall serve every person with equal dignity and respect. The department shall not  
31 contract with or pay vendors who fail to serve every person with equal dignity and respect. The  
32 department and all vendors shall comply with RSA 354-B, also known as the "civil rights act." In  
33 the event that the department determines that a contract violates the provisions of this section, it  
34 shall terminate said contract in accordance with applicable law and contract provisions, and the  
35 state shall be entitled to recover any funds unspent by the contractor at the time of termination.

36 324 Repeal. The following are repealed:

37 I. RSA 126-BB, relative to the prescription drug affordability board.



1 to the fiscal committee of the general court. All proceeds from the sale shall be deposited into the  
2 general fund.

3 329 Anna Philbrook Center for Children; Sale of Property. The department of health and  
4 human services shall develop a transition plan to vacate the Anna Philbrook Center for Children  
5 that ensures services to current clients residing there are not interrupted. Prior to finalizing the  
6 transition plan, the department of health and human services shall work with the current provider  
7 and consider reasonable alternatives that are consistent with the department's "mission zero"  
8 initiative. Upon completion of the transition plan, the commissioner of the department of health and  
9 human services shall send formal notice to the department of administrative services that the  
10 transition plan is finalized. Notwithstanding RSA 10 and RSA 4:40, the commissioner of the  
11 department of administrative services, following the completion of the transition plan, shall offer for  
12 sale at fair market value the Anna Philbrook Center for Children property located at 105 Pleasant  
13 Street, Concord, New Hampshire. The property shall be offered first to the city of Concord and then  
14 to Merrimack County. If neither the city nor county accept the offer by January 1, 2026, the  
15 commissioner of the department of administrative services shall issue a request for proposals for the  
16 sale of the Concord property at no less than the fair market value, such sale to be completed no later  
17 than June 30, 2027. The commissioner of the department of administrative services shall submit  
18 quarterly reports on the progress of the sale to the fiscal committee of the general court. All  
19 proceeds from the sale shall be deposited into the general fund.

20 330 Hampstead Hospital and Residential Treatment Facility; Sale of Property.  
21 Notwithstanding RSA 10 and RSA 4:40, the commissioner of the department of administrative  
22 services shall subdivide and offer for sale at fair market value the state-owned portions of the  
23 Hampstead Hospital property that are neither part of the Hampstead Hospital and Residential  
24 Treatment Facility nor necessary for use as the replacement facility for the Sununu Youth Services  
25 Center or other state operations, located at 218 East Road, Hampstead, New Hampshire. The  
26 property shall be offered first to the city of Hampstead and then to Rockingham County. If neither  
27 the city nor county accept the offer by January 1, 2026, the commissioner of the department of  
28 administrative services shall issue a request for proposals for the sale of the Hampstead property at  
29 no less than the fair market value, such sale to be completed no later than June 30, 2028. The  
30 commissioner of the department of administrative services shall submit quarterly reports on the  
31 progress of the sale to the fiscal committee of the general court. All proceeds from the sale shall be  
32 deposited into the general fund.

33 331 Department of Health and Human Services; Delay of Capitation Payments. The  
34 department of health and human services shall delay the June 2027 capitation payments to  
35 Medicaid managed care organizations until the start of the state fiscal year ending June 30, 2028.  
36 As a result of implementing this section, the department shall reduce general fund appropriations by  
37 \$25,000,000 in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027. The department shall work with the

1 department of administrative services to reduce appropriated federal funds as needed to implement  
2 this section.

3 332 Dedicated Funds; Amendments, Lapses, and Other Uses.

4 I. Notwithstanding the provisions of RSA 6:12, or any provision of law to the contrary, for  
5 the biennium ending June 30, 2027, the governor shall increase state general fund revenues or  
6 decrease state general fund appropriations by a combined total of \$16,000,000 per fiscal year. Such  
7 revenue increases and appropriation decreases shall be generated through assessments, lapses, or  
8 the appropriate utilizations of dedicated funds listed under RSA 6:12, I(b), as determined by the  
9 governor. The governor shall provide a report of said actions to the fiscal committee of the general  
10 court on December 31, 2025, June 30, 2026, December 31, 2026, and June 30, 2027.

11 II. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, agencies with a dedicated fund  
12 may establish an administrative fee upon the adoption of rules through the administrative rules  
13 process under RSA 541-A, or through the passage of legislation, that shall be deposited into the  
14 general fund. Any agency that establishes such an administrative fee may be exempted from an  
15 assessment, lapse, or other appropriate utilization as contained in paragraph I.

16 III. The governor may reduce the value of the increase in revenues or decrease in  
17 appropriations in paragraph I by the anticipated amount to be transferred to the general fund as a  
18 result of administrative fees established in paragraph II.

19 333 New Subdivision; Prohibition on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Amend RSA 21-I by  
20 inserting after section 111 the following new subdivision:

21 Prohibition on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

22 21-I:112 Definitions. In this subdivision:

23 I. "Agency" means any department, office, commission, board, subdivision, or other unit,  
24 however designated, of the executive branch of state government.

25 II. "Diversity, equity, and inclusion" or "DEI" shall mean any program, policy, training, or  
26 initiative that classifies individuals based on a characteristic identified under RSA 354-A:1 for the  
27 purpose of achieving demographic outcomes, rather than treating individuals equally under the law.

28 III. "Political subdivision" means any village district, school district, town, city, county, or  
29 unincorporated place in the state.

30 21-I:113 Prohibition on DEI Initiatives. No public entity shall implement, promote, or otherwise  
31 engage in any DEI-related initiatives, programs, training, or policies. No state funds shall be  
32 expended for DEI-related activities, including but not limited to implicit bias training, DEI  
33 assessments, critical race theory, or race-based hiring, promotion, or contracting preferences.

34 21-I:114 Prohibition on DEI-Related Contract Provisions. No agencies or political subdivisions  
35 shall enter into or renew any contract that includes DEI-related provisions, including requirements  
36 for contractors to implement DEI programs, conduct DEI training, or comply with DEI-related  
37 reporting obligations.

1           21-I:115 Review of Agency Contracts for DEI-Related Contract Provisions. Each state agency  
2 shall, no later than October 1, 2025, submit to the department of administrative services a report  
3 identifying all contracts under its control that include DEI-related provisions. The report shall  
4 include descriptions of each contract, the specific DEI-related provisions contained therein, and the  
5 total financial obligation associated with each contract. The department shall combine and submit a  
6 consolidated report to the governor, speaker of the house of representatives, and the president of the  
7 senate.

8           21-I:116 Review of Political Subdivision DEI-Related Contract Provisions. The department of  
9 justice shall establish a process by which all political subdivisions review their existing contracts for  
10 the presence of DEI--related provisions.

11           334 New Subdivision; Prohibition on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Public Schools. Amend  
12 RSA 186 by inserting after section 70 the following new subdivision:

13                           Prohibition on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Public Schools

14           186:71 Definitions. In this subdivision:

15           I. "Diversity, equity, and inclusion" or "DEI" shall mean any program, policy, training, or  
16 initiative that classifies individuals based on a characteristic identified under RSA 354-A:1 for the  
17 purpose of achieving demographic outcomes, rather than treating individuals equally under the law.

18           II. "Public school" means any school, academic institution, or institution of higher education  
19 in this state supported by public funds.

20           186:72 Prohibition on DEI Initiatives. No public school shall implement, promote, or otherwise  
21 engage in any DEI-related initiatives, programs, training, or policies. No state funds shall be  
22 expended to public schools for DEI-related activities, including but not limited to implicit bias  
23 training, DEI assessments, critical race theory, or race-based hiring, promotion, or contracting  
24 preferences. This prohibition shall extend to any public school as defined in RSA 186:71, II.

25           186:73 Prohibition on DEI-Related Contract Provisions. No public school shall enter into,  
26 renew, or amend any contract that includes DEI-related provisions, including requirements for  
27 contractors to implement DEI programs, conduct DEI training, or comply with DEI-related reporting  
28 obligations.

29           186:74 Review of Public School Contracts for DEI-Related Contract Provisions. No later than  
30 October 1, 2025, the commissioner of the department of education shall submit a single report to the  
31 senate education, senate education finance, house education funding, and house education policy and  
32 administration committees of the general court identifying all existing contracts containing DEI-  
33 related provisions in public schools. The report shall include contract descriptions, the specific DEI-  
34 related provisions, and the total financial obligation associated with each contract.

35           186:75 Review of Public School DEI-Related Contract Provisions.

36           I. The commissioner of the department of education shall establish a process by which all  
37 public schools shall conduct a review of existing contracts for the presence of DEI-related provisions.

1           II. No later than September 30, 2025, each public school shall submit a signed and certified  
2 report to the commissioner of the department of education identifying any contract containing DEI-  
3 related provisions. The report shall include contract descriptions, the specific DEI-related  
4 provisions, and the total financial obligation associated with each contract.

5           186:76 Final Compliance Report. The commissioner of the department of education shall submit  
6 a final compliance report to the governor, executive council, and the senate education, senate  
7 education finance, house education funding, and house education policy and administration  
8 committees of the general court by April 1, 2026, detailing the progress of public schools in  
9 eliminating DEI-related provisions from contracts.

10          187:77 Interpretation and Compliance.

11           I. Should a public school fail to abide by any section of this subdivision, either knowingly or  
12 unknowingly, the commissioner of the department of education shall immediately halt all sources of  
13 public funding to that public school, until such time as the school comes into compliance with all  
14 sections of this subdivision.

15           II. The commissioner of the department of education shall notify the state treasurer if a  
16 public school is not in compliance with this subdivision, at which time the treasurer shall halt all  
17 forms of public funding to the school until the commissioner has certified the school come into  
18 compliance with this subdivision.

19          335 New Paragraph; The State and Its Government; Department of Information Technology;  
20 Commissioner; Deputy Commissioner; Directors; Compensation. Amend RSA 21-R:3 by inserting  
21 after paragraph III the following new paragraph:

22           IV. The unclassified position of chief privacy officer is hereby established in the department  
23 of information technology. A person shall be qualified for the position by reason of education and  
24 experience, be appointed by the commissioner of the department of information technology, and  
25 serve at the pleasure of the commissioner. The salary of chief privacy officer shall be determined  
26 after assessment and review of the appropriate letter grade allocation in RSA 94:1-a, for positions  
27 which shall be conducted pursuant to RSA 94:1-d and RSA 14:14-c.

28          336 One Granite Place. 2023, 79:56 is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

29          79:56 One Granite Place. The proceeds of the sale of the former Laconia state school campus  
30 property shall be applied to any subsequent purchase of land, building, and other improvements at 1  
31 Granite Place Concord, New Hampshire and such building shall be used for state government office  
32 space. Such funds shall not lapse until June 30, 2027. To the extent proceeds are insufficient to  
33 cover the full cost of acquisition, the purchase shall be conditioned on the seller taking a promissory  
34 note for any unpaid balance for a period of up to 2 years at no interest cost on said note.

35          337 State Credit Card Contracts; Payment and Procurement Card Fund. Amend RSA 9-D:3, I  
36 to read as follows:

1 I. There is hereby established in the office of the state treasurer the payment and  
2 procurement card fund, which shall be a revolving fund administered by the department of  
3 administrative services. ~~[The fund shall be nonlapsing and continually appropriated to the~~  
4 ~~department of administrative services.]~~ The department of administrative services may make  
5 expenditures of up to \$100,000 in anticipation of revenue which may be received by this fund.

6 338 State Credit Card Contracts; Payment and Procurement Card Fund. Amend RSA 9-D:3, V  
7 to read as follows:

8 V. At the end of each ~~[fiscal year, the state treasurer shall credit the payment and~~  
9 ~~procurement card fund with interest and any other income earned]~~ **biennium, any funds**  
10 **remaining in excess of \$25,000 after expenses paid in accordance with paragraph III shall**  
11 **lapse to the general fund.**

12 339 Directive; Department of Administrative Services; Transfer from the Payment and  
13 Procurement Card Fund to the General Fund. Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, the  
14 sum of \$1,253,623 shall be transferred from the payment and procurement card fund, established  
15 under RSA 9-D:3, to the general fund on July 1, 2025.

16 340 Taxation; Board of Tax and Land Appeals; Administration of Oaths, Subpoenas, Etc.; Fees.  
17 Amend RSA 71-B:9 to read as follows:

18 71-B:9 Administration of Oaths, Subpoenas, Etc.; Fees. The board shall have authority to  
19 administer oaths and to compel the attendance of witnesses to proceedings before it. The board shall  
20 have the power to subpoena and subpoena duces tecum. Witnesses compelled to appear shall be paid  
21 the same fee and mileage that are paid to witnesses in the superior court of the state. A subpoena or  
22 subpoena duces tecum of the board may be served by any person designated in the subpoena or  
23 subpoena duces tecum to serve it. Any testimony given by a person duly sworn shall be subject to  
24 the pains and penalties of perjury. All applications or petitions to the board for which no filing fee  
25 has been otherwise specified by statute shall be accompanied by a ~~[\$65]~~ **\$125** filing fee. Costs and  
26 attorney's fees may be taxed as in the superior court.

27 341 Taxation; Board of Tax and Land Appeals; Order for Reassessment. Amend RSA 71-B:16, I  
28 to read as follows:

29 I. When a specific written complaint is filed with it, by a property owner, within 90 days of  
30 the date on which the last tax bill on the original warrant is sent by the collector of taxes of the  
31 taxing district, that a particular parcel of real estate or item of personal property not owned by him  
32 has been fraudulently, improperly, unequally or illegally assessed. The board shall consider only one  
33 complaint from a property owner for each parcel of land until such time as a reassessment has been  
34 made. The complainant shall pay a fee of ~~[\$65]~~ **\$125** for each specific particular parcel or specific  
35 item of personal property complained of. The board shall send notice by certified mail to the  
36 taxpayer against whose property the complaint is made; or

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1           342 Taxation; Property Taxes; Appeal From Refusal to Grant Exemption, Deferral, or Tax  
2 Credit. Amend RSA 72:34-a to read as follows:

3           72:34-a Appeal From Refusal to Grant Exemption, Deferral, or Tax Credit. Whenever the  
4 selectmen or assessors refuse to grant an applicant an exemption, deferral, or tax credit to which the  
5 applicant may be entitled under the provisions of RSA 72:23, 23-d, 23-e, 23-f, 23-g, 23-h, 23-i, 23-j,  
6 23-k, 28, 28-b, 28-c, 29-a, 30, 31, 32, 35, 36-a, 37, 37-a, 37-b, 38-a, 38-b, 39-a, 39-b, 41, 42, 62, 66, or  
7 70 the applicant may appeal in writing, on or before September 1 following the date of notice of tax  
8 under RSA 72:1-d, to the board of tax and land appeals or the superior court, which may order an  
9 exemption, deferral, or tax credit, or an abatement if a tax has been assessed. ***The fee to appeal to***  
10 ***the board of tax and land appeals shall be \$75.***

11           343 Taxation; Excavation Tax; Excavation Tax Appeal and Abatement. Amend RSA 72-B:13 to  
12 read as follows:

13           72-B:13 Excavation Tax Appeal and Abatement. An owner may, within 90 days of notice of the  
14 excavation tax, appeal to the assessing officials in writing for an abatement from the original  
15 assessment, but no owner shall be entitled to an abatement unless such owner has complied with the  
16 provisions of RSA 72-B:8, RSA 72-B:8-a and RSA 72-B:9. If the assessing officials neglect or refuse  
17 to abate, an owner may, at the owner's election within 6 months of notice of such tax and not  
18 afterwards, petition the superior court of the county where the operation took place, or the board of  
19 tax and land appeals. A petition to the board of tax and land appeals shall be accompanied with a  
20 [~~\$65~~] ***\$100*** filing fee.

21           344 Taxation; Residences in Industrial or Commercial Zone; Appeal to Board of Tax and Land  
22 Appeals. Amend RSA 75:14, I to read as follows:

23           I. If the assessing officials deny in whole or in part any application for classification as an  
24 eligible residence, the applicant, having complied with the requirements of RSA 75:11, I, may, on or  
25 before 30 days after any such action by the assessing officials, in writing and upon a payment to the  
26 board of tax and land appeals of a [~~\$40~~] ***\$100*** filing fee, apply to such board for a review of the action  
27 of the assessing officials.

28           345 Taxation; Residences in Industrial or Commercial Zone; Reclassification by Board of Tax  
29 and Land Appeals. Amend RSA 75:16, I to read as follows:

30           I. When a specific written complaint is filed with it by a landowner, within 90 days of being  
31 listed as provided by RSA 75:11, III, that a particular residence not owned by the landowner has  
32 been fraudulently, improperly, or illegally so classified, the complainant shall pay to the board of tax  
33 and land appeals for each specific particular residence complained of a [~~\$40~~] ***\$100*** fee. The board  
34 shall send notice by certified mail to the owner against whose property the complaint is made; or

35           346 Taxation; Abatement; By Board of Tax and Land Appeals. Amend RSA 76:16-a to read as  
36 follows:

1 I. If the selectmen neglect or refuse to so abate, in accordance with RSA 76:16, I(b), any  
 2 person aggrieved, having complied with the requirements of RSA 74~~[, upon payment of a \$65 filing~~  
 3 ~~fee, may apply in writing to the board of tax and land appeals.]~~ **may appeal in writing to the**  
 4 **board of tax and land appeals. Such appeal shall be subject to a filing fee of \$125 for**  
 5 **property assessed for \$1,500,000 or less, and \$200 for property assessed for more than**  
 6 **\$1,500,000.** The appeal shall be filed on or before September 1 after the date of notice of tax under  
 7 RSA 76:1-a, and not afterwards. The board, after inquiry and investigation, shall hold a hearing if  
 8 requested as provided in this section and shall make such order thereon as justice requires; and such  
 9 order shall be enforceable as provided hereafter. If the appeal is filed before July 1 the person  
 10 aggrieved shall state in the appeal to the board the date of the municipality's decision on the RSA  
 11 76:16, I(b) application.

12 347 Taxation; Abatement; By Court. Amend RSA 76:17 to read as follows:

13 76:17 By Court. ~~[If the selectmen neglect or refuse so to abate in accordance with RSA 76:16,~~  
 14 ~~I(b), any person aggrieved, having complied with the requirements of RSA 74, may, in lieu of~~  
 15 ~~appealing pursuant to RSA 76:16 a, apply by petition to the superior court in the county, which shall~~  
 16 ~~make such order thereon as justice requires. The appeal shall be filed on or before September 1~~  
 17 ~~following the date of notice of tax under RSA 76:1 a, and not afterwards. If the appeal is filed before~~  
 18 ~~July 1 following the date of notice of tax, the person aggrieved shall state in the appeal to the court~~  
 19 ~~the date of the municipality's decision on the RSA 76:16, I(b) application.]~~ **Any person having**  
 20 **submitted a completed application to the board, pursuant to RSA 76:16-a, which the board**  
 21 **has processed in accordance with RSA 541-A:29, I and collected the required filing fee,**  
 22 **shall have the right to remove the appeal to the superior court in the county where the tax**  
 23 **was assessed for trial, which shall make such order thereon as justice requires. Removal**  
 24 **to the superior court shall be subject to a \$200 fee, which shall be collected by the board, in**  
 25 **addition to the fee required pursuant to RSA 76:16-a. Any request to remove the appeal**  
 26 **shall be made within 45 days of filing with the board.**

27 348 Taxation; Current Use Taxation; Appeal to Board of Tax and Land Appeals. Amend RSA  
 28 79-A:9, I to read as follows:

29 I. If the assessing officials deny in whole or in part any application for classification as open  
 30 space land, or grant a different classification than that applied for, the applicant, having complied  
 31 with the requirements of RSA 79-A:5, II may, on or before 6 months after any such action by the  
 32 assessing officials, in writing and upon a payment of a [~~\$65~~] **\$125** filing fee, apply to such board for a  
 33 review of the action of the assessing officials.

34 349 Taxation; Current Use Taxation; Abatement of Land Use Change Tax. Amend RSA 79-  
 35 A:10, III(a)(1) to read as follows:

36 (1) Apply in writing to the board of tax and land appeals accompanied with a [~~\$65~~]  
 37 **\$125** filing fee; or

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1       350 Taxation; Current Use Taxation; Reclassification by Board of Tax and Land Appeals.  
2 Amend RSA 79-A:12, I to read as follows:

3           I. When a specific written complaint is filed with it by a land owner, within 90 days of being  
4 listed as provided by RSA 79-A:5, IV, that a particular parcel of land not owned by him has been  
5 fraudulently, improperly or illegally so classified, the complainant shall pay a fee of [~~\$10~~] **\$50** to the  
6 board of tax and land appeals for each specific particular parcel of land complained of. The board of  
7 tax and land appeals shall send notice by certified mail to the owner against whose land the  
8 complaint is made; or

9       351 Taxation; Taxation of Farm Structures and Land Under Farm Structures; Appeal to Board  
10 of Tax and Land Appeals. Amend RSA 79-F:6, I to read as follows:

11           I. If the assessing officials deny in whole or in part any application for classification as land  
12 under qualifying farm structures, or grant a different classification than that applied for, the  
13 applicant, having complied with the requirements of RSA 79-F:4, II may, on or before 6 months after  
14 any such action by the assessing officials, in writing and upon a payment of a [~~\$65~~] **\$125** filing fee,  
15 apply to such board for a review of the action of the assessing officials.

16       352 Taxation; Taxation of Farm Structures and Land Under Farm Structures; Abatement of  
17 Use Change Tax. Amend RSA 79-F:8, III(a)(1) to read as follows:

18           (1) Apply in writing to the board of tax and land appeals accompanied with a [~~\$65~~]  
19 **\$125** filing fee; or

20       353 Taxation; Taxation of Qualifying Historic Buildings; Appeal to Board of Tax and Land  
21 Appeals. Amend RSA 79-G:5, I to read as follows:

22           I. If the assessing officials deny in whole or in part any application for assessment as a  
23 qualifying historic building, the applicant, having complied with the requirements of RSA 79-G:4, II  
24 may, on or before 6 months after any such action by the assessing officials, in writing and upon a  
25 payment of a [~~\$65~~] **\$125** filing fee, apply to such board for a review of the action of the assessing  
26 officials.

27       354 Taxation; Taxes In Unincorporated Towns And Unorganized Places; Abatement of Taxes.  
28 Amend RSA 81:5, II to read as follows:

29           II. Any person aggrieved by the assessment of a tax, who has complied with the  
30 requirements of RSA 74, may, by March 1 following the date of notice of the tax under RSA 76:1-a,  
31 and not afterwards, apply in writing to the commissioners in accordance with RSA 76:16, I(b). Upon  
32 receipt of an application for abatement, the commissioners shall review the application and respond  
33 in accordance with RSA 76:16, II. If the commissioners neglect or refuse to abate, any person  
34 aggrieved, having complied with the requirements of RSA 74, may, on or before September 1 after  
35 the date of notice of tax under RSA 76:1-a, and not afterwards, file an appeal with the [~~superior~~  
36 ~~court in the county where the property is located, or with the board of tax and land appeals, upon~~  
37 ~~payment of a \$65 filing fee.~~] **board of tax and land appeals in the same manner as prescribed**

1 *under RSA 76:16-a, and may remove the appeal to the superior court in the county where*  
2 *the tax was assessed in the same manner authorized under RSA 76:17.* After appropriate  
3 inquiry or hearing, the board or court, as the case may be, shall make such order thereon as justice  
4 requires.

5 355 Transportation; Laying Out Highways; Abatement and Appeal of Betterment Assessments.  
6 Amend RSA 231:32, III(a)(1) to read as follows:

7 (1) Appeal in writing to the board of tax and land appeals, upon payment of a [~~\$65~~]  
8 **\$125** filing fee; or

9 356 Courts; Board of Tax and Land Appeals; Filing Fee. Amend RSA 498-A:16-a to read as  
10 follows:

11 498-A:16-a Filing Fee. The condemnor shall pay a fee of [~~\$100~~] **\$250** for each condemnation  
12 proceeding brought before the board. The filing fees collected under this chapter shall be deposited  
13 to the general fund.

14 357 Contingent Appropriation. In the event combined state general and education trust fund  
15 revenues for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, as reported in the audited annual comprehensive  
16 financial report pursuant to RSA 21-I:8, II(a), exceed the combined plan, and the actual statewide  
17 general fund lapse amount meets or exceeds estimates contained on the final general fund  
18 comparative statement of undesignated surplus as prepared by the office of legislative budget  
19 assistant, any state agency required to reduce state general fund appropriations in fiscal year 2027,  
20 pursuant to sections contained in HB 1 and HB 2 of the 2025 general legislative session, may  
21 request, with prior approval of the fiscal committee of the general court, that the governor and  
22 council authorize additional funding up to the amounts contained therein. The governor is  
23 authorized to draw a warrant for said sum out of any money in the treasury not otherwise  
24 appropriated.

25 358 Disability Retirement Benefits. Amend RSA 100-A:6, II(e)(2)(A) to read as follows:

26 (A) The member is found, *on or after July 1, 2024*, to be [~~mentally or~~]  
27 physically incapacitated for the further performance of duty and that such incapacity is likely to be  
28 permanent;

29 359 New Chapter; Coos County Established as Distressed Place-Based Economy. Amend RSA  
30 by inserting after chapter 162-T the following new chapter:

31 CHAPTER 162-U

32 COOS COUNTY ESTABLISHED AS DISTRESSED PLACE-BASED ECONOMY

33 162-U:1 Definitions. In this chapter:

34 I. "Place-based economy" means a tailored economic development response that uses a  
35 region's unique characteristics to create and sustain growth. The goal is to improve the quality of  
36 life and economic vitality by building on its limited strengths and assets.

1           II. "Distressed" means an area that has a high rate of poverty, unemployment, or  
2 outmigration and is the most severely and persistently economically distressed and underdeveloped.

3           162-U:2 Regulatory Principle for Department Commissioners. Commissioners of state  
4 departments shall include county government input for any Coos County decisions impacting its  
5 place-based economy. Collaborative regulatory approaches with existing regional economic  
6 objectives shall minimize unintended economic impacts. To protect the health, safety, and economic  
7 welfare of Coos' interdependent place-based economy, agencies shall seek to achieve statutory goals  
8 as effectively and efficiently as possible without imposing unnecessary burdens on local  
9 governments. Failure to recognize differences in the scale and resources of these entities adversely  
10 affects competition in the marketplace, discourages innovation, and restricts productivity  
11 improvements to the economic landscape.

12           162-U:3 Application. To uphold the principles outlined in this chapter, the following actions  
13 apply solely to agency decisions that would result in an economic downturn and impact private  
14 sector entities desiring to engage in job creation and economic development activities as well as a  
15 decrease in local and state revenues. These actions do not apply to residential or unrelated  
16 regulatory permitting matters. Agency commissioners shall ensure that any management plans or  
17 decisions in Coos County promptly and thoroughly consider and avoid potential impacts on the  
18 regional economy and related local and state economic development plans. If a decision is found to  
19 negatively affect the region and is deemed unavoidable, commissioners must provide Coos County  
20 with a clear justification for the decision and develop mitigation measures for undermining  
21 revitalization investments to improve the economic performance.

22           360 Effective Date. Section 359 of this act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

23           361 Reduction in Force Notice and Payment.

24           I. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, any executive branch  
25 department, except for the department of health and human services that has a classified position  
26 unfunded or repealed under HB 1 or HB 2 of the 2025 legislative session, whose incumbent cannot  
27 be reassigned resulting in employment separation due to position elimination, shall not be given an  
28 employment separation due to position elimination or reduction in force notice until June 26, 2025,  
29 resulting in a last day of work on July 10, 2025, with payment on July 25, 2025. Departments may  
30 request funding from the department of administrative services to cover the final payments made in  
31 fiscal year 2026 from funds available in the pay adjustment fund established in RSA 99:4, or the  
32 benefit adjustment fund established in RSA 9:17-c, or both.

33           II. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, \$400,000 shall be reserved  
34 from the pay adjustment fund and \$250,000 shall be reserved from the benefit adjustment fund and  
35 shall not lapse on June 30, 2025. The reserves shall be available for departments to cover the  
36 payments made under paragraph I. The remaining balances after payouts have been made shall

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1 lapse to the revenue stabilization reserve account established in RSA 9:13-e no later than September  
2 30, 2025.

3         III. Any state employee laid off due to their position being unfunded or abolished pursuant  
4 to HB 1 or HB 2 of the 2025 legislative session shall be granted a waiver pursuant to Executive  
5 Order 2025-02 for any open state position that they are qualified to fill and receive priority  
6 consideration.

7         362 Effective Date. Section 361 of this act shall take effect June 30, 2025.

8         363 Board Established. Amend RSA 679:1 to read as follows:

9         679:1 Board Established. There is hereby established a housing appeals board, hereinafter  
10 referred to as the board, which shall be composed of [3] **2** members who shall individually and  
11 collectively be learned and experienced in questions of land use law or housing development or both.  
12 At least one member shall be an attorney licensed to practice law in the state of New Hampshire,  
13 and [~~at least one member~~] **the other** shall be either a professional engineer or land surveyor. The  
14 members of the board shall be full-time employees and shall not engage in any other employment,  
15 appointments, or duties during their terms that is in conflict with their duties as members of the  
16 board.

17         364 New Section; Administrative Attachment. Amend RSA 679 by inserting after section 1 the  
18 following new section:

19         679:1-a Housing Appeals Board; Administrative Attachment. The housing appeals board shall  
20 be administratively attached to the board of tax and land appeals for budgetary and administrative  
21 purposes, in accordance with RSA 21-G:10. Staff for each board may provide support for either  
22 board, as is deemed necessary by each board.

23         365 Appointment; Term; Chair. RSA 679:2 is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

24         679:2 Appointment; Term; Chair. The members of the housing appeals board shall serve at the  
25 pleasure of the governor and council, rather than fixed terms. The governor and council shall  
26 appoint board members and designate one member as chair, who shall serve in that capacity at the  
27 discretion of the appointing authority.

28         366 New Section; Tie Vote; Resolution. Amend RSA 679 by inserting after section 9 the  
29 following new section:

30         679:9-a Tie Vote; Resolution. In the event of a tie vote between the 2 members of the housing  
31 appeals board, a third, temporary voting member shall be selected from among the sitting members  
32 of the board of tax and land appeals, who shall cast the deciding vote on the matter. The selection  
33 shall be made in rotation among available members of the board of tax and land appeals.

34         367 Board of Tax and Land Appeals; Membership. Amend RSA 71-B:2 to read as follows:

35         71-B:2 Appointment; Term; Chairman. [~~The members of the board shall be appointed by the~~  
36 ~~governor and executive council for a term of 5 years and until their successors are appointed and~~  
37 ~~qualified; provided, however, that any vacancy on the board shall be filled for the unexpired term.~~]

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

5 368 Board of Tax and Land Appeals; Quorum. Amend RSA 71-B:6, I to read as follows:

6 I. In all matters except in hearings and decisions relating to all taxation and eminent  
7 domain matters, a majority of the board shall constitute a quorum to transact business. In hearings  
8 and decisions in all taxation and eminent domain appeals, the board may sit with a quorum of 2;  
9 provided, however, that if the 2 members cannot reach a consensus on the decision, a third member  
10 shall review the record and participate in the decision, and the decision of the majority of the 3 shall  
11 constitute the board's decision. *The third member may be a temporary voting member selected*  
12 *from among the sitting members of the housing appeals board, with the selection of the*  
13 *member being made in rotation among available members of the housing appeals board.*

14 369 Office of the Chief Medical Examiner; Accounts. Amend RSA 611-B:27 to read as follows:

15 611-B:27 [~~Assistant Deputy~~] *Office of the Chief* Medical Examiner Accounts.

16 I. [~~Assistant deputy medical examiners~~] *The office of the chief medical examiner* shall  
17 be paid at the following rates: telephone consultations-~~[\$25;]~~ *\$50*; death investigations involving an  
18 external examination of the body-~~[\$140;]~~ *\$200*, plus mileage at the state rate; pre-cremation  
19 examinations conducted pursuant to RSA 325-A:18-~~[\$50;]~~ *\$100*.

20 II. [~~Assistant deputy medical examiners shall submit all claims for telephone consultation~~  
21 ~~fees, death investigation fees and expenses, and pre-cremation examination fees to the office of the~~  
22 ~~chief medical examiner, which shall authorize such claims and submit them for payment to the state~~  
23 ~~treasurer, chargeable to the medico-legal investigation fund established pursuant to RSA 611-B:28.]  
24 On a monthly basis, the office of the chief medical examiner shall bill each of the counties for the  
25 services provided to that county by the assistant deputy medical examiners during the previous  
26 month, and any body transportation costs associated with the billed services, as provided under RSA  
27 611-B:15, I. Services shall be billed at the following rates: telephone consultation-~~[\$25;]~~ *\$50*; death  
28 investigation-~~[\$140;]~~ *\$200* travel [~~expenses the~~] *expenses at the* state mileage rate. The county  
29 treasurer shall submit payment to the state treasurer, for deposit in the medico-legal investigation  
30 fund *pursuant to RSA 611-B:28*.~~

31 370 Limited Electrical Energy Producers Act; Definition; Eligible Customer Generator. Amend  
32 RSA 362-A:1-a, II-b to read as follows:

33 II-b. "Eligible customer-generator" or "customer-generator" means an electric utility  
34 customer who owns, operates, or purchases power from an electrical generating facility either  
35 powered by renewable energy or which employs a heat led combined heat and power system, with a  
36 total peak generating capacity of up to and including one megawatt, except as provided for a  
37 municipal host as defined in paragraph II-c, ~~that is located behind a retail meter on the customer's~~

1 ~~premises,]~~ ***and an industrial host as defined under paragraph II-g, that is located behind a***  
2 ***retail meter on the customer's premises,*** is interconnected and operates in parallel with the  
3 electric grid, and is used to offset the customer's own electricity requirements. Incremental  
4 generation added to an existing generation facility, that does not itself qualify for net metering, shall  
5 qualify if such incremental generation meets the qualifications of this paragraph and is metered  
6 separately from the ~~[nonqualifying]~~ ***non-qualifying*** facility.

7 371 New Paragraph; Limited Electrical Energy Producers Act Definitions. Amend RSA 362-A:1-  
8 a by inserting after paragraph II-f the following new paragraph:

9 II-g. "Industrial host" means a customer-generator with a total peak generating capacity of  
10 greater than one megawatt and less than 5 megawatts, used to offset the electricity requirements of  
11 a group consisting exclusively of commercial, industrial, or institutional entities with one or more  
12 accounts, provided that all accounts are located within the same utility franchise service territory. If  
13 an industrial host's total annual net exported generation exceeds the total annual electricity usage of  
14 the host and members of the group, the industrial host shall be entitled to compensation for that  
15 excess generation according to the process established by the department's 900 rules for annual  
16 reconciliation. An industrial host may be owned by either a public or private entity.

17 372 New Paragraph; Net Energy Metering. Amend RSA 362-A:9 by inserting after paragraph II  
18 the following new paragraph:

19 II-a. Alternative tariffs for net energy metering shall be made available to eligible customer-  
20 generators by each electric distribution utility in conformance with Order No. 26,029 dated June 23,  
21 2017, and with net metering rules adopted by the commission. Any project that begins receiving  
22 compensation under Order No. 26,029 alternative tariffs will be eligible to continue receiving that  
23 tariff for either 20 years from the year it first begins receiving compensation or through the initial  
24 tariff term ending on December 31, 2040, whichever is longer. If the commission creates new net  
25 metering tariffs through an adjudicated proceeding before December 31, 2040, eligible customer-  
26 generators receiving Order No. 26,029 alternative tariffs will have the option of transitioning to new  
27 tariffs created through that proceeding. If an eligible customer-generator elects to transfer to a new  
28 tariff, they may not return to Order No. 26,029 alternative tariffs. Upon the expiration of a  
29 customer-generator's eligibility under Order No. 26,029 alternative tariffs, the eligible customer-  
30 generator will have the option of transitioning to the tariff available at that time.

31 373 New Paragraph; Net Energy Metering; Consumption. Amend RSA 362-A:9 by inserting  
32 after paragraph IV the following new paragraph:

33 IV-a.(a) Facilities eligible for the net metering tariff under this section for customer-  
34 generators larger than one megawatt and up to 5 megawatt with an in-service date after January 1,  
35 2026 and not acting as a group net metering host, must consume at least 33 percent of the  
36 generation, on an annual basis.

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1 (b) Consumption requirements under this section shall not apply to low and moderate  
2 income customers as defined in administrative rules of the public utilities commission in PUC  
3 902.21.

4 374 Cremation of Human Remains; Medical Examiner's Certificate. Amend RSA 325-A:18, II to  
5 read as follows:

6 II. The crematory authority shall forward a copy of the cremation certificate to the office of  
7 the chief medical examiner, accompanied by a [~~\$60~~] **\$100** fee. The fee shall be deposited in the  
8 medico-legal investigative fund established pursuant to RSA 611-B:28.

9 375 Appropriation; New Hampshire-Ireland Trade Council. The sum of \$20,000 for the  
10 biennium ending June 30, 2027, is hereby appropriated to the department of business and economic  
11 affairs for deposit into the New Hampshire-Ireland trade council fund, established by RSA 12-O:22-  
12 a, VI. The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said sum out of any money in the treasury  
13 not otherwise appropriated.

14 376 Repeal. The following are repealed:

15 I. RSA 275:37-c, relative to the use of criminal records in employment decisions.

16 II. RSA 275-H, relative to use of criminal records in employment decisions.

17 377 New Hampshire Mental Health Services; Involuntary Admissions; Payment for Legal  
18 Services. Amend RSA 135-C:23 to read as follows:

19 135-C:23 Legal Services; Payment; Appointment. [~~The client or person sought to be admitted~~  
20 ~~shall pay the costs of the legal services in connection with hearings held under this chapter.~~] If the  
21 client or person sought to be admitted [~~is unable to pay for~~] **does not have legal** counsel **in**  
22 **connection with hearings held under this chapter**, the court shall appoint [~~either a member of~~  
23 ~~New Hampshire Legal Assistance, or its successor organization, or another~~] **an** attorney who shall  
24 be compensated at a rate as determined by the supreme court. **The cost of such court-appointed**  
25 **attorneys, including counsel and investigative, expert, or other services and expenses**  
26 **approved by the circuit court that are necessary to provide adequate representation, shall**  
27 **be paid from funds appropriated for indigent defense pursuant to RSA 604-A.**

28 378 Workers' Compensation; First Responder's Critical Injury Benefit. Amend RSA 281-A:32-a,  
29 II to read as follows:

30 II. Payments awarded under this section shall be subject to all other provisions of RSA 281-

31 A. Total compensation payments for all additional compensation claims paid under this section shall  
32 not exceed \$125,000 per claimant. Benefits paid under this section for all claimants shall not exceed  
33 [~~\$500,000~~] **\$750,000** per biennium.

34 379 Effective Date. Section 378 of this act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

35 380 New Subdivision; Ownership or Lease of Real Property by Foreign Principals from Foreign  
36 Countries of Concern. Amend RSA 477 by inserting after section 477:22-a the following new  
37 subdivision:

1 Ownership or Lease of Real Property by Foreign Principals from Foreign Countries of Concern  
2 477:22-b Definitions. In this subdivision:

3 I. "Company" or "development" means a sole proprietorship, organization, association,  
4 corporation, partnership, trust, venture, group, subgroup, or any other entity or organization,  
5 including its subsidiary or affiliate, that exists for profit-making purposes or to otherwise secure  
6 economic advantage.

7 II. "Foreign country of concern" means the People's Republic of China, the Russian  
8 Federation, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Syrian Arab Republic, and the Democratic People's  
9 Republic of Korea, including any agencies, institutions, instrumentalities, ruling political parties, or  
10 any other entity exercising significant control over any of these listed countries.

11 III. "Foreign principal" means:

12 (a) The government or any government official, in any capacity, of a foreign country of  
13 concern.

14 (b) A company, development, or other entity organized under the laws of, or having its  
15 principal place of business in, a foreign country of concern.

16 (c) Any natural person who is an employee or agent of a foreign country of concern.

17 IV. "Protected facility" means the buildings, fixtures, and land contained on or within the  
18 perimeters of the following:

19 (a) New Hampshire National Guard in Concord, New Hampshire.

20 (b) New Hampshire Army Aviation Support Facility in Concord, New Hampshire.

21 (c) Readiness Center of the 197th Artillery Brigade in Manchester, New Hampshire.

22 (d) Pease Air National Guard Base in Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

23 (e) New Boston Space Force Station in New Boston, New Hampshire.

24 (f) Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

25 V. "Real property" means land, buildings, fixtures, and all other improvements to land.

26 VI. "Within 10 miles of a protected facility" means real property within 10 miles of a  
27 protected facility, measured as the shortest distance between any portion of the real property's  
28 perimeter and any portion of the protected facility's perimeter.

29 477:22-c Ownership, Control, and Occupancy; Prohibitions.

30 I. No foreign principal may acquire any ownership or controlling interest in real property  
31 within 10 miles of any protected facility by any means, including but not limited to, purchase, grant,  
32 contract, eminent domain, or demise.

33 II. No foreign principal may lease or otherwise enter into a contract to occupy or control, or  
34 allow another foreign principal or agent to occupy or control, any real property within 10 miles of a  
35 protected facility.

36 477:22-d Qualified Renter/Purchaser Affidavit Required.

1 I. Every person or entity who leases or acquires an ownership or controlling interest in  
2 property within 10 miles of a protected facility shall file with the office of the attorney general,  
3 within one business day of closing, or, in the case of a lease, within one business day of the delivery  
4 of keys, access codes, or other methods of access to the premises, a qualified renter/purchaser  
5 affidavit signed under penalty of perjury, attesting that the person acquiring an ownership or  
6 controlling interest, or leasing the property:

7 (a) Is not a foreign principal or an agent of a foreign principal, as defined in this  
8 subdivision;

9 (b) Has read and understands both the prohibitions in this subdivision and the penalties  
10 for violations of the terms of this subdivision; and

11 (c) Is not prohibited from purchasing or leasing the property under this subdivision.

12 II. A failure to submit the qualified renter/purchaser affidavit to the attorney general's office  
13 does not affect the title or insurability of the title for the real property, or subject the listing,  
14 brokering, closing, or leasing agent to civil or criminal liability, unless the agent has actual  
15 knowledge that the transaction will result in a violation of this section so long as the agent has  
16 complied with the notice requirement in RSA 477:4-i. Nothing in this paragraph shall preclude the  
17 attorney general's office from initiating a forfeiture action in accordance with RSA 477:22-f.

18 III. Failure to submit a required affidavit under this section shall result in a \$500 civil  
19 penalty. Prior to an action against a natural person to impose the civil penalty, the attorney general  
20 shall give notice and provide 60 days to cure the violation. No opportunity to cure shall be offered to  
21 an entity in RSA 477:22-b, as knowledge of the filing requirement under this section shall be  
22 imputed.

23 477:22-e Illegal Acquisition of Property by a Foreign Principal.

24 I. Acquisition of property in violation of RSA 477:22-c is a:

25 (a) Class A misdemeanor, when committed by a natural person.

26 (b) Class B felony, when committed by an entity defined in RSA 477:22-b, I.

27 II. The attorney general's office may refer a violation of this section for prosecution to the  
28 county attorney's office in the county in which the subject property is located.

29 III. The attorney general's office may pursue a forfeiture action according to RSA 477:22-f  
30 against a person or entity convicted of an offense under paragraph I of this section.

31 477:22-f Forfeiture of Real Property.

32 I. The department of justice may bring a forfeiture action according to this section against a  
33 person or entity who secured any ownership interest in real property in violation of this subdivision  
34 and who is convicted of an offense under RSA 477:22-e, I regarding that subject property.

35 II. Real property that is the subject of a conviction under RSA 477:22-e, I may be seized by  
36 the state and forfeited as provided in this section. Property seized under this section may be held by  
37 the state to secure it prior to forfeiture proceedings.

1           III. The state may seize the subject property by filing in the registry of deeds in the county  
2 where the property is located a notice of attachment stating that the state has attached the  
3 identified property pursuant to this section.

4           IV. The state shall have a lien on any property subject to forfeiture under this section upon  
5 seizure of such property. Upon forfeiture, the state's title to the property relates back to the date of  
6 seizure.

7           V. Within 30 days of the seizure of any real property under paragraph II, the attorney  
8 general shall file a petition in the superior court of the county in which the property was seized,  
9 requesting forfeiture of the property. The court shall issue an order of notice requiring the state to  
10 send by certified mail a copy of the petition to all owners of the property, including those with partial  
11 ownership or controlling interests, and to other persons appearing to have an interest in the  
12 property. If no such petition is filed within 30 days of the seizure of the property, the property shall  
13 be returned to its owners.

14           VI. Within 30 days of receipt of the attorney general's petition for forfeiture, the court shall  
15 schedule a hearing. This hearing shall be conducted as a civil action. The court may order forfeiture  
16 of the property seized under paragraph II if the state establishes, by a preponderance of the  
17 evidence, that (a) the ownership or controlling interest in the property was acquired in violation of  
18 this section, and (b) that the person or entity holding their interest in the property knew or should  
19 have known that they acquired their interest in violation of this chapter.

20           VII. If forfeiture is granted, the attorney general shall provide for the disposition of the  
21 forfeited property in any manner not prohibited by law, including retention of the property for  
22 official use by law enforcement or other public agencies, or by sale at public auction. The attorney  
23 general shall pay the reasonable expenses of the seizure, forfeiture proceeding, and sale of property  
24 from the proceeds of any public auction of forfeited items or from any penalty obtained under this  
25 chapter. All outstanding recorded liens on any property forfeited shall be paid in full within a  
26 reasonable time following the court proceedings.

27           477:22-g Rulemaking. The attorney general shall adopt rules, pursuant to RSA 541-A, relative  
28 to:

29           I. The contents and filing requirements for the qualified renter/purchaser affidavit; and

30           II. Other provisions of this subdivision that the attorney general determines require  
31 administrative rules.

32           381 New Section; Notification of Qualified Renter/Purchaser Affidavit Requirement. Amend  
33 RSA 477 by inserting after section 4-h the following new section:

34           477:4-i Notification of Qualified Renter/Purchaser Affidavit Requirement.

35           In any purchase and sale agreement, lease agreement, or rental agreement involving real  
36 property within 10 miles of a protected facility as defined in RSA 477:22-b, before signing an  
37 agreement to sell, transfer, lessee, or rent such real property the seller, lessor, or landlord, or the

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1 seller, lessor, or landlord's agent, shall provide written notice to the buyer, lessee, or tenant that the  
2 buyer, lessee, or tenant is required to file a qualified renter/purchase affidavit with the attorney  
3 general's office pursuant to RSA 477:22-d.

4 382 Effective Date. Sections 380 and 381 of this act shall take effect January 1, 2026.

5 383 Department of Corrections; Probation/Parole Officer Positions. Notwithstanding any other  
6 provision of law, of the probation/parole officer positions funded in accounting unit 02-46-046-  
7 464010-8302, any that become vacant due to attrition shall result in one such position remaining  
8 vacant for the biennium ending June 30, 2027.

9 384 Committee Established. There is established a committee to study the creation of the New  
10 Hampshire office of film and creative media.

11 385 Membership and Compensation.

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

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

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

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

18 386 Duties. The committee shall:

19 I. Review the potential cost and benefits of establishing such an office and tax credit;

20 II. Identify what other states have done;

21 III. Make recommendations on what would be the best model;

22 IV. Solicit testimony, including from the commissioner of business and economic affairs, the  
23 commissioner of natural and cultural resources, and any person or organization with relevant  
24 information or expertise, regarding establishing such an office and tax credit.

25 387 Chairperson; Quorum. The members of the study committee shall elect a chairperson from  
26 among the members. The first meeting of the committee shall be called by the senate member. The  
27 first meeting of the committee shall be held within 30 days of the effective date of this section. Two  
28 members of the committee shall constitute a quorum.

29 388 Report. The committee shall report its findings and any recommendations for proposed  
30 legislation to the president of the senate, the speaker of the house of representatives, the senate  
31 clerk, the house clerk, the governor, and the state library on or before November 1, 2025.

32 389 Effective Date. Sections 384-388 of this act shall take effect upon its passage.

33 390 Appropriations; Housing Champion Designation and Grant Program Fund; Lapse  
34 Extension. Amend 2023, 79:466, I to read:

35 I. The sum of \$5,000,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, which shall not lapse until  
36 June 30, [2025] **2026**, is hereby appropriated to the New Hampshire housing champion designation

1 and grant program fund. The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said sum out of any  
2 money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

3 391 Effective Date. Section 390 of this act shall take effect June 30, 2025.

4 392 Sale of the Sununu Youth Services Center. 2023, 2:4 is repealed and reenacted to read as  
5 follows:

6 2:4 Sale of the Sununu Youth Services Center (SYSC).

7 I. Notwithstanding RSA 4:40, the department of administrative services shall commence a  
8 search by whatever reasonable means necessary for a purchaser for the entire property currently  
9 housing the SYSC on South River Road in Manchester, New Hampshire and sell the property to a  
10 suitable buyer in accordance with this section. Identification of a purchaser that will enhance the  
11 tax and business tax rolls of the city of Manchester and the state of New Hampshire shall be a high  
12 priority.

13 II. The department shall offer the property for sale at not less than market value.

14 III. The department shall negotiate and execute any contracts or other agreements or  
15 actions to accomplish the sale and lease of the property in accordance with this section.

16 IV. The department shall consult with the city of Manchester, the New Hampshire  
17 department of business and economic affairs, and other organizations, as appropriate, prior to any  
18 sale of the property. The sale of the SYSC shall be approved by the governor and council.

19 V. All proceeds and revenue from the sale of the SYSC shall be deposited in the youth  
20 development center claims and administration settlement fund, established in RSA 21-M:11-a.

21 393 Department of Business and Economic Affairs; Division of Travel and Tourism Budget;  
22 Meals and Rooms Tax Revenue. Amend RSA 12-O:11-b to read as follows:

23 12-O:11-b Division of Travel and Tourism Budget; Meals and Rooms Tax Revenue. The budget  
24 of the division of travel and tourism, including the travel and tourism development fund established  
25 by RSA 12-O:16, shall be funded at an amount no less than 3.15 percent of the net income identified  
26 by RSA 78-A:26, I, ***plus the income identified under RSA 78-A:26, III***, for the most recently  
27 completed fiscal year.

28 394 Effective Date. Section 393 of this act shall take effect July 1, 2027.

29 395 Tax Amnesty.

30 I. Notwithstanding the provisions of any other law to the contrary, with respect to taxes  
31 administered and collected by the department of revenue administration, an amnesty from the  
32 assessment or payment of all penalties and interest exceeding 50 percent of the applicable interest,  
33 as calculated pursuant to RSA 21-J:28 on the date of payment for the tax period, shall apply to  
34 unpaid taxes reported and paid in full between December 1, 2025, and February 15, 2026, regardless  
35 of whether previously assessed. This amnesty shall only apply to taxes due but unpaid on or before  
36 June 30, 2025.

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1           II. Without in any way limiting the authority otherwise vested in the commissioner under  
2 the law, the commissioner may consider the failure to pay such amounts during such amnesty period  
3 as a factor when abating or not abating any interest or penalty for good cause or other reasons.

4           396 Appropriation. The sum of \$50,000 is hereby appropriated to the department of revenue  
5 administration for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, to the following account for the purposes of  
6 outreach and other administration necessary for the implementation of the tax amnesty program:  
7 01-84-84-840010-7884-102, Contracts for Program Services. The governor is authorized to draw a  
8 warrant for said sum out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

9           397 Training Coordinator. Amend 2024, 317:17 to read as follows:

10          317:17 Effective Date.

11           I. RSA 597:2-b, I-a, as inserted by section 9 of this act, and sections 16 and 17 of this act,  
12 shall take effect July 1, 2024.

13           II. Section 11 of this act shall take effect July 1, [2025] **2027**.

14           III. The remainder of this act shall take effect January 1, 2025.

15           398 Veterans Court. Amend 2024, 371:3 to read as follows:

16          371:3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect July 1, [2025] **2027**.

17           399 Judicial Districts. Amend RSA 502-A:1 to read as follows:

18          502-A:1 Judicial Districts.

19           A comprehensive system of judicial districts, each with a district court, is hereby organized,  
20 constituted and established as follows:

21          Rockingham County

22           I. PORTSMOUTH DISTRICT. The Portsmouth district shall consist of the city of  
23 Portsmouth and the towns of Newington, Greenland, Rye, and New Castle. The district court for the  
24 district shall be located in Portsmouth, holding sessions regularly therein and elsewhere in the  
25 district as justice may require. The name of the court shall be Portsmouth District Court.

26           II. HAMPTON DISTRICT. The Hampton district shall consist of the towns of Hampton,  
27 Hampton Falls, North Hampton, South Hampton, and Seabrook. The district division for the  
28 district shall be located in Hampton, holding sessions regularly therein and elsewhere in the district  
29 as justice may require.

30          [~~H a. [Repealed.]~~]

31           ~~II b. EXETER DISTRICT. The Exeter district shall consist of the towns of Exeter,~~  
32 ~~Newmarket, Stratham, Newfields, Fremont, East Kingston, Kensington, Epping, and Brentwood.~~  
33 ~~The district division for the district shall be located in Brentwood, holding sessions regularly therein~~  
34 ~~and elsewhere in the district as justice may require.]~~

35           III. BRENTWOOD DISTRICT. The Brentwood district shall consist of the towns of Exeter,  
36 Newmarket, Stratham, Newfields, Fremont, East Kingston, Kensington, Epping, Brentwood,

1 Danville, Kingston, and Newton. The district division for the district shall be located in Brentwood,  
2 holding sessions regularly therein and elsewhere in the district as justice may require.

3 IV. DERRY DISTRICT. The Derry district shall consist of the towns of Derry, Londonderry,  
4 Chester, and Sandown. The district court for the district shall be located in Derry, holding sessions  
5 regularly therein and elsewhere in the district as justice may require. The name of the court shall  
6 be Derry District Court.

7 V. ~~[AUBURN-CANDIA-RAYMOND]~~ **CANDIA** DISTRICT. The ~~[Auburn-Candia-Raymond]~~  
8 **Candia** district shall consist of the towns of Auburn, Candia, Deerfield, Nottingham, Raymond, and  
9 Northwood. ~~[The court shall be located in Auburn, Candia, or Raymond. The court shall hold~~  
10 ~~sessions regularly at the principal court location and elsewhere in the district as justice may require.~~  
11 ~~The court shall bear the name of the town in which it is located.]~~ ***The district court for the***  
12 ***district shall be located in Candia, holding sessions regularly therein and elsewhere in the***  
13 ***district as justice may require.***

14 VI. SALEM DISTRICT. The Salem district shall consist of the towns of Salem, Windham,  
15 Atkinson, Hampstead, and Plaistow in Rockingham county and the town of Pelham in Hillsborough  
16 county. The district court for the district shall be located in Salem, holding sessions regularly  
17 therein and elsewhere in the district as justice may require. The name of the court shall be Salem  
18 District Court.

19 Strafford County

20 VII. ~~[DOVER-SOMERSWORTH-DURHAM]~~ **DOVER** DISTRICT. The ~~[Dover-Somersworth-~~  
21 ~~Durham]~~ **Dover** district shall consist of the cities of Dover and Somersworth and the towns of  
22 Rollinsford, Durham, Lee, and Madbury. ~~[The court shall be located in a city or town within the~~  
23 ~~judicial district in a location and facility designated pursuant to RSA 490-B:3, having regard for the~~  
24 ~~convenience of the communities within the district, provided, however, that the court shall not be~~  
25 ~~located in any building which does not meet the minimum standard prescribed by the New~~  
26 ~~Hampshire court accreditation commission pursuant to RSA 490:5-e. The court shall hold sessions~~  
27 ~~regularly at the principal court location and elsewhere in the district as justice may require.]~~ ***The***  
28 ***district court for the district shall be located in Dover, holding sessions regularly therein***  
29 ***and elsewhere in the district as justice may require.***

30 VIII. ROCHESTER DISTRICT. The Rochester district court shall consist of the city of  
31 Rochester and the towns of Barrington, Milton, New Durham, Farmington, Strafford, and  
32 Middleton. The district court for the district shall be located in Rochester, holding sessions regularly  
33 therein and elsewhere in the district as justice may require. The name of the court shall be  
34 Rochester District Court.

35 Belknap County

36 IX. LACONIA DISTRICT. The Laconia district shall consist of the city of Laconia and the  
37 towns of Meredith, New Hampton, Gilford, Belmont, Alton, Gilmanton, Center Harbor, and

1 Barnstead. The district court for the district shall be located in Laconia, holding sessions regularly  
2 therein and elsewhere in the district as justice may require. The name of the court shall be Laconia  
3 District Court.

4 ***Carroll County***

5 X. CONWAY DISTRICT. The district for northern Carroll county shall consist of the towns  
6 of Conway, Bartlett, Jackson, Eaton, Chatham, Hart's Location, Albany, Madison and the  
7 unincorporated places of Hale's Location, Cutt's Grant, and Hadley's Purchase. The district court for  
8 the district shall be located in Conway, holding sessions regularly therein and elsewhere in the  
9 district as justice may require. The name of the court shall be the Conway District Court.

10 XI. OSS�PEE DISTRICT. The district for southern Carroll county shall consist of the towns  
11 of Ossipee, Tamworth, Freedom, Effingham, Wakefield, Wolfeboro, Brookfield, Tuftonboro,  
12 Moultonborough, and Sandwich. The court shall be located in Ossipee, holding sessions regularly  
13 therein and elsewhere in the district as justice may require. The name of the court shall be the  
14 Ossipee District Court.

15 ***Merrimack County***

16 XII. CONCORD DISTRICT. The Concord district shall consist of the city of Concord, and  
17 the towns of Loudon, Canterbury, Dunbarton, Bow, Hopkinton, Pittsfield, Chichester, and Epsom.  
18 The district court for the district shall be located in Concord, holding sessions regularly there and  
19 elsewhere in the district as justice may require. The name of the court shall be Concord District  
20 Court.

21 XIII. HOOKSETT DISTRICT. The Hooksett district shall consist of the towns of  
22 Allenstown, Pembroke, and Hooksett. The district court for the district shall be located in Hooksett,  
23 holding sessions regularly therein and elsewhere in the district as justice may require. The name of  
24 the court shall be the Hooksett District Court.

25 XIV. FRANKLIN DISTRICT. The Franklin district shall consist of the city of Franklin and  
26 the towns of Northfield, Danbury, Andover, Boscawen, Salisbury, Hill, and Webster in Merrimack  
27 county and the towns of Sanbornton and Tilton in Belknap county. The district court for the district  
28 shall be located in Franklin, holding sessions regularly therein and elsewhere in the district as  
29 justice may require. The name of the court shall be Franklin District Court.

30 XV. HENNIKER-HILLSBOROUGH DISTRICT. The Henniker-Hillsborough district shall  
31 consist of the towns of Henniker, Warner, Sutton, and Bradford in Merrimack county and the towns  
32 of Hillsborough, Deering, Windsor, Antrim, and Bennington in Hillsborough county. ~~The court shall  
33 be located in a city or town within the judicial district in a location and facility designated pursuant  
34 to RSA 490-B:3, having regard for the convenience of the communities within the district, provided,  
35 however, that the court shall not be located in any building which does not meet the minimum  
36 standard prescribed by the New Hampshire court accreditation commission pursuant to RSA 490:5-  
37 e. The court shall hold sessions regularly at the principal court location and elsewhere in the district~~

1 as justice may require. ~~The court shall bear the name of the city or town in which it is located.]~~ *The*  
2 *district court for the district shall be located in Hillsborough, holding sessions regularly*  
3 *therein and elsewhere in the district as justice may require.*

4 Hillsborough County

5 XVI. MANCHESTER DISTRICT. The Manchester district shall consist of the city of  
6 Manchester. The district court for the district shall be located in Manchester, holding sessions  
7 regularly therein as justice may require. The name of the court shall be Manchester District Court.

8 XVII. NASHUA DISTRICT. The Nashua district shall consist of the city of Nashua and the  
9 towns of Hudson and Hollis. The district court for the district shall be located in Nashua, holding  
10 sessions regularly therein and elsewhere in the district as justice may require. The name of the  
11 court shall be Nashua District Court.

12 XVIII. MERRIMACK DISTRICT. The Merrimack district shall consist of the towns of  
13 Merrimack, Litchfield, and Bedford. The district court for the district shall be located in Merrimack,  
14 holding sessions regularly therein and elsewhere in the district as justice may require. The name of  
15 the court shall be the Merrimack District Court.

16 XIX. MILFORD DISTRICT. The Milford district shall consist of the towns of Milford,  
17 Brookline, Amherst, Mason, Wilton, Lyndeborough, and Mont Vernon. The district court for the  
18 district shall be located in Milford, holding sessions regularly therein and elsewhere in the district as  
19 justice may require. The name of the court shall be Milford District Court.

20 XX. JAFFREY-PETERBOROUGH DISTRICT. The Jaffrey-Peterborough district shall  
21 consist of the towns of Peterborough, Hancock, Greenville, Greenfield, New Ipswich, Temple, and  
22 Sharon in Hillsborough county and the towns of Jaffrey, Dublin, Fitzwilliam, and Rindge in  
23 Cheshire county. The district court for the district shall be located in Jaffrey [~~or Peterborough~~],  
24 holding sessions regularly therein and elsewhere in the district as justice may require. The name of  
25 the court shall be Jaffrey-Peterborough District Court.

26 XXI. HENNIKER-HILLSBOROUGH DISTRICT. The Henniker-Hillsborough district shall  
27 consist of the towns of Henniker, Warner, Sutton, and Bradford in Merrimack county and the towns  
28 of Hillsborough, Deering, Windsor, Antrim, and Bennington in Hillsborough county. [~~The court shall~~  
29 ~~be located in a city or town within the judicial district in a location and facility designated pursuant~~  
30 ~~to RSA 490-B:3, having regard for the convenience of the communities within the district, provided,~~  
31 ~~however, that the court shall not be located in any building which does not meet the minimum~~  
32 ~~standard prescribed by the New Hampshire court accreditation commission pursuant to RSA 490:5-~~  
33 ~~e. The court shall hold sessions regularly at the principal court location and elsewhere in the district~~  
34 ~~as justice may require. The court shall bear the name of the city or town in which it is located.]~~ *The*  
35 *district court for the district shall be located in Hillsborough, holding sessions regularly*  
36 *therein and elsewhere in the district as justice may require.*

1 XXII. GOFFSTOWN DISTRICT. The Goffstown district shall consist of the towns of  
2 Goffstown, Weare, New Boston, and Francestown. The district court for the district shall be located  
3 in Goffstown, holding sessions regularly therein and elsewhere in the district as justice may require.  
4 The name of the court shall be Goffstown District Court.

5 Cheshire County

6 XXIII. KEENE DISTRICT. The Keene district shall consist of the city of Keene and the  
7 towns of Stoddard, Westmoreland, Surry, Gilsum, Sullivan, Nelson, Roxbury, Marlow, Swanzey,  
8 Marlborough, Winchester, Richmond, Hinsdale, Harrisville, Walpole, Alstead, Troy, and  
9 Chesterfield. The district court for the district shall be located in Keene, holding sessions regularly  
10 therein and elsewhere in the district as justice may require. The name of the court shall be Keene  
11 District Court.

12 XXIV. JAFFREY-PETERBOROUGH DISTRICT. The Jaffrey-Peterborough district shall  
13 consist of the towns of Jaffrey, Dublin, Fitzwilliam, and Rindge in Cheshire county and the towns of  
14 Peterborough, Hancock, Greenville, Greenfield, New Ipswich, Temple, and Sharon in Hillsborough  
15 county. The district court for the district shall be located in Jaffrey [~~or Peterborough~~], holding  
16 sessions regularly therein and elsewhere in the district as justice may require. The name of the  
17 court shall be Jaffrey-Peterborough District Court.

18 Sullivan County

19 XXV. [~~CLAREMONT-NEWPORT~~] **CLAREMONT** DISTRICT. The [~~Claremont-Newport~~]  
20 **Claremont** district shall consist of the city of Claremont and the towns of Cornish, Unity,  
21 Charlestown, Acworth, Langdon, *and* Plainfield[, ~~Newport, Grantham, Croydon, Springfield,~~  
22 ~~Sunapee, Goshen, Lempster, and Washington in Sullivan county and the towns of New London,~~  
23 ~~Newbury, and Wilmot in Merrimack county.~~ The court shall be located in a city or town within the  
24 judicial district in a location and facility designated pursuant to RSA 490-B:3, having regard for the  
25 convenience of the communities within the district, provided, however, that the court shall not be  
26 located in any building which does not meet the minimum standard prescribed by the New  
27 Hampshire court accreditation commission pursuant to RSA 490:5-c. The court shall bear the name  
28 of the city or town in which it is located]. *The district court for the district shall be located in*  
29 *Claremont, holding sessions regularly therein and elsewhere in the district as justice may*  
30 *require.*

31 **XXV-a. NEWPORT DISTRICT.** *The Newport district shall consist of the towns of*  
32 *Newport, Grantham, Croydon, Springfield, Sunapee, Goshen, Lempster, and Washington in*  
33 *Sullivan county and the towns of New London, Newbury, and Wilmot in Merrimack county.*  
34 *The district court for the district shall be located in Newport, holding sessions regularly*  
35 *therein and elsewhere in the district as justice may require.*

36 Grafton County

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1           XXVI. HANOVER-LEBANON DISTRICT. The Hanover-Lebanon district shall consist of  
2 the towns of Hanover, Orford, Lyme, Lebanon, Enfield, Canaan, Grafton, Dorchester, and Orange.  
3 ~~[The court shall be located in a city or town within the judicial district in a location and facility~~  
4 ~~designated pursuant to RSA 490-B:3, having regard for the convenience of the communities within~~  
5 ~~the district, provided, however, that the court shall not be located in any building which does not~~  
6 ~~meet the minimum standard prescribed by the New Hampshire court accreditation commission~~  
7 ~~pursuant to RSA 490:5 e. The court shall bear the name of the city or town in which it is located.]~~  
8 ***The district court for the district shall be located in Lebanon, holding sessions regularly***  
9 ***therein and elsewhere in the district as justice may require.***

10           XXVII. HAVERHILL DISTRICT. The Haverhill district shall consist of the towns of  
11 Haverhill, Bath, Landaff, Benton, Piermont, and Warren. The district court for the district shall be  
12 located in Haverhill, holding sessions regularly therein and elsewhere in the district as justice may  
13 require. The name of the court shall be Haverhill District Court.

14           XXVIII. LITTLETON DISTRICT. The Littleton district shall consist of the towns of  
15 Littleton, Monroe, Lyman, Lisbon, Franconia, Bethlehem, Sugar Hill, and Easton. The district court  
16 for the district shall be located in Littleton, holding sessions regularly therein and elsewhere in the  
17 district as justice may require. The name of the court shall be Littleton District Court.

18           XXIX. PLYMOUTH-LINCOLN DISTRICT. The Plymouth-Lincoln district shall consist of  
19 the towns of Plymouth, Bristol, Groton, Wentworth, Rumney, Ellsworth, Thornton, Campton,  
20 Ashland, Hebron, Holderness, Bridgewater, Alexandria, Lincoln, Woodstock, Waterville Valley, and  
21 the unincorporated place of Livermore. The district court for the district shall be located in  
22 Plymouth, holding sessions regularly therein and elsewhere in the district as justice may require.  
23 The name of the court shall be Plymouth District Court.

24           Coos County

25           XXX. BERLIN-GORHAM DISTRICT. The Berlin-Gorham district shall consist of the city of  
26 Berlin and the towns of Gorham, Milan, Dummer, Shelburne, and Randolph and the unincorporated  
27 places of Cambridge, Success, Bean's Purchase, Martin's Location, Green's Grant, Pinkham's Grant,  
28 Sargent's Purchase, Thompson and Meserve's Purchase and Low and Burbank's Grant. ~~[The court~~  
29 ~~shall be located in a city or town within the judicial district in a location and facility designated~~  
30 ~~pursuant to RSA 490-B:3, having regard for the convenience of the communities within the district,~~  
31 ~~provided, however, that the court shall not be located in any building which does not meet the~~  
32 ~~minimum standard prescribed by the New Hampshire court accreditation commission pursuant to~~  
33 ~~RSA 490:5 e. The court shall bear the name of the city or town in which it is located.]~~ ***The district***  
34 ***court for the district shall be located in Berlin, holding sessions regularly therein and***  
35 ***elsewhere in the district as justice may require.***

36           XXXI. COLEBROOK DISTRICT. The Colebrook district shall consist of the towns of  
37 Colebrook, Pittsburg, Clarksville, Wentworth's Location, Errol, Millsfield, Columbia, Stewartstown,

1 and Stratford and the unincorporated places of Dix's Grant, Atkinson and Gilmanton Academy  
2 Grant, Second College Grant, Dixville, Erving's Location, and Odell. The district court for the  
3 district shall be located in Colebrook, holding sessions regularly therein and elsewhere in the district  
4 as justice may require. The name of the court shall be Colebrook District Court.

5 XXXII. LANCASTER DISTRICT. The Lancaster district shall consist of the towns of  
6 Lancaster, Stark, Northumberland, Carroll, Whitefield, Dalton and Jefferson, and the  
7 unincorporated places of Kilkenny, Bean's Grant, Chandler's Purchase, and Crawford's Purchase.  
8 The district court for the district shall be located in Lancaster, holding sessions regularly therein  
9 and elsewhere in the district as justice may require. The name of the court shall be Lancaster  
10 District Court.

11 400 Sites. Amend RSA 490-D:4 to read as follows:

12 490-D:4 Sites.

13 The judicial branch family division shall operate at the following sites and such other sites as the  
14 supreme court, from time to time, determines, covering the following districts as delineated in RSA  
15 502-A:1, except as otherwise indicated:

16 **Grafton County**

17 I. The courthouses in Grafton county which will house the judicial branch family division  
18 shall be the [~~court facility in North~~] Haverhill ***District Court***, the Plymouth District Court, the  
19 Littleton District Court, and the Lebanon District Court.

20 II.(a) Matters arising in municipalities located within the Haverhill district shall be heard in  
21 the [~~court facility in North~~] Haverhill ***District Court***.

22 (b) Matters arising in municipalities located within the Plymouth-Lincoln district shall  
23 be heard in the Plymouth District Court.

24 (c) Matters arising in municipalities located within the Littleton district shall be heard  
25 in the Littleton District Court.

26 (d) Matters arising in municipalities located within the Lebanon-Hanover district shall  
27 be heard in the Lebanon District Court.

28 ***Rockingham County***

29 III. The courthouses in Rockingham county which will house the judicial branch family  
30 division shall be the court facility in Brentwood, the Portsmouth District Court, the Salem District  
31 Court, the Candia District Court, the Derry District Court, and the Hampton District Court.

32 IV.(a) Matters arising in municipalities located within the Portsmouth district shall be  
33 heard in the Portsmouth District Court.

34 (b) Matters arising in municipalities located within the Salem district shall be heard in  
35 the Salem District Court.

36 (c) Matters arising in municipalities located within the Derry district shall be heard in  
37 the Derry District Court.

1           (d) Matters arising in municipalities located within the Brentwood district shall be  
2 heard in the court facility in Brentwood.

3           (e) Matters arising in municipalities located within the Candia district shall be heard in  
4 the Candia District Court.

5           (f) Matters arising in municipalities located within the Hampton district shall be heard  
6 in the Hampton District Court.

7           Coos County

8           V. The courthouses in Coos county which will house the judicial branch family division shall  
9 be the Colebrook District Court, the Berlin District Court, and the ~~[court facility in]~~ Lancaster  
10 ***District Court.***

11          VI.(a) Matters arising in municipalities located within the Colebrook district shall be heard  
12 in the Colebrook District Court.

13          (b) Matters arising in municipalities located within the Berlin-Gorham district shall be  
14 heard in the Berlin District Court.

15          (c) Matters arising in municipalities located within the Lancaster district shall be heard  
16 in the ~~[court facility in]~~ Lancaster ***District Court.***

17          Carroll County

18          VII. The courthouses in Carroll county which will house the judicial branch family division  
19 shall be the ~~[court facility in Ossipee and the District Court for northern Carroll County]~~ ***Ossipee***  
20 ***District Court and the Conway District Court.***

21          VIII.(a) Matters arising in municipalities located within the district for southern Carroll  
22 county shall be heard in the ~~[court facility in]~~ Ossipee ***District Court.***

23          (b) Matters arising in municipalities located within the district for northern Carroll  
24 county shall be heard in the ~~[District Court for northern Carroll County]~~ ***Conway District Court.***

25          Sullivan County

26          IX. The courthouses in Sullivan county which will house the judicial branch family division  
27 shall be the Newport District Court and the Claremont District Court.

28          X.(a) Matters arising in municipalities located within the Newport district ~~[and the New~~  
29 ~~London district in Merrimaek county]~~ shall be heard in the Newport District Court.

30          (b) Matters arising in municipalities located within the Claremont district shall be heard  
31 in the Claremont District Court.

32          Strafford County

33          XI. The courthouses in Strafford county which will house the judicial branch family division  
34 shall be the Dover District Court, ***the Rochester District Court,*** and the Strafford county court  
35 facility in Dover.

36          XII.(a) Matters arising in municipalities located within the ~~[Dover-Somersworth-Durham]~~  
37 ***Dover*** district shall be heard in the Dover District Court.

1 (b) Matters arising in municipalities located within the Rochester district shall be heard  
2 in the Strafford county court facility in Dover *and the Rochester District Court.*

3 Belknap County

4 XIII. The courthouse in Belknap county which will house the judicial branch family division  
5 shall be ~~[a facility located in Laconia, provided, however, that the facility meets the minimum~~  
6 ~~standard prescribed by the New Hampshire court accreditation commission pursuant to RSA 490:5-~~  
7 ~~e]~~ *the Laconia District Court.*

8 XIV.(a) Matters arising in municipalities located within the Laconia district shall be heard  
9 in the judicial branch family division facility in Laconia.

10 (b) Matters arising in the towns of Sanbornton and Tilton shall be heard in the Franklin  
11 District Court in Merrimack county.

12 Hillsborough County

13 XV. The courthouses in Hillsborough county which will house the judicial branch family  
14 division shall be the Manchester District Court, the Goffstown District Court, ~~[the Hillsborough~~  
15 ~~County Superior Court for the southern judicial district]~~ *the Nashua District Court*, the Milford  
16 District Court, the Merrimack District Court, and~~[, upon completion of construction,]~~ the Henniker-  
17 Hillsborough District Court.

18 XVI.(a) Matters arising in municipalities located within the Manchester district shall be  
19 heard in the Manchester District Court.

20 (b) Matters arising in municipalities located within the Goffstown district shall be heard  
21 in the Goffstown District Court.

22 (c) Matters arising in municipalities located within the Nashua district shall be heard in  
23 the ~~[Hillsborough County Superior Court for the southern judicial district]~~ *Nashua District Court.*

24 (d) Matters arising in municipalities located within the Milford district shall be heard in  
25 the Milford District Court.

26 (e) Matters arising in municipalities located within the Merrimack district shall be  
27 heard in the Merrimack District Court.

28 (f) Matters arising in Hillsborough county municipalities located within the Jaffrey-  
29 Peterborough district shall be heard in the Jaffrey-Peterborough District Court in Cheshire county.

30 (g) Matters arising in municipalities located within the *Henniker*-Hillsborough district  
31 shall be heard in ~~[the Henniker District Court in Merrimack county until the completion of~~  
32 ~~construction of the Henniker Hillsborough District Court facility in Hillsborough county, whereupon~~  
33 ~~those matters shall be heard in]~~ the Henniker-Hillsborough District Court in Hillsborough county.

34 Merrimack County

35 XVII. The courthouses in Merrimack county which will house the judicial branch family  
36 division shall be the Franklin District Court, the Hooksett District Court, ~~[the Henniker District~~  
37 ~~Court until the completion of construction of]~~ the Henniker-Hillsborough District Court [facility],

1 and ~~[a facility located in]~~ *the* Concord *District Court* ~~[, provided, however, that the facility meets~~  
2 ~~the minimum standard prescribed by the New Hampshire court accreditation commission pursuant~~  
3 ~~to RSA 490:5-e].~~

4 XVIII.(a) Matters arising in municipalities located within the Franklin district shall be  
5 heard in the Franklin District Court.

6 (b) Matters arising in municipalities located within the Hooksett district shall be heard  
7 in the Hooksett District Court.

8 (c) Matters arising in municipalities located within the Concord district shall be heard in  
9 the ~~[judicial branch family division facility in]~~ Concord *District Court*.

10 (d) Matters arising in the towns of New London, Newbury, and Wilmot shall be heard in  
11 the Newport District Court in Sullivan county.

12 (e) Matters arising in municipalities located within the Henniker-*Hillsborough* district  
13 shall be heard in ~~[the Henniker District Court in Merrimaack county until the completion of~~  
14 ~~construction of the Henniker Hillsborough District Court facility in Hillsborough county, whereupon~~  
15 ~~those matters shall be heard in]~~ the Henniker-Hillsborough District Court in Hillsborough county.

16 Cheshire County

17 XIX. The courthouses in Cheshire county which will house the judicial branch family  
18 division shall be the Jaffrey-Peterborough District Court and a facility located in *the Keene District*  
19 *Court* ~~[, provided, however, that the facility meets the minimum standard prescribed by the New~~  
20 ~~Hampshire court accreditation commission pursuant to RSA 490:5-e].~~

21 XX.(a) Matters arising in municipalities located within the Jaffrey-Peterborough district  
22 shall be heard in the Jaffrey-Peterborough District Court.

23 (b) Matters arising in municipalities located within the Keene district shall be heard in  
24 the ~~[judicial branch family division facility in]~~ Keene *District Court*.

25 401 Effective Date. Sections 399 and 400 of this act shall take effect January 1, 2026.

26 402 Trade and Commerce; State Commission for Human Rights. Amend RSA 354-A:3, I to read  
27 as follows:

28 I. There is hereby created a commission to be known as the New Hampshire commission for  
29 human rights, which shall be administratively attached to the department of justice pursuant to  
30 RSA 21-G:10, *with additional oversight provided by the director of the department's civil*  
31 *rights unit, or designee, pursuant to a memorandum of understanding entered into by the*  
32 *department and the commission*. Such commission shall consist of 7 members, who shall be  
33 appointed by the governor, with the consent of the council, and one of whom shall be designated as  
34 chair by the governor. The term of office of each member of the commission shall be for 5 years.

35 403 Trade and Commerce; State Commission for Human Rights; General Powers and Duties of  
36 the Chair. Amend RSA 354-A:4 to read as follows:

1 354-A:4 General Powers and Duties of the Chair. The chair shall serve as the chief executive  
2 officer of the commission. ***The chair shall be a licensed attorney admitted or eligible to***  
3 ***practice law in this state.*** The chair shall promote the efficient transaction of its business and the  
4 orderly handling of complaints and other matters before the commission. The chair shall designate  
5 commissioners to investigate and commissioners to hold hearings pursuant to RSA 354-A:21 and  
6 shall fix the times and places of public hearings. In the event of the chair's absence or inability to  
7 act, the vice-chair, or if no vice-chair has been designated, a commissioner designated by the chair  
8 shall act in the chair's stead. Otherwise a commissioner shall be designated by the governor to act  
9 as chair.

10 404 Trade and Commerce; State Commission for Human Rights; General Powers and Duties of  
11 the Commission. Amend RSA 354-A:5, V to read as follows:

12 V. To adopt rules, under RSA 541-A, suitable to carry out the provisions of this chapter, and  
13 the policies and practices of the commission in connection therewith. ***Such rules shall be kept***  
14 ***current and shall not be permitted to expire. Such rules shall reflect any findings or***  
15 ***determinations made in audits conducted by the legislative budget assistant pursuant to***  
16 ***RSAs 14:31 and 14:31-a.***

17 405 Trade and Commerce; State Commission for Human Rights; General Powers and Duties of  
18 the Commission. Amend RSA 354-A:5, X to read as follows:

19 X. To render [~~biennially~~] ***annually*** to the governor, ***president of the senate, speaker of***  
20 ***the house of representatives, senate clerk, house clerk, legislative fiscal committee,*** and  
21 council a full written report of its activities and of its recommendations. ***The report shall include:***

22 (a) ***A detailed summary of actions taken to address and remediate findings***  
23 ***identified in the most recent performance audit issued by the legislative budget assistant***  
24 ***in February 2025, including but not limited to:***

25 (1) ***Timeliness of case investigations and resolutions, the number of cases***  
26 ***resolved, the number of outstanding cases before the commission, whether the commission***  
27 ***has a backlog of cases, and the average time it takes to close a case;***

28 (2) ***Implementation of a case management system;***

29 (3) ***Development of strategic planning, internal controls, and performance***  
30 ***metrics;***

31 (4) ***Training and oversight of staff and commissioners;***

32 (5) ***Adoption and enforcement of administrative rules;***

33 (6) ***Correction of prior audit findings;***

34 (7) ***Confidentiality and data management improvements; and***

35 (8) ***Definitions and processes related to legal standards in investigations.***

36 (b) ***Quantitative performance measures including average time to assign and***  
37 ***close cases, number of cases exceeding statutory time limits, and comparison to prior years.***

1           (c) *Progress updates on administrative rulemaking, strategic plan*  
2 *implementation, and IT modernization initiatives.*

3           (d) *Status of required statutory filings including biennial reports, statements of*  
4 *financial interests, and reconciliations with federal data systems.*

5           (e) *Any additional recommendations or needs for legislative action.*

6           **II. The report shall be made publicly available online on the TransparentNH**  
7 **website in accordance with executive order 2014-03.**

8           406 Advisory Committee Established. There is established a temporary human rights  
9 commission advisory committee to study, monitor, and support implementation of corrective  
10 measures identified in the 2025 legislative budget assistant audit. The committee shall exist for a  
11 period of one year following enactment and shall be administratively attached to the judicial branch.

12           407 Membership and Compensation.

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

14           (a) The chief justice of the New Hampshire supreme court, or designee;

15           (b) One representative of the department of justice with experience in civil rights or  
16 administrative law, appointed by the governor;

17           (c) One member of the house judiciary committee, appointed by the speaker of the house  
18 of representatives;

19           (d) One member of the senate judiciary committee, appointed by the president of the  
20 senate;

21           (e) One representative of a nonprofit organization with expertise in anti-discrimination  
22 law, appointed by the governor;

23           (f) One municipal human rights officer, appointed by the governor;

24           (g) One public member with lived experience in housing, employment, or public  
25 accommodation discrimination, appointed by the governor.

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

28           408 Duties. The committee shall:

29           (a) Meet at least quarterly, but may recommend extension of its oversight period if  
30 substantial progress has not been demonstrated within one year;

31           (b) Review the human rights commission's progress in implementing audit  
32 recommendations; and

33           (c) Provide guidance and support on policy, training, and legal rule development.

34           409 Chairperson; Quorum. The designee of the chief justice of the New Hampshire supreme  
35 court shall serve as chair. The first meeting of the committee shall be called by the chair. The first  
36 meeting of the committee shall be held within 45 days of the effective date of this section. Four  
37 members of the committee shall constitute a quorum.

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1       410 Report. The committee shall report its findings and any recommendations for proposed  
2 legislation to the president of the senate, the speaker of the house of representatives, the senate  
3 clerk, the house clerk, the governor, the New Hampshire supreme court, the administrative office of  
4 the courts, the New Hampshire law library, and the state library on or before November 1, 2026.

5       411 Effective Date. Sections 406-410 of this act shall take effect upon its passage.

6       412 New Paragraph; Compensation for Public Water Systems; PFAS. Amend RSA 485-H:6 by  
7 inserting after paragraph I-a the following new paragraph:

8           I-b. Pursuant to settlements received under section I-a, the department of environmental  
9 services, with consent of the drinking water and groundwater advisory commission, shall establish  
10 an application approval process and determine the prorated compensation amount for each public  
11 water system with PFAS detections based on the amount public water systems spent or will spend  
12 on infrastructure to mitigate PFAS compounds minus the amount received from other funding  
13 sources. If there is sufficient funding available, the department may, with the consent of the  
14 drinking water and groundwater advisory commission, use that funding to offset the cost of  
15 operation and maintenance of infrastructure related to mitigating PFAS. The department of  
16 environmental services, with the consent of the drinking water and groundwater advisory  
17 commission, may receive reimbursement for costs associated with personnel and analytical costs it  
18 incurred to collect the information required for the submissions of claims under the PFAS public  
19 water system settlement agreements or to provide assistance in PFAS litigation against  
20 manufacturers brought by the state of New Hampshire.

21       413 Portability, Availability, and Renewability of Health Coverage; Health Plan Loss  
22 Information. Amend RSA 420-G:12-a, II to read as follows:

23           II. Upon written request from any large employer, every health carrier, third-party  
24 administrator, pooled risk management program under RSA 5-B or any other type of multiple  
25 employer health plan shall provide that employer's loss information within 30 calendar days of  
26 receipt of the request. The loss information shall include all physician, hospital, prescription drug,  
27 and other covered medical claims specific to the employer's group plan incurred for the 12-month  
28 period paid through the 14 months which end within the 60-day period prior to the date of the  
29 request. ***It shall also include deidentified large claim information for claimants over***  
30 ***\$50,000 to include medical and pharmacy claims, primary and secondary diagnosis,***  
31 ***coverage type (employee, spouse, or dependent), and employment status (active or termed),***  
32 ***to the extent such disclosure does not violate state or federal law.*** An employer shall not be  
33 entitled by this section to more than [2] 4 loss information requests in any 12-month period;  
34 however, nothing shall prohibit a carrier from fulfilling more frequent requests on a mutually  
35 agreed-upon basis.

36       414 Water Management and Protection; Per And Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Fund And  
37 Programs; Contingent Reimbursement. Amend RSA 485-H:6, I-a to read as follows:

1 I-a. Following the reimbursement of the department of justice for legal expenses related to  
2 relevant litigation, any funds from judgments or settlements received by the state resulting from  
3 lawsuits against manufacturers of PFAS attributable to impacts to public drinking water systems  
4 shall be deposited directly into the drinking water and groundwater trust fund established in RSA 6-  
5 D:1. RSA 7:6-e and RSA 6:13-e, III, shall not apply to funds deposited pursuant to this paragraph.  
6 The New Hampshire drinking water and groundwater advisory commission shall ensure that an  
7 amount equivalent to the funds deposited pursuant to this paragraph is distributed through a  
8 combination of loans and grants to public water systems whose water sources have been impacted by  
9 PFAS contamination above applicable standards. ***If the funds from judgments or settlements***  
10 ***received by the state for impacts to public drinking water systems account for PFAS***  
11 ***contamination below applicable standards, the advisory commission may issue grants,***  
12 ***loans, or reimbursements to those systems for those impacts.***

13 415 Appropriation; Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund. The sum of \$11,550,000 for  
14 the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, is hereby appropriated to the department of environmental  
15 services from the drinking water and groundwater trust fund established under RSA 485-F for the  
16 purpose of funding regional drinking water infrastructure as part of Phase 2B of the southern New  
17 Hampshire regional water project to increase water supply by over 2 million gallons per day to  
18 multiple towns impacted by per- and polyfluoroalkyl substance contamination and growing water  
19 demands. No current public utility ratepayer shall be adversely affected by any direct or indirect  
20 costs to bring drinking water to communities receiving new services through any projects funded by  
21 this appropriation. Any remaining funds hereby appropriated shall not lapse.

22 416 Department of Environmental Services; Appropriation. There is hereby appropriated to the  
23 department of environmental services the sum of \$2,500,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026,  
24 and the sum of \$2,500,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, which shall be nonlapsing, for  
25 the purpose of making payments to communities for projects that have previously been awarded  
26 state aid grant funding for eligible and completed wastewater infrastructure projects, per RSA 486,  
27 as approved by the governor and executive council. Any remaining funds not used for making  
28 payments on existing grants may be used to award new grants. The governor is authorized to draw  
29 a warrant for said sums out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

30 417 Appropriation; Department of Environmental Services; Pipe, Water Filtration, and Well  
31 Upgrades; Pillsbury Lake Village District. The sum of \$325,000 for the biennium ending June 30,  
32 2027, is appropriated to the department of environmental services to the Pillsbury Lake Village  
33 District for the purpose of addressing loan costs associated with the following upgrades:

34 I. Piping Upgrades: \$155,000 to cover a loan used for upgrading the pipes under Concord  
35 Drive in Webster.

36 II. Water Filtration Upgrade: \$105,000 to cover a loan for upgrading the water filtration  
37 system.

1 III. New Well Development: \$65,000 to cover a loan for digging a new well, known as the  
2 Franklin-Pierce well, which requires less processing and will reduce overall costs.

3 The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said sum out of any money in the treasury not  
4 otherwise appropriated.

5 418 Emergency Services and Communications; Division of Emergency Services and  
6 Communications. Amend RSA 21-P:48-a, II to read as follows:

7 II. With the approval of the commissioner, the director may employ such necessary  
8 technical, clerical, stenographic, and other personnel, and may make such expenditures from state or  
9 federal funds as are or may be made available for purposes of emergency services and  
10 communications **and the state radio communications systems**. The director and other personnel  
11 of the division shall be provided with appropriate office space, furniture, equipment, supplies,  
12 stationery and printing, and funds for traveling and related expenses, in the same manner as  
13 provided for personnel of other state agencies. With general oversight by the assistant  
14 commissioner, the director shall coordinate the activities of all organizations for emergency 911  
15 telecommunications within the state, state and local, county, and private, and shall maintain liaison  
16 with and cooperate with police, fire, emergency medical, and sheriff's departments and emergency  
17 telecommunications organizations of other states and of the federal government. The director shall  
18 **also oversee the state radio communications system, which includes infrastructure and any**  
19 **communication systems that directly support interoperable communications and the**  
20 **exchange of information between the public safety answering point/emergency**  
21 **communications center and the first responder, and** have such additional duties,  
22 responsibilities, and authority authorized by applicable laws as may be prescribed by the  
23 commissioner.

24 **III. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, maintenance of the state radio**  
25 **communications systems overseen by the division of emergency services and**  
26 **communications pursuant to this section shall be funded by the surcharge fund established**  
27 **in RSA 106-H:9.**

28 419 Department of Safety; Division of Administration. Amend RSA 21-P:6, VIII to read as  
29 follows:

30 VIII. Collection of fuel taxes and administration of road tolls~~[, the international fuel tax~~  
31 ~~agreement,]~~ and the audit functions of the international registration plan under RSA 260.

32 420 Department of Safety; Division of Motor Vehicles. Amend RSA 21-P:8, III to read as follows:

33 III. Administration of the motor vehicle laws under RSA 260, except for road toll  
34 administration under RSA 260:30 through RSA 260:65-a ~~[and the fuel tax agreement under RSA~~  
35 ~~260:65-b through RSA 260:65-e]~~, which shall be administered by the division of administration.

36 421 Number Plates; Plate Manufacture. Amend RSA 228:25 to read as follows:

37 228:25 Addition to Fund.

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1           I. There is hereby established an inventory fund in the department of safety consisting of  
2 the initial appropriation of \$1,000,000 which sum is hereby authorized as a revolving fund comprised  
3 of funds in the highway fund that are not otherwise appropriated and into which shall be deposited  
4 additional revenues derived from the number plate manufacturing fee established in this paragraph.  
5 The fund shall be nonlapsing and continually appropriated to the department. The ~~[prison]~~  
6 **department of safety** shall purchase such raw materials~~[-as may be required and agreed to by the~~  
7 ~~commissioner of safety in order for the commissioner of safety]~~ to issue fully reflectorized motor  
8 vehicle number plates. This purchase shall be a charge against the inventory fund and the ~~[prison]~~  
9 **department of safety** shall be responsible for the control and accountability of the raw materials so  
10 charged. Said number plates shall be manufactured at the ~~[state prison]~~ **department of safety**.  
11 ~~[The prison shall be furnished out of said inventory account the raw materials necessary to~~  
12 ~~manufacture said plates and upon receipt of the finished plates by the department of safety shall be~~  
13 ~~reimbursed for their direct and indirect costs. The commissioner of safety shall, biennially, request~~  
14 ~~the commissioner of administrative services to review and approve said cost rates.]~~ Notwithstanding  
15 any other provision of law, the commissioner of safety shall charge, in addition to the regular motor  
16 vehicle registration fee, a number plate manufacturing fee of ~~[\$4.00]~~ **\$6.00** per plate at the time of  
17 issuing said reflectorized motor vehicle number plates or replacement reflectorized number plates.  
18 Said additional charge shall not give the registrant any title or other property interest in said plates.  
19 ~~[The commissioner of safety or assistant commissioner may request from time to time delivery of the~~  
20 ~~number plates from the prison and shall reimburse the inventory fund by a transfer from revenue.~~  
21 ~~At least 6 months prior to subsequent general issue, a transfer from revenue shall be made for all~~  
22 ~~remaining finished plates in inventory.]~~ The commissioner of safety shall report to the governor, the  
23 president of the senate, and the speaker of the house of representatives, no later than 90 days after  
24 the close of the second fiscal year of each biennium, the year ending balance in the inventory fund  
25 and the department's recommendation as to when the next general issue of number plates should  
26 commence, the estimated cost of such a general issue, and the estimated annual cost to support  
27 routine plate issue and replacement without a new general issue.

28           II. [Repealed.]

29           III. In accordance with the provisions of paragraph I, replacement plates may be purchased  
30 from the inventory fund.

31           IV. If the ~~[state prison shop]~~ **department of safety** is unable to manufacture or deliver  
32 reflectorized motor vehicle plates in a timely manner because of an emergency interruption resulting  
33 from ~~[a riot or other]~~ **an** unforeseen cause, as determined by ~~[the commissioner of corrections or]~~  
34 the commissioner of safety, the ~~[commissioners]~~ **commissioner** shall submit a written report to the  
35 governor and council and shall request that an outside vendor be retained to manufacture said  
36 plates. If at any time the commissioner of safety~~[-or the commissioner of corrections]~~ determines  
37 that the ~~[prison]~~ **department of safety** cannot produce number plates at a competitive price or meet

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1 reasonable delivery schedules, the commissioner~~[of safety]~~ shall report to the fiscal committee of the  
2 general court and the governor and council, and shall request that an outside vendor be retained to  
3 manufacture the plates. Upon approval of the governor and council, the commissioner ~~[of safety]~~  
4 shall request the department of administrative services, division of procurement and support  
5 services to select an outside vendor in accordance with RSA 8:19.

6 V. The commissioner of safety, with approval of the governor, may charge the necessary  
7 expenses for the manufacture, storage, handling, issuance, and distribution of reflectorized motor  
8 vehicle number plates against the inventory fund provided under this section.

9 422 Official Cover Plates; Manufacture Location. Amend RSA 261:90 to read as follows:

10 261:90 Official Cover Plates. Upon payment of a fee, the director may issue and shall designate  
11 official cover plates with the reproduction of the state seal thereon to be affixed to a vehicle of United  
12 States senators from this state, representatives to congress from this state, the governor, members  
13 of the governor's council, the president of the senate, members of the senate, the speaker of the  
14 house of representatives, the clerk of the house of representatives, the clerk of the senate, members  
15 of the house of representatives, the attorney general, the secretary of state, the state treasurer, the  
16 President of the United States and members of his or her executive staff, and any ambassador or  
17 member of the foreign diplomatic corps. The fee for official cover plates shall be \$1 in addition to any  
18 other number plate manufacturing fee otherwise required. The official cover plates, exclusive of the  
19 seal, shall be white with green lettering, which shall alternate with red lettering every other  
20 biennium, with the exception of the governor's council plates which shall be white with blue lettering  
21 every biennium. Official cover plates shall have the title of the person requesting the plates, except  
22 for members of the governor's council whose plates shall have their council district numbers  
23 ~~[embossed]~~ on them, and members of the general court, whose plates shall have their house seat  
24 numbers or their senate district numbers ~~[embossed]~~ on them unless the president of the senate, for  
25 members of the senate, or the speaker of the house of representatives, for members of the house of  
26 representatives, shall designate a title for their plates. The president of the senate, or a designee,  
27 and the speaker of the house of representatives, or a designee, shall provide the director with input  
28 as needed on the cover plate design for members of the general court. The director shall not issue  
29 more than 2 sets of official cover plates to any person. Official cover plates may be attached only to  
30 vehicles registered in the name of the person issued the plates or the name of the spouse of a  
31 member of the general court, or any vehicle being operated by a member of the general court. A  
32 cover plate and a regular motor vehicle plate may be displayed simultaneously on the same vehicle,  
33 with one plate on the front and the other plate on the rear. Nothing herein shall be construed as  
34 affecting the issuance of regular motor vehicle plates and the payment of the registration fee  
35 therefor. ~~[Official cover plates shall be manufactured at the state prison and the prison shall provide  
36 the plates to the department at the prison's cost].~~



1           I. The electronic credential holder shall be required to have their physical credential on their  
2 person while operating a motor vehicle.

3           II. Electronic credential systems shall be designed so that there is no requirement for the  
4 electronic credential holder to display or relinquish possession of their mobile device to relying  
5 parties for the acceptance of an electronic credential.

6           III. Upon request by law enforcement, an electronic credential holder must provide their  
7 physical credential.

8           IV. Any law or regulation that requires an individual to surrender their physical credential  
9 to law enforcement does not apply to the device on which an electronic credential has been  
10 provisioned.

11           263-A:4 Verification Process.

12           I. Relying parties shall authenticate electronic credentials in accordance with applicable  
13 division standards prior to acceptance of the electronic credential.

14           II. Electronic credential data is subject to data security and privacy protection according to  
15 RSA 507-H, as well as any other applicable state and federal law.

16           III. Relying parties shall only request electronic credential data elements that are necessary  
17 to complete the transaction for which that data is being requested.

18           263-A:5 Privacy and Tracking.

19           I. Relying parties shall only retain electronic credential data elements for which the relying  
20 party explicitly obtained consent from the electronic credential holder. Relying parties shall inform  
21 the electronic credential holder of the use and retention period of the electronic data elements and  
22 comply with RSA 507-H.

23           II. The electronic credential system shall be designed to maximize the privacy of the  
24 credential holder and comply with RSA 507-H, as well as any other applicable state and federal  
25 laws, and shall not track or compile information without the credential holder's actual consent. The  
26 division shall only compile and/or disclose information regarding use of the credential as required by  
27 RSA 507-H and other applicable state or federal laws.

28           263-A:6 Rulemaking. The commissioner of the department of safety shall adopt administrative  
29 rules under 541-A that are necessary for the management and operation of an electronic credential  
30 system.

31           424 Effective Date. Section 423 of this act shall take effect January 1, 2026.

32           425 Appropriation; Department of Safety; Northern Border Alliance Program. The sum of  
33 \$600,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, is hereby appropriated to the department of safety  
34 and shall be nonlapsing. This sum shall be expended for the purpose of funding overtime patrols  
35 and related training activities, purchasing equipment in support of the northern border alliance  
36 program by state police, and disbursing grants to other state, county, and local law enforcement  
37 agencies for the purpose of funding overtime costs for county and local law enforcement officers

1 performing law enforcement activities attributable to the northern border alliance program  
2 established in RSA 21-P:69. The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said sum out of any  
3 money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

4 426 Legislative Declaration of Authority Regarding Public Education. In its 1993 and 1997  
5 decisions, in the so-called *Claremont* series of public school funding cases, the New Hampshire  
6 Supreme Court ruled that the New Hampshire Constitution imposes upon the legislature 4  
7 obligations with respect to public K-12 education: (1) define an adequate education; (2) determine its  
8 cost; (3) fund it with constitutional taxes; and (4) ensure its delivery through accountability.  
9 Although the legislature has from the beginning had grave reservations as to the court's authority to  
10 impose these obligations upon a coordinate branch of government, in the spirit of comity it has over  
11 the subsequent quarter-century devoted extensive time, energy and public tax dollars to satisfying  
12 them. However, in the most recent of these cases, the judicial branch has asserted authority to  
13 review and set aside the legislature's determinations with respect to its 4 supposed obligations, and  
14 to fund education at levels determined by the court through a process which, though adjudicatory in  
15 form, is legislative in substance. Accordingly, the legislature now deems it necessary to definitively  
16 proclaim that, as the sole branch of government constitutionally competent to establish state policy  
17 and to raise and appropriate public funds to carry out such policy, the legislature shall make the  
18 final determination of what the state's educational policies shall be and of the funding needed to  
19 carry out such policies.

20 427 Land Stewardship Program; Administrative Attachment. Amend RSA 12-O:53, II(i) to read  
21 as follows:

22 (i) Administer the ~~[following programs: the]~~ statewide comprehensive outdoor recreation  
23 plan~~[,]~~ **and** the national flood insurance program~~[, and the land conservation investment program]~~.  
24 The office shall employ necessary personnel to administer these programs.

25 428 New Section; Fish and Game Department; Propagation of Fish and Game; Conservation  
26 land Monitoring. Amend RSA 212 by inserting after section 10-b the following new section:

27 212:10-c Conservation Land Monitoring.

28 The executive director of the fish and game department shall monitor property acquired through  
29 the former land conservation investment program consistent with RSA 162-C:6 and 8. The executive  
30 director may further monitor such other land conservation interests held by the state of New  
31 Hampshire as may approved by the council for resources and development pursuant to RSA 162-C:6,  
32 II.

33 429 Conservation Land Stewardship Program; Administrative Attachment; Fish and Game  
34 Department. Amend RSA 162-C:6, II to read as follows:

35 II. In addition to its other responsibilities, the council shall manage and administer the  
36 lands acquired and funds established under the land conservation investment program under the  
37 former RSA 221-A, according to the provisions of this subdivision and consistent with agreements

1 entered into with persons with ownership interests in such lands. *The fish and game department*  
2 *shall monitor property acquired through the former land conservation investment*  
3 *program on behalf of the council and consistent with RSA 162-C:8. The council shall*  
4 *provide funds from the monitoring endowment described in RSA 162-C:8 to the fish and*  
5 *game department sufficient to cover the costs associated with such monitoring. Nothing*  
6 *herein shall preclude the council from providing funds from the monitoring endowment to*  
7 *the department or other entities to cover the costs of monitoring other land conservation*  
8 *interests held by the state of New Hampshire.*

9 430 New Paragraph; Reasons for Removal and Impoundment. Amend RSA 262:32 by inserting  
10 after paragraph VIII the following new paragraph:

11 IX. A vehicle, camper, or other equipment has been towed to and left at a park-and-ride  
12 facility without written approval of the commissioner. In such cases, the state may seek  
13 reimbursement for the removal costs from the towing company, the owner, or both.

14 431 Obstructing Water; Penalty. Amend RSA 236:19 to read as follows:

15 236:19 Obstructing Water; Penalty. Any person who shall place, or suffer to be placed or to  
16 remain, any logs, earth or other substances within the limits of a highway *or state-owned railroad*  
17 *corridor*, or upon land in the vicinity of a highway *or state-owned railroad corridor* by which  
18 the water in a stream, pond or ditch is turned upon the highway *or state-owned railroad corridor*  
19 and injures or renders it unsuitable for public *or railroad* travel, shall be guilty of a violation if a  
20 natural person, or guilty of a misdemeanor if any other person. If such highway is maintained by  
21 the town, the fine shall be for the use of the town and if such highway *or railroad* is maintained by  
22 the state, the fine shall be for the use of the department of transportation. Nothing in this section  
23 shall be construed as prohibiting the placing of snow within the limits of a highway for the purpose  
24 of crossing or recrossing by sleds, logging or farming equipment.

25 432 Credit to Highway Fund; Fee for Expedited Driveway Permit Established in SB 153 (2025).  
26 Amend RSA 236:13, IV-b(b) to read as follows:

27 (b) An applicant electing to use the expedited permitting process under this paragraph  
28 shall pay a \$120 per unit non-refundable permit fee, *which shall be credited to the highway*  
29 *fund.*

30 433 Contingency. If SB 153 of the 2025 general legislative session becomes law, section 434 of  
31 this act shall take effect at 12:01 a.m. on the effective date of SB 153. If SB 153 does not become  
32 law, section 434 of this act shall not take effect.

33 434 Effective Date. Section 432 of this act shall take effect as provided in section 433 of this act.

34 435 Education; Adult Education; Establishment of Adult High School Education Program.  
35 Amend RSA 186:61, I to read as follows:

36 I. The state board of education shall establish and promote [~~an~~] educational [~~program~~]  
37 *programs* for [~~adults~~] *adult legal residents of New Hampshire and students at least sixteen*

1 *years of age eligible for enrollment in a New Hampshire public school* to earn a high school  
2 diploma or its equivalent. *Such educational programs shall charge tuition to student*  
3 *resident districts when resident districts receive state adequacy funds pursuant to RSA*  
4 *198:40-a for such students at an amount agreed to by the educational program and the*  
5 *resident district.* This program shall be administered by the division of learner support,  
6 department of education, in accordance with the rules adopted by the state board.

7 436 Appropriation; Department of Education. Notwithstanding RSA 198:39, I, the sums of  
8 \$400,000 in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, and \$400,000 in the fiscal year ending June 30,  
9 2027, are hereby appropriated from the education trust fund to the department of education, to be  
10 distributed to approved education programs pursuant to RSA 186:61, proportional to the number of  
11 credits awarded to high school students served by such educational programs during the fiscal year  
12 ending June 30, 2025. The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said sums out of any money  
13 in the education trust fund not otherwise appropriated.

14 437 Education; Student and Teacher Information Protection and Privacy; Student Privacy.  
15 Amend RSA 189:68, I(l) to read as follows:

16 (l) Student [~~postsecondary~~] workforce information, including the employer's name [~~and~~  
17 ~~the name of a college attended outside of New Hampshire~~].

18 438 Education; District Taxes; Reports Required; Cities and School Districts. Amend RSA  
19 198:4-d, III-a to read as follows:

20 III-a. The department of education and the department of revenue administration together  
21 shall develop and [~~recommend~~] *maintain* school accounting standards [~~The departments shall~~  
22 ~~report to the speaker of the house, the senate president, and the governor concerning such~~  
23 ~~accounting standards on or before December 1, 1999~~] *which shall be used by districts and*  
24 *chartered public schools for financial reporting purposes.*

25 439 Department of Education; Duties of Deputy Commissioner. Amend RSA 21-N:5, I(j) to read  
26 as follows:

27 (j) Administering department responsibilities for information services, *including*  
28 *shared supervision of department of information technology staff embedded within the*  
29 *department of education and services provided by the department of information*  
30 *technology.*

31 440 Appropriation; Department of Education. Notwithstanding RSA 198:39, I, the sums of  
32 \$1,500,000 in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, and \$1,500,000 in the fiscal year ending June 30,  
33 2027, are hereby appropriated from the education trust fund to the department of education for the  
34 purpose of providing learning platforms that provide high quality instructional materials across all  
35 content areas to ensure all K-12 students in this state have access to evidence-based and content-  
36 rich learning outcomes. The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said sums out of any  
37 money in the education trust fund not otherwise appropriated.

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1       441 Operation of Keno Games. Amend RSA 284:47, I to read as follows:

2           I. A licensee may operate keno games at its business *during the business' hours of*  
3 *operation* [~~between the hours of 11 a.m. and 1 a.m.~~].

4       442 New Section; Local Option; Games of Chance. Amend RSA 287-D by inserting after section  
5 287-D:31 the following new section:

6       287-D:32 Local Option; Games of Chance.

7           I. The lottery commission shall not grant a game operator employer license to operate games  
8 of chance in a municipality if that municipality has voted to prohibit games of chance to be held  
9 within its boundaries, or if there is a pending question on the municipality's warrant or official ballot  
10 for the next regular municipal election. Such vote shall be held in the following manner:

11           (a) In a town, the question shall be placed on the warrant of an annual town meeting  
12 under the procedures set out in RSA 39:3, and shall be voted on a ballot. In a city, the legislative  
13 body may vote to place the question on the official ballot for any regular municipal election, or, in the  
14 alternative, shall place the question on the official ballot for any regular municipal election upon  
15 submission to the legislative body of a petition signed by 5 percent of the registered voters.

16           (b) The selectmen, aldermen, or city council shall hold a public hearing on the question  
17 at least 15 days, but not more than 30 days before the question is to be voted on. Notice of the  
18 hearing shall be posted in at least 2 public places in the municipality, on the website of the  
19 municipality, and by publication in a newspaper of general circulation at least 14 days before the  
20 hearing.

21           (c) In municipalities where games of chance are not currently in operation, the wording  
22 of the question shall be substantially as follows: "Shall we prohibit the operation of games of chance  
23 within the town or city?"

24           (d) In municipalities where games of chance are currently operating, the wording of the  
25 question shall be substantially as follows: "Shall we prohibit additional games of chance operations  
26 with a physical facility within the town or city?"

27           II. If a majority of those voting on the question vote "Yes," new games of chance may not be  
28 operated within the town or city.

29           III. If the question is not approved, the question may later be voted upon according to the  
30 provisions of paragraph I as early as the next annual town meeting or regular municipal election.

31           IV. A city or town may rescind its disapproval for operation of games of chance under RSA  
32 287-D by following procedures in paragraph I in this section.

33           V. An unincorporated place may disallow the operation of games of chance by majority vote  
34 of the county delegation, after a public hearing is held, and may be rescinded in a similar fashion.

35           VI. The lottery commission shall maintain a list of municipalities where games of chance  
36 have been prohibited pursuant to this section.

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1 VII. If the town, city, or unincorporated place has voted within this section to prohibit games  
2 of chance, that municipality may pass an ordinance allowing only a specified number of charitable  
3 gaming events per year, or certain number of dates per year to be determined by the town, hosted by  
4 local charitable organizations pursuant to RSA 287-D:4, and specifying how the municipality shall  
5 determine how charitable organizations register for a gaming event.

6 VIII. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, including paragraphs I and II, any vote by  
7 a municipality to prohibit games of chance within its boundaries shall not apply to any games of  
8 chance operator licensed by the lottery commission, or any applicant who has applied for a games of  
9 chance operator license prior to the date of the petition in subparagraph I(a) or the notice date in  
10 subparagraph I(b), except that any operator who ceases operation for a period exceeding 4 years, or  
11 an applicant who fails to commence operation within 6 years of application approval, shall be subject  
12 to any intervening vote by the municipality.

13 443 Keno; Administration and Enforcement. Amend RSA 284:42 to read as follows:

14 284:42 Administration and Enforcement. The lottery commission shall administer and enforce  
15 this subdivision [~~in any town or city that has voted to allow such gaming~~].

16 444 Keno; License Applications. Amend RSA 284:45, VI(a)(10) and (b) to read as follows:

17 (10) A lottery retailer licensed pursuant to RSA 284:21-h, if the city, town or  
18 unincorporated place where the retailer is located has **not** voted pursuant to RSA 284:51, to [~~allow~~]  
19 **prohibit** the sale of keno. Lottery retailers licensed to sell keno under this subparagraph shall not  
20 display keno on an active screen at the retailer.

21 (b) Document that the keno games will only be operated in towns and cities that have  
22 **not** voted to [~~allow~~] **prohibit** the operation of keno games pursuant to RSA 284:51.

23 445 Keno; Local Option. RSA 284:51 is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

24 I. Any town or city may prohibit the operation of keno games according to the provisions of  
25 this subdivision, in the following manner:

26 (a) In a town, the question shall be placed on the warrant of an annual town meeting  
27 under the procedures set out in RSA 39:3, and shall be voted on a ballot. In a city, the legislative  
28 body may vote to place the question on the official ballot for any regular municipal election, or, in the  
29 alternative, shall place the question on the official ballot for any regular municipal election upon  
30 submission to the legislative body of a petition signed by 5 percent of the registered voters.

31 (b) The selectmen, aldermen, or city council shall hold a public hearing on the question  
32 at least 15 days but not more than 30 days before the question is to be voted on. Notice of the  
33 hearing shall be posted in at least 2 public places in the municipality and published in a newspaper  
34 of general circulation at least 7 days before the hearing.

35 (c) The wording of the question shall be substantially as follows: "Shall we prohibit the  
36 operation of keno games within the town or city?"

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1           II. If a majority of those voting on the question vote "Yes," keno games shall not be operated  
2 within the town or city.

3           III. If the question is not approved, the question may later be voted upon according to the  
4 provisions of paragraph II at the next annual town meeting or regular municipal election.

5           IV. A municipality that has voted to prohibit the operation of keno games may consider  
6 rescinding its action in the manner described in paragraph II of this section.

7           V. An unincorporated place may prohibit the operation of keno games by majority vote of the  
8 county delegation, after a public hearing is held.

9           VI. The lottery commission shall maintain a list of municipalities where keno is prohibited.

10          446 New Section; Operation Permitted. Amend RSA 284 by inserting after section 51 the  
11 following new section:

12          284:51-a Operation Permitted. A licensee shall be permitted to operate keno games at its  
13 business pursuant to this subdivision, provided that no license shall be issued to an entity operating  
14 within a municipality which has voted to prohibit keno pursuant to RSA 284:51.

15          447 Facilities License Application; Specific Requirements. Amend RSA 287-D:7, III to read as  
16 follows:

17           III. Licenses shall expire 3 years after being issued~~[- provided that the licensee shall~~  
18 ~~annually file with the commission a statement disclosing any changes to the information required in~~  
19 ~~the license application no later than December 31 of each year]~~. The licensee shall immediately  
20 notify the commission in the event the licensee is subject to arrest or conviction of any criminal  
21 offense.

22          448 Game Operator Employer License Application; Specific Requirements. Amend RSA 287-D:8,  
23 VI to read as follows:

24           VI. Licenses shall expire 3 years after being issued~~[- provided that the licensee shall~~  
25 ~~annually file with the commission a statement disclosing any changes to the information required in~~  
26 ~~the license application no later than December 31 of each year]~~. The licensee shall immediately  
27 notify the commission in the event the licensee is subject to arrest or conviction of any criminal  
28 offense.

29          449 Primary Game Operator License Application; Specific Requirements. Amend RSA 287-D:9,  
30 VI to read as follows:

31           VI. The primary game operator license shall expire ~~[on the last day of the month of the~~  
32 ~~licensee's birthday]~~ 3 years after it is issued~~[- provided that the licensee shall annually file with the~~  
33 ~~commission a statement disclosing any changes to the information required in paragraph I with the~~  
34 ~~commission no later than the last day of the month of licensee's birthday]~~. The licensee shall  
35 immediately notify the commission in the event the licensee is subject to arrest or conviction of any  
36 criminal offense.

1       450 Secondary Game Operator License Application; Specific Requirements. Amend RSA 287-  
2 D:10, III to read as follows:

3           III. A secondary game operator license shall expire [~~on the last day of the month of the~~  
4 ~~licensee's birthday~~] 3 years after it is issued[~~, provided that the licensee shall annually file with the~~  
5 ~~commission a statement disclosing any changes to the information required in paragraph II with the~~  
6 ~~commission no later than the last day of the month of the licensee's birthday~~]. The licensee shall  
7 immediately notify the commission in the event the licensee is subject to arrest or conviction for any  
8 criminal offense.

9       451 License Fees. Amend RSA 287-D:13, II-V to read as follows:

10           II. A facility license shall be [~~\$250 per year~~] ***\$750 per 3-year license period.***

11           III. A game operator employer license shall be [~~\$750 per year~~] ***\$2,250 per 3-year license***  
12 ***period.***

13           IV. A primary game operator license shall be [~~\$100 per year, to be paid with the application~~  
14 ~~the first year and paid in the subsequent 2 years with the filing of the annual notice of changes form~~  
15 ~~required under RSA 287-D:9, VI~~] ***\$300 per 3-year license period.***

16           V. A secondary game operator license shall be [~~\$30 per year, to be paid with the application~~  
17 ~~the first year and paid in the subsequent 2 years with the filing of the annual notice of changes form~~  
18 ~~required under RSA 287-D:10, III~~] ***\$90 per 3-year license period.***

19       452 Effective Date. Sections 445, 446, and 448 of this act shall take effect January 1, 2027.

20       453 New Section; Pari-Mutuel Pools, and Distribution of Tax Theron; Advanced Deposit Account  
21 Wagering. Amend RSA 284 by inserting after section 22-b the following new section:

22       284:22-c Advanced Deposit Account Wagering.

23           I. Advance deposit wagering is authorized for pari-mutuel betting on horse racing under this  
24 chapter if conducted in compliance with this section and the Interstate Horseracing Act of 1978,  
25 United States Code, Title 15, section 3001 et seq.

26           II. It is unlawful for any person or entity to accept an advance deposit wager from a New  
27 Hampshire resident unless the person or entity is a licensed advance deposit wagering provider in  
28 the state of New Hampshire.

29           III. Before accepting an advance deposit wager from a New Hampshire resident, a licensed  
30 advance deposit wagering provider shall demonstrate evidence of financial responsibility in a format  
31 prescribed by the commission through a surety bond executed and issued by an insurer authorized to  
32 issue surety bonds in this state, an irrevocable letter of credit, or other form of financial guarantee in  
33 an amount to be determined by the commission. The commission may also accept, as evidence of  
34 financial responsibility, a surety bond, an irrevocable letter of credit, or other form of financial  
35 guarantee in accordance with this subdivision filed with one or more states where the applicant is  
36 licensed as an advance deposit wagering provider. The commission may ask for additional evidence  
37 of financial responsibility at any time the commission deems necessary. Any surety bond, an

1 irrevocable letter of credit, or other form of financial guarantee issued under this subdivision shall  
2 be in favor of this state and shall specifically authorize recovery by the commission for the payment  
3 of all revenues required by this chapter.

4 IV. The commission shall not license or authorize a person or entity to conduct advance  
5 deposit wagering under this section unless the person or entity has submitted, and the commission  
6 approved, a plan of operation for advance deposit wagering. At a minimum, the plan of operation  
7 shall provide for:

8 (a) Methods of resolving disputes with account holders;

9 (b) Procedures to protect the security of account holders' accounts and information;

10 (c) Methods to verify the identity of account holders and ensure that all account holders  
11 are natural persons who are at least 18 years of age;

12 (d) Procedures to ensure that wagers are only accepted from account holders who have  
13 sufficient funds on deposit and that no credit is extended by the person to an account holder;

14 (e) Procedures for keeping accurate records of all contests, wagers, and payouts;

15 (f) Annually contracting with an independent third-party to conduct a financial audit  
16 and submit the results of the audit to the commission. If the licensed advanced deposit wagering  
17 provider is a wholly-owned subsidiary of a publicly traded company, submission of audited financial  
18 statements of the publicly-traded parent company contained in a public filing with the United States  
19 Securities and Exchange Commission shall satisfy this requirement;

20 (g) Annually contracting with an independent third-party cyber security audit and  
21 submit the results of the audit to the commission; and

22 (h) Other requirements established by the commission in rule.

23 V. The plan of operation may only be amended with the approval of the commission. The  
24 commission may withdraw approval of a plan of operation for cause.

25 VI. Advanced deposit wagers from New Hampshire residents shall be subject to a revenue  
26 sharing plan. Licensees shall provide the commission payment in the amount of 1.25 percent of all  
27 wagers accepted from New Hampshire residents in a manner prescribed by the commission. The  
28 revenues received from the commission pursuant to this section, less the administrative costs of the  
29 commission, shall be deposited in the education trust fund established in RSA 198:39.

30 VII. Persons or entities that offered advanced deposit wagering services to New Hampshire  
31 residents as of July 1, 2022 may request permission from the commission to continue offering these  
32 services during the pendency of the licensing process. Any such person or entity shall make the  
33 request to continue offering services in writing detailing how the person or entity will meet the  
34 protections set forth in this section during the interim period before licensure. The commission may  
35 grant such request for unlicensed operation for a period not to exceed six months where the  
36 requestor has adequately documented acceptable financial responsibility and patron protection  
37 standards. In no event shall this permission extend past January 1, 2026.

1 454 Rulemaking. Amend RSA 284:12, IV to read as follows:

2 IV. The sale of pari-mutuel pools as authorized under RSA 284:22, RSA 284:22-a, ~~and~~ RSA  
3 284:22-b, **and RSA 284:22-c.**

4 455 Community College System of New Hampshire; Law Enforcement Officers, Professional  
5 Firefighters, and Emergency Medical Technicians Career Development, Recruitment, and Retention  
6 Program. Amend RSA 188-F:70 to read as follows:

7 188-F:70 Program Established.

8 I. There is hereby established in the community college system of New Hampshire the New  
9 Hampshire law enforcement officers, professional firefighters, **public safety telecommunicators**  
10 **and dispatchers**, and emergency medical technicians career development, recruitment, and  
11 retention program. To the extent of available funds, New Hampshire law enforcement officers,  
12 professional firefighters, **public safety telecommunicators and dispatchers**, and emergency  
13 medical technicians may receive reimbursement, upon successful completion, for the cost of one  
14 ~~course~~ **or more courses** per semester, including required fees, in a degree program at an  
15 institution in the community college system as approved for that individual upon recommendation of  
16 the person's supervisor and the committee. Such courses may be in any field leading to a degree in  
17 an area of study approved by the commission. **Eligible individuals may receive reimbursement**  
18 **for non-credit or degree courses, upon successful completion, as approved for that**  
19 **individual upon recommendation of the person's supervisor and the committee.**

20 II. Upon employment by a New Hampshire fire ~~service~~ **or law enforcement department**,  
21 a graduate of the New Hampshire fire **or police** academy, or the entity that paid for the cost, with  
22 the recommendation of the employee's supervisor and the approval of the committee, shall receive  
23 full reimbursement for the cost of the academy not covered by other funding sources.

24 456 Law Enforcement Officers, Professional Firefighters, and Emergency Medical Technicians  
25 Career Development, Recruitment, and Retention Program Committee. Amend the section heading  
26 and RSA 188-F:71, I to read as follows:

27 188-F:71 Law Enforcement Officers, Professional Firefighters, **Public Safety**  
28 **Telecommunicators and Dispatchers**, and Emergency Medical Technicians Career Development,  
29 Recruitment, and Retention Program Committee Established.

30 I. There is hereby established the law enforcement officers, professional firefighters, **public**  
31 **safety telecommunicators and dispatchers**, and emergency medical technicians career  
32 development, recruitment, and retention program committee. The members of the committee shall  
33 be as follows:

34 (a) The commissioner of the New Hampshire department of safety, or designee. The  
35 commissioner, or designee, shall serve as chairperson of the committee.

36 (b) The chancellor of the community college system of New Hampshire, or designee.

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- 1 (c) The director of the New Hampshire police standards and training council, or  
2 designee.
- 3 (d) The director of the New Hampshire Fire Academy, or designee.
- 4 (e) The president of the New Hampshire Association of Chiefs of Police, or designee.
- 5 (f) The president of the New Hampshire Police Association, or designee.
- 6 (g) The president of the New Hampshire state police union, or designee.
- 7 (h) The president of the Professional Firefighters of New Hampshire, or designee.
- 8 (i) The president of the New Hampshire Association of Emergency Medical Technicians,  
9 or designee.
- 10 (j) The president of the New Hampshire Association of Fire Chiefs, or designee.
- 11 (k) ***The president of the New Hampshire Emergency Dispatchers Association, or***  
12 ***designee.***
- 13 (l) Three educators from the community college system of New Hampshire, appointed by  
14 the chancellor of the community college system of New Hampshire.

15 457 Law Enforcement Officers, Professional Firefighters, and Emergency Medical Technicians  
16 Career Development, Recruitment, and Retention Fund. Amend RSA 188-F:72 to read as follows:

17 188-F:72 Law Enforcement Officers, Professional Firefighters, ***Public Safety***  
18 ***Telecommunicators and Dispatchers***, and Emergency Medical Technicians Career Development,  
19 Recruitment, and Retention Fund Established. There is hereby established in the state treasury a  
20 fund to be known as the law enforcement officers, professional firefighters, ***public safety***  
21 ***telecommunicators and dispatchers***, and emergency medical technicians career development,  
22 recruitment, and retention fund. The fund shall be administered by the community college system of  
23 New Hampshire. The fund shall be nonlapsing and continually appropriated to the community  
24 college system to support the program established in this subdivision. The community college  
25 system shall establish procedures for receiving and disbursing funds, and it shall report to the  
26 committee established in RSA 188-F:71 on the operation of the fund. The fund may accept state or  
27 federal appropriations or grants, or gifts, grants, or donations from any other source.

28 458 New Subdivision; Managed Care Law; Biomarker Testing. Amend RSA 420-J by inserting  
29 after section 19 the following new subdivision:

Biomarker Testing

31 420-J:20 Definitions. In this subdivision:

32 I. "Biomarker" means a characteristic that is objectively measured and evaluated as an  
33 indicator of normal biological processes, pathogenic processes, or pharmacologic responses to a  
34 specific therapeutic intervention, including known gene-drug interactions for medications being  
35 considered for use or already being administered. Biomarkers include but are not limited to gene  
36 mutations, characteristics of genes, or protein expression.

1           II. “Biomarker testing” means the analysis of a patient’s tissue, blood, or other biospecimen  
2 for the presence of a biomarker. Biomarker testing includes but is not limited to single-analyte  
3 tests, multi-plex panel tests, protein expression, and whole exome, whole genome, and whole  
4 transcriptome sequencing.

5           III. "Clinical utility" means a biomarker test result that provides information used in the  
6 formulation of a treatment or monitoring strategy that informs a covered person's outcomes and  
7 impacts the treating provider's clinical decisions. The most appropriate test may include both  
8 information that is actionable and some information that cannot be immediately used in the  
9 formulation of a clinical decision.

10           IV. “Consensus statements” mean statements developed by an independent,  
11 multidisciplinary panel of experts utilizing a transparent methodology and reporting structure and  
12 with a conflict of interest policy. These statements are aimed at specific clinical circumstances and  
13 base the statements on the best available evidence for the purpose of optimizing the outcomes of  
14 clinical care.

15           V. “Nationally recognized clinical practice guidelines” mean evidence-based clinical practice  
16 guidelines developed by independent organizations or medical professional societies utilizing a  
17 transparent methodology and reporting structure and with a conflict of interest policy. Clinical  
18 practice guidelines establish standards of care informed by a systematic review of evidence and an  
19 assessment of the benefits and risks of alternative care options and include recommendations  
20 intended to optimize patient care.

21           420-J:21 Biomarker Testing; Health Benefit Plan Coverage Requirements.

22           I. Each health carrier issuing, amending, delivering or renewing a health benefit plan on or  
23 after January 1, 2026 shall include coverage for biomarker testing as defined in RSA 420-J:20, II,  
24 pursuant to the criteria established in this section.

25           II. Biomarker testing shall be covered for the purposes of diagnosis, treatment, appropriate  
26 management, or ongoing monitoring of an enrollee’s disease or condition when the test provides  
27 clinical utility and is demonstrated by the following medical and scientific evidence, including but  
28 not limited to any of the following:

- 29                   (a) Labeled indications for an FDA-approved or -cleared test;
- 30                   (b) Indicated tests for an FDA-approved drug;
- 31                   (c) Warnings and precautions on FDA-approved drug labels;
- 32                   (d) Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) National Coverage  
33 Determinations or Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC) Local Coverage Determinations; or
- 34                   (e) Nationally recognized clinical practice guidelines and consensus statements.

35           III. A health carrier shall ensure that coverage as defined in paragraph II is provided in a  
36 manner that limits disruptions in care including the need for multiple biopsies or biospecimen  
37 samples.

1           IV. If utilization review, including but not limited to prior authorization, is required, the  
2 health carrier, utilization review entity, or any third party acting on behalf of an organization or  
3 entity subject to this subdivision shall approve or deny a prior authorization request and notify the  
4 enrollee, the enrollee's health care provider, and any entity requesting authorization of the service  
5 within 14 days for non-urgent requests or within 72 hours for urgent requests.

6           V. The patient and prescribing practitioner shall have access to a clear, readily accessible,  
7 and convenient process to request an exception to a coverage policy or an adverse utilization review  
8 determination of a health carrier. The process shall be made readily accessible on the health  
9 carrier's website.

10          459 New Section; Medicaid Coverage of Biomarker Testing. Amend RSA 167 by inserting after  
11 section 4-f the following new section:

12          167:4-g Biomarker Testing; Medicaid Coverage Requirements.

13           I. The state Medicaid plan shall cover biomarker testing as defined in RSA 420-J:20, II, in  
14 accordance with the requirements of this section.

15           II. Biomarker testing shall be covered for the purposes of diagnosis, treatment, appropriate  
16 management, or ongoing monitoring of an enrollee's disease or condition when the department of  
17 health and human services determines that the test provides clinical utility, as defined in RSA 420-  
18 J:20, III and is demonstrated by the following medical and scientific evidence, including but not  
19 limited to any of the following:

20                   (a) Labeled indications for an FDA-approved or -cleared test;

21                   (b) Indicated tests for an FDA-approved drug;

22                   (c) Warnings and precautions on FDA-approved drug labels;

23                   (d) Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) National Coverage  
24 Determinations or Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC) Local Coverage Determinations; or

25                   (e) Nationally recognized clinical practice guidelines and consensus statements.

26           III. Risk-bearing entities contracted under the state Medicaid plan to deliver services to  
27 beneficiaries shall provide biomarker testing at the same scope, duration and frequency as the  
28 Medicaid program otherwise provides to enrollees.

29           IV. The state Medicaid plan shall ensure coverage as defined in paragraph II is provided in  
30 a manner that limits disruptions in care including the need for multiple biopsies or biospecimen  
31 samples.

32           V. If utilization review, including but not limited to prior authorization, is required, the  
33 state Medicaid plan, utilization review entity, or any third party acting on behalf of an organization  
34 or entity subject to this section shall approve or deny a prior authorization request and notify the  
35 enrollee, the enrollee's health care provider, and any entity requesting authorization of the service  
36 within 14 days for non-urgent requests or within 72 hours for urgent requests.

1 VI. The enrollee and participating provider shall have access to a clear, readily accessible,  
2 and convenient process to request an exception to a coverage policy of the state Medicaid plan or by  
3 risk-bearing entities contracted to the program. The process shall be made readily accessible to all  
4 participating providers and enrollees online.

5 VII. The department of health and human services shall submit to the Centers for Medicare  
6 and Medicaid Services any amendment to the state Medicaid plan required to provide coverage for  
7 biomarker testing in accordance with this section.

8 460 Home and Community Based Behavioral Health Services for Children; Adverse Childhood  
9 Experiences (ACEs) Prevention and Treatment Program. Amend RSA 167:3-1, IV to read as follows:

10 IV.(a) ~~[On or before January 1, 2023, the department shall develop a timeline, conduct a cost~~  
11 ~~analysis plan, and provide a detailed report of the timeline and cost analysis plan to the senate~~  
12 ~~health and human services committee and the house children and family law and health, human~~  
13 ~~services and elderly affairs committees, to]~~ ***The department of health and human services shall***  
14 ***establish the ACEs prevention and treatment program, to support children, birth to age 6,***  
15 ***with exposure to adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and severe emotional disturbances***  
16 ***whose needs cannot be met through childcare, educational, and developmental services***  
17 ***alone. The program shall be designed to provide prevention, assessment, diagnoses, and***  
18 ***treatment services for such children and their families, by:***

19 (1) ~~[Increase]~~ ***Increasing*** Medicaid reimbursement for early childhood mental  
20 health care, including but not limited to child parent psychotherapy, to enhance services for  
21 Medicaid patients;

22 (2) ~~[Elevate]~~ ***Elevating*** the early childhood and family mental health credential  
23 statewide by requiring the credential for specific provider levels and/or associating the credential  
24 with an increased salary level or higher reimbursement rates; and

25 (3) ~~[Offer]~~ ***Offering continued funding, including*** scholarships or  
26 reimbursements, to cover costs associated with ~~[the training to incentivize providers to take part in~~  
27 ~~the training]~~ ***ongoing training and professional development in early childhood mental***  
28 ***health care, including but to limited to child parent psychotherapy, to ensure the highest***  
29 ***levels of training and services to children and families.***

30 (b) Within one year of the effective date of this paragraph, the department shall develop  
31 and begin implementation of a 5-year plan to build the state's workforce capacity to provide child-  
32 parent psychotherapy (CPP), an intervention model for children from birth to age 6, who have  
33 experienced at least one traumatic event and/or are experiencing mental health, attachment, and/or  
34 behavioral problems, including posttraumatic stress disorder.

35 461 Appropriation; Department of Health and Human Services; Adverse Childhood Experiences  
36 (ACEs) Prevention and Treatment Program.

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1           I. The sum of \$150,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026 is hereby appropriated to the  
2 department of health and human services to fund the adverse childhood experiences (ACEs)  
3 prevention and treatment program, and continue to expand and fund continued professional  
4 development for child-parent psychotherapy (CPP) services, as described in RSA 167:3-1, IV. The  
5 governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said sum out of any money in the treasury not  
6 otherwise appropriated.

7           II. The sum of \$150,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027 is hereby appropriated to  
8 the department of health and human services to fund the ACEs prevention and treatment program,  
9 and continue to expand and fund continued professional development for CPP services, as described  
10 in RSA 167:3-1, IV.

11           462 New Hampshire Granite Advantage Health Care Program 1115 Demonstration; Renewed  
12 Application to CMS.

13           I. On or before January 1, 2026, the department of health and human services shall  
14 resubmit to the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) a Section 1115 demonstration  
15 waiver to the state Medicaid plan relative to enforcing community engagement and work  
16 requirements as a condition of Granite Advantage eligibility. Prior to submitting the Section 1115  
17 waiver to CMS, the department shall submit the proposed waiver to the fiscal committee of the  
18 general court for approval.

19           II. Beginning November 1, 2025 and annually thereafter, the department shall provide a  
20 report regarding the status of the waiver application and implementation of the community  
21 engagement requirements in RSA 126-AA:2, III, to the senate president, the speaker of the house of  
22 representatives, the senate clerk, the house clerk, and the governor.

23           463 Effective Date. Section 462 of this act shall take effect upon its passage.

24           464 Appropriation; New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services; Positions to  
25 Support Public Assistance Applications. The sum of \$105,000 for the biennium ending June 30,  
26 2027, is hereby appropriated to the department of health and human services for the purpose of  
27 establishing 2 positions to support the requirements of 2024, 358, relative to participation in the  
28 federal Summer EBT program and the elderly simplified application for SNAP. The department  
29 may accept and expend matching federal funds without prior approval of the fiscal committee of the  
30 general court. The department shall work with the department of administrative services, division  
31 of personnel, to determine the appropriate classifications in accordance with the personnel  
32 classification system and applicable broad group specifications. The governor is authorized to draw  
33 a warrant for said sum out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

34           465 New Section; Coverage for Hospital Stays under the State Medicaid Plan. Amend RSA 126-  
35 A by inserting after section 18-b the following new section:

36           126-A:18-c Coverage for Hospital Stays under the State Medicaid Plan.

37           Hospital stays shall be covered under the state Medicaid plan as follows:

1           I.(a) The department shall establish an administrative day rate for those days of hospital  
2 stay in which a client does not meet criteria for acute inpatient level of care, but is not discharged  
3 because:

4                   (1) An appropriate placement outside the hospital is not available; and

5                   (2) The postpartum parent's newborn remains on an inpatient claim for monitoring  
6 post-in utero exposure to substances that may lead to physiologic dependence and continuous care by  
7 the postpartum parent is the appropriate first-line treatment. "Postpartum parent" means the client  
8 who delivered the baby or babies.

9                   (b) The department shall use the annual statewide weighted average nursing facility  
10 Medicaid payment rate to update the all-inclusive administrative day rate on November 1st of each  
11 year.

12                  (c) The administrative day rate shall include pharmacy services, pharmaceuticals, and  
13 medically necessary ancillary services, as determined by the department, when these services are  
14 provided during administrative days.

15                  (d) The department shall identify administrative days during the length of stay review  
16 process after the client's discharge from the hospital.

17                  (e) The state Medicaid plan shall cover up to 5 newborn administrative days and may  
18 include additional days with expedited prior authorization (EPA). For EPA, the hospital shall  
19 establish that the clinically appropriate EPA criteria outlined in the department's published billing  
20 guides have been met, and the hospital shall use the appropriate EPA number for billing purposes.

21                  (f) The department shall pay the administrative day rate starting with the date of  
22 hospital admission if the admission is solely for a no placement administrative day stay.

23                  (g) The department shall pay the hospital the newborn administrative day rate only if:

24                    (1) The postpartum parent rooms with their newborn and provides parental  
25 support/care; and

26                    (2) The hospital provides all prescribed medications to the postpartum parent for the  
27 duration of the stay, including medications prescribed to treat substance use disorder.

28           II. The department shall establish a swing bed day rate for those days when a client is  
29 receiving department-approved nursing service level of care in a swing bed.

30                  (a) The department shall not pay a hospital the rate applicable to the acute inpatient  
31 level of care for those days of a hospital stay when a client is receiving department-approved nursing  
32 service level of care in a swing bed.

33                  (b) The department's allowed amount for those ancillary services not covered under the  
34 swing bed day rate shall be based on the payment methods provided in rules adopted under RSA  
35 541-A. These ancillary services may be billed by the hospital on an outpatient hospital claim, except  
36 for pharmacy services and pharmaceuticals.

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1 (c) The department shall allow pharmacy services and pharmaceuticals not covered  
2 under the swing bed day rate, that are provided to a client receiving department-approved nursing  
3 service level of care, to be billed directly by a pharmacy through the point of sale system. The  
4 department shall not allow those pharmacy services and pharmaceuticals to be paid to the hospital  
5 through submission of a hospital outpatient claim.

6 III. The department shall adopt rules under RSA 541-A to establish the rate setting  
7 methodology and criteria required under this section.

8 466 New Subdivision; System of Care for Children's Mental Health; New Hampshire Children's  
9 Behavioral Health Association. Amend RSA 135-F by inserting after section 9 the following new  
10 subdivision:

11 New Hampshire Children's Mental Health Association

12 135-F:10 Definitions. In this chapter:

13 I. "Assessable coverage" means:

14 (a) Health coverage as defined in RSA 420-G:2, IX;

15 (b) Stop loss coverage that conforms with RSA 415-H:3, or other group excess loss  
16 insurance purchased against the risk that any particular claim, or total liability, will exceed a  
17 specified dollar amount; or

18 (c) Group health plan, as defined by 42 U.S.C. section 300gg-91(a).

19 II. "Assessable entity" means any:

20 (a) Health maintenance organization, as defined by RSA 420-B:1, VI.

21 (b) Third party administrator, as defined by RSA 402-H:1, I.

22 (c) Entity providing administrator services and required to register with the insurance  
23 commissioner under RSA 402-H:11-a or RSA 402-H:11-b.

24 (d) Insurance company licensed pursuant to RSA 401:1, IV.

25 (e) Health service corporation, as defined by RSA 420-A:1, III.

26 III. "Assessable lives" means all children under 19 years of age residing in the state who  
27 have assessable coverage written or administered by an assessable entity, with the exception of  
28 children whose childhood behavioral health services are paid for under Medicaid.

29 IV. "Assessment" means the assessable entity's liability with respect to the childhood  
30 behavioral health services determined in accordance with this chapter. For purposes of rate setting  
31 and medical loss ratio calculations, all association assessments are considered pharmaceutical or  
32 medical benefit costs and not regulatory costs. In the event of any insolvency or similar proceeding  
33 affecting any payer, assessments shall be included in the highest priority of obligations to be paid by  
34 or on behalf of such payer.

35 V. "Association" means the New Hampshire children's behavioral health association.

36 VI. "Board" means the board of directors of the New Hampshire children's behavioral health  
37 association.

1           VII. "Care management entity" means an organizational entity that serves as a centralized  
2 entity to coordinate all care for youth with complex behavioral health challenges who are involved in  
3 multiple systems and their families, as defined in RSA 135-F:4.

4           VIII. "Childhood behavioral health services" mean any of the following services:

5               (a) Behavioral health intensive in-home services, which are therapeutic interventions  
6 delivered to children and families in their homes and other community settings to improve child and  
7 family functioning and prevent out-of-home placement. The components of intensive in-home  
8 services include, but are not limited to individual and family therapy, skills training and behavioral  
9 interventions, functional supports, and family support and training.

10              (b) Behavioral health intensive structured outpatient programs, which include short-  
11 term, clinically intensive, structured day or evening service for a child with a behavioral health  
12 disorder, and provides multidisciplinary treatment to address the subacute needs of children and  
13 youth, while allowing them to continue to work or attend school and be part of family life.

14              (c) Intensive care coordination, including but not limited to evidence based approaches  
15 like a high-fidelity wraparound for children and youth with significant behavioral health conditions,  
16 which includes assessment and service planning, accessing and arranging for services, coordinating  
17 multiple services, including access to crisis services. Assisting the child and family to meet basic  
18 needs, advocating for the child and family, and monitoring progress are also included. The  
19 wraparound "facilitator" is the intensive care coordinator who organizes, convenes, and coordinates  
20 this process.

21              (d) Parent and youth peer support services provided by trained peer support specialists.

22           IX. "Commissioner" means the commissioner of the department of health and human  
23 services.

24           X. "Estimated cost" means the estimated cost to the state over the course of a state fiscal  
25 year to reimburse the care management entities for provision of the childhood behavioral health  
26 services they provide to assessable lives.

27           XI. "Provider" means a person licensed or certified by this state, or otherwise qualified to  
28 provide health care services to persons or a partnership or corporation made up of those persons.

29           XII. "Total non-federal program cost" means the estimated childhood behavioral health  
30 services cost less the amount of federal revenue available to the state for the administration and  
31 provision of childhood behavioral health services.

32           135-F:11 New Hampshire Children's Behavioral Health Association Established. There is  
33 hereby created a nonprofit corporation to be known as the New Hampshire children's behavioral  
34 health association. The association is formed to assess assessable entities for the cost of childhood  
35 behavioral health services provided to certain children in New Hampshire.

36           135-F:12 Membership, Powers, and Duties of the New Hampshire Children's Behavioral Health  
37 Association.

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1           I. The New Hampshire children's behavioral health association shall be comprised of all  
2 assessable entities.

3           II. The New Hampshire children's behavioral health association shall be a not-for-profit,  
4 voluntary corporation under RSA 292 and shall possess all general powers of a not-for-profit  
5 corporation.

6           III. The board of directors shall include:

7           (a) Three representatives selected from the assessable entities currently writing,  
8 maintaining, or administering assessable coverage through a voting process where votes are based  
9 on assessable lives. The plan of operation shall provide details for this selection process. One of  
10 these representatives shall represent self-insured entities.

11           (b) Two health care provider representatives appointed by the commissioner, one of  
12 whom shall be a mental health care provider.

13           (c) The commissioner of the department of health and human services, who shall serve  
14 as an ex officio member.

15           (d) The commissioner of the department of insurance who shall serve as an ex-officio  
16 member.

17           (e) One public member appointed by the governor and council.

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

19           (g) One public member appointed by the president of the senate.

20           IV. The directors' terms and appointments shall be specified in the plan of operation adopted  
21 by the New Hampshire children's behavioral health association.

22           V. The board of directors of the association shall:

23           (a) Prepare and adopt articles of association and bylaws.

24           (b) Prepare and adopt a plan of operation.

25           (c) Submit the plan of operation to the commissioner of insurance for approval after the  
26 consultation with the commissioner.

27           (d) Conduct all activities in accordance with the approved plan of operation.

28           (e) On an annual basis, no later than November 1 of each year, establish the amount of  
29 the assessment for the succeeding year.

30           (f) Enter into contracts as necessary or proper to collect and disburse the assessment.

31           (g) Enter into contracts as necessary or proper to administer the plan of operation.

32           (h) Sue or be sued, including taking any legal action necessary or proper for the recovery  
33 of any assessment for, on behalf of, or against members of the association or other participating  
34 person.

35           (i) Appoint from among its directors, committees as necessary to provide technical  
36 assistance in the operation of the association, including the hiring of independent consultants as  
37 necessary.

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1           (j) Determine an assessment amount and collect payments from assessed entities in  
2 accordance with RSA 135-F:13.

3           (k) Submit an annual report to the commissioner of insurance, in a manner and form  
4 determined by the commissioner, listing the association membership base, providing a count of  
5 assessable lives by assessable entity, identifying changes in assessable lives by assessable entity,  
6 describing the collection of assessments, listing payment delinquencies, and containing such other  
7 related information as the commissioner may require.

8           (l) Allow each assessable entity up to 45 days after the closing of each calendar quarter  
9 to report its assessable lives and remit its corresponding assessment amount as calculated pursuant  
10 to RSA 135-F:13.

11           (m) Collect assessments from assessable entities as calculated under RSA 135-F:13 and  
12 deposit said assessments less the association's administrative costs annually and reserves with the  
13 state treasurer to the credit of the childhood behavioral health services fund established pursuant to  
14 RSA 135-F:19. At the written request of the association following a majority vote of the board of  
15 directors, any funds forwarded to the state treasurer for the childhood behavioral health services  
16 fund remaining unexpended for childhood behavioral health services, shall promptly be returned to  
17 the association.

18           (n) Be authorized to enter into one or more agreements with other applicable authorities  
19 in surrounding states to reduce the risk of duplicate assessments and to assure provision of  
20 childhood behavioral health services for children who are residents of this state but who receive  
21 childhood behavioral health services in other states. Any costs relating to any such agreement shall  
22 be considered additional childhood behavioral health services costs of the program for purposes of  
23 determining the association's assessments.

24           (o) Adopt procedures by which affiliated assessable entities calculate their assessment  
25 on an aggregate basis and procedures to ensure that no assessable life is counted more than once.  
26 Unless otherwise determined by the board, the assessable entity responsible for the payment of the  
27 provider's administrative costs for childhood behavioral health services shall be the entity  
28 responsible for reporting assessable lives and payment of the corresponding assessment.

29           (p) Submit an annual report regarding the association's activities and its financial  
30 reports adopted by the department of health and human services to the president of the senate, the  
31 speaker of the house of representatives, and the governor.

32           (q) Perform any other functions as may be necessary or proper to carry out the plan of  
33 operation.

34           135-F:13 Assessment Determination.

35           I. The board shall determine an assessment for each assessable entity in accordance with  
36 this section. An assessment determination made pursuant to this section is a medical benefit cost  
37 and not a regulatory cost for purposes of calculating the carrier's medical loss ratio.

1           II. In determining the assessment amount, the board shall:

2               (a) Estimate the total non-federal program cost for the succeeding year;

3               (b) Add its anticipated operating costs for the succeeding year and such additional  
4 working capital reserves as may be established by the board from time to time;

5               (c) Add a reserve of up to 10 percent of the anticipated cost under subparagraph (a) for  
6 unanticipated costs associated with providing childhood behavioral health services to children  
7 covered; and

8               (d) Subtract the amount of any unexpended assessments collected in the preceding year  
9 along with any unexpended interest accrued to the fund during the preceding year.

10           III. The board shall include in its plan of operations, details regarding the timing for  
11 assessment collections, and the form and format assessable entities shall use to calculate  
12 assessments.

13           IV. The board shall include in its plan of operation details regarding payment due dates,  
14 grace periods, late payment fees, interest, and other details regarding the collection of assessments.

15           V. The board may determine an interim assessment for new childhood behavioral health  
16 services or unanticipated shortfalls in the association's ability to meet childhood behavioral health  
17 services funding needs. The board shall calculate the interim assessment in accordance with  
18 paragraph II, and the interim assessment is payable the calendar quarter that begins no less than  
19 30 days following the establishment of the interim assessment. The board shall not impose more  
20 than one interim assessment per year.

21           VI. In the event that the association discontinues operation for any reason, any unexpended  
22 assessments, including unexpended funds from prior assessments in the children's behavioral health  
23 association, shall be refunded to payees in proportion to the respective assessment payments by  
24 payees over the most recent 8 quarters prior to discontinuation of association operations.

25           135-F:14 Powers and Duties. In addition to the duties and powers enumerated elsewhere in this  
26 chapter:

27               I. The commissioner of insurance shall, after notice from the association, issue a show cause  
28 order to any assessable entity that fails to comply with the association's plan of operation. In  
29 addition to late fees and other penalties imposed by the association, assessable entities may, after a  
30 finding of just cause, be subject to a minimum fine of \$5,000, a maximum fine of 25 percent of the  
31 total amount of delinquent assessments, and licensure suspension.

32               II. The insurance commissioner shall annually review the assessment report required under  
33 RSA 135-F:12, V(k) to ensure that all assessable entities are participating in the association and  
34 that all assessable entities have accurately reported assessable lives. The association shall remedy  
35 any problem identified by the commissioner with respect to assessable entities and assessable lives.

36               III. The commissioner of insurance may adopt rules, pursuant to RSA 541-A, as necessary to  
37 carry out the purposes of this subdivision.

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1       135-F:15 Examinations and Annual Reports. The board of directors shall submit to the  
2 commissioner, no later than 120 days after the close of the association's fiscal year, a financial report  
3 in a form approved by the commissioner.

4       135-F:16 Exemption From Taxes. The association shall be exempt from payment of all fees and  
5 all taxes levied by this state or any of its subdivisions, except taxes levied on real property.

6       135-F:17 Immunity from Liability. There shall be no liability on the part of and no cause of  
7 action of any nature shall arise against any association member or its agents or employees, the  
8 association or its agents or employees, members of the board of directors, or the commissioner or the  
9 commissioner's representatives, for any action or omission by them in the performance of their  
10 powers and duties under this chapter.

11       135-F:18 Severability of Chapter. If any provisions of this chapter or the application thereof to  
12 any person or circumstance is held invalid, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or  
13 applications of the chapter which can be given effect without the invalid provisions or applications,  
14 and to this end the provisions of this chapter are severable.

15       135-F:19 Childhood Behavioral Health Services Fund. There is hereby established in the office  
16 of the state treasury a fund to be known as the childhood behavioral health services fund that shall  
17 be kept distinct and separate from all other funds. The fund is established to pay the care  
18 management entities for the provision of childhood behavioral health services. Any funds provided  
19 to the department for this purpose and deposited in the fund shall not be used for any other purpose.  
20 All moneys in this fund shall be nonlapsing and continually appropriated to the department.

21       467 New Subparagraph; State Treasurer; Application of Receipts. Amended RSA 6:12, I(b) by  
22 inserting after subparagraph (399) the following new subparagraph:

23               (400) Moneys deposited in the childhood behavioral health services fund established  
24 in RSA 135-F:19.

25       468 Insurance; Coverage for Certain Biologically-Based Mental Illnesses. Amend RSA 417-E:1,  
26 V-a to read as follows:

27               V-a. The commissioner shall periodically require health insurers, health service  
28 corporations, and health maintenance organizations to submit the comparative analysis described in  
29 42 U.S.C. section 300gg-26(a)(8)(A) for review to ensure compliance with this chapter and with the  
30 Act. ***These comparative analyses shall also include specific comparative data for***  
31 ***medical/surgical benefits and mental health and substance use disorder benefits available***  
32 ***to consumers by age group including ages 0-5 years and 18 years and younger, and***  
33 ***including services available, coverage guidelines, denial rates, complaints about lack of***  
34 ***services, network capacity data, provider qualifications and restrictions for comparable***  
35 ***services, and other factors that indicate whether there are barriers to care that affect***  
36 ***parity.*** To the extent allowable under state and federal law, such analysis shall be made public.

37       469 Effective Date. Sections 466-468 of this act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

1       470 Appropriation; Intermediate Care for Children with Intellectual and Developmental  
2 Disabilities. The sums of \$70,105 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026 and \$141,613 for the fiscal  
3 year ending June 30, 2027 are hereby appropriated to the department of health and human services,  
4 account 05-95-048-482010-2154, for the purpose of providing a 2 percent rate increase in fiscal year  
5 2026 and an additional 2 percent rate increase in fiscal year 2027 to facilities providing intermediate  
6 care for children with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The governor is authorized to  
7 draw a warrant for said sum out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated. The  
8 department is authorized to accept and expend any federal funds for the purposes of this section  
9 without prior approval of the fiscal committee of the general court.

10       471 New Hampshire Veterans' Home; Transfer Between and Among Accounts and Classes.  
11 Notwithstanding the provisions of RSA 9:16-a, RSA 9:16-b, and RSA 9:16-c, for the biennium ending  
12 June 30, 2027, the commandant of the New Hampshire veterans' home is authorized to transfer  
13 funds between and among all accounting units and expenditure classes within the home and to  
14 create accounting units and expenditure classes as required and as the commandant deems  
15 necessary and appropriate to address present or projected budget deficits, or to respond to changes  
16 in federal law, regulations, or programs, and otherwise as necessary for the efficient management of  
17 the home, including funding unfunded positions, provided that if a transfer does not include new  
18 accounting units or expenditure classes, only such transfers of \$100,000 or more shall require prior  
19 approval of the fiscal committee of the general court and the governor and council. The New  
20 Hampshire veterans' home shall remain subject to the transfer limitations in RSA 9:17-a and RSA  
21 9:17-c.

22       472 Statement of Findings. The general court hereby finds that:

23           I. New Hampshire is facing serious gaps in maternal health and wellness and continues to  
24 face threats to the fragile maternal health ecosystem.

25           II. The New Hampshire maternal mortality committee determined that 76.1 percent of New  
26 Hampshire pregnancy-related deaths were preventable.

27           III. Nationwide, data show that 53 percent of pregnancy-related deaths occurred between  
28 one day to one year after pregnancy.

29           IV. New Hampshire has a high prevalence of depression, anxiety, and behavioral health  
30 conditions, including substance overdose, a leading cause of maternal mortality.

31           V. The majority of maternal deaths as the result of an overdose have connections to prior  
32 mental health conditions.

33           VI. Seventy-eight percent of New Hampshire moms worked during pregnancy, and 62  
34 percent of New Hampshire moms plan to return or return to the workforce after giving birth.

35       473 New Section; Maternal Mental Health Screening. Amend RSA 126-A by inserting after  
36 section 101 the following new section:

37       126-A:101-a Maternal Mental Health Screening.

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1           I. The department of health and human services shall cover maternal depression screenings  
2 at well-child visits under the state Medicaid program. The department shall recommend that health  
3 care providers screen mothers for maternal depression at all well-child visits.

4           II. The department is authorized to use the following Medicaid coverage categories to  
5 reimburse depression screening:

6               (a) Early and periodic screening, diagnostic, and treatment services.

7               (b) As an assessment under the mother's Medicaid identification number.

8               (c) As a risk assessment under the infant's Medicaid identification number.

9           III. As used in this section, "maternal depression screening" means screening tools for  
10 maternal mental health that are consistent with current standard of care and under the supervision  
11 of a certified health care provider.

12           474 New Section; Maternal Depression Screening Coverage. Amend RSA 417-D by inserting  
13 after section 2-c the following new section:

14           417-D:2-d Maternal Depression Screening Coverage.

15           I. Each health carrier that issues or renews any group policy, plan, or contract of accident or  
16 health insurance providing benefits for medical or hospital expenses, shall provide to certificate  
17 holders of such insurance coverage for maternal depression screening.

18           II. Covered benefits shall include:

19               (a) Periodic prenatal and postpartum depression screening of the pregnant and  
20 postpartum patient under the patient's plan.

21               (b) Periodic maternal depression screening for the mother of a child at the child's one  
22 month, 2 month, 4 month, and 6 month well-child visits under the child's plan.

23               (c) Instruction to the mother on the results of screening and referral to mental health  
24 and/or community based resources.

25           III. In this section:

26               (a) "Maternal depression screening" means any and all screening tools for maternal  
27 mental health that is consistent with current standard of care and under the supervision of a  
28 certified health care provider.

29               (b) "Pregnant or postpartum patient" is defined as an individual who:

30                   (1) Is pregnant or within 12 months of giving birth; or

31                   (2) Has lost a pregnancy or relinquished an infant for adoption within the previous  
32 12 months.

33           IV. This section shall not apply to plans available through the Small Business Health  
34 Options Program (SHOP).

35           475 Appropriation; Department of Health and Human Services; Perinatal Psychiatric Provider  
36 Consult Line. The sum of \$275,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2028 is hereby appropriated  
37 to the department of health and human services to support the establishment of a perinatal

1 psychiatric provider consult line. The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said sums out of  
2 any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

3 476 Appropriation; Rural Maternal Health EMS Services. The sum of \$75,000 for fiscal year  
4 ending June 30, 2026, and the sum of \$75,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, is hereby  
5 appropriated to the department of safety to support rural maternal health EMS services. The  
6 governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said sums out of any money in the treasury not  
7 otherwise appropriated.

8 477 Appropriation: Department of Health and Human Services; Reduction of Barriers for  
9 Independent Birth Centers; Agency Study and Report. The sum of \$30,000 for fiscal year ending  
10 June 30, 2026, is hereby appropriated to the department of health and human services to utilize  
11 existing contracts to additionally examine barriers to the sustainability of independent birth centers  
12 in New Hampshire and identify ways to reduce burdens and encourage their sustainability. The  
13 department shall report its findings and recommendations, including any necessary legislation and  
14 rulemaking changes, to the senate president, the speaker of the house of representatives, the  
15 governor, the house clerk, and the senate clerk on or before June 30, 2026.

16 478 New Sections; Women's Health Care. Amend RSA 417-D by inserting after section 2-d the  
17 following new sections:

18 417-D:2-e Coverage of Perinatal Mental Health and Substance Use Treatment.

19 I. Any group health plan or health insurance issuer offering group health insurance  
20 coverage, that provides benefits with respect to mental health and substance use disorders  
21 treatment furnished to a perinatal individual enrolled under such plan or coverage, may choose to  
22 waive copayment for such services.

23 II. For a health care contract that meets the definition of a "high deductible plan" set forth  
24 in 26 U.S.C. section 223(c)(2), this requirement shall apply only after the enrollee has satisfied the  
25 minimum deductible under section 223 for the year, except with respect to items or services that are  
26 preventive care pursuant to section 223(c)(2)(C) of the federal Internal Revenue Code, in which case  
27 paragraph I shall apply regardless of whether the minimum deductible under section 223 has been  
28 satisfied.

29 III. In this section:

30 (a) "Perinatal individual" shall refer to an individual who:

31 (1) Is pregnant or is within 12 months of giving birth;

32 (2) Is a biological parent or an adoptive or foster parent who is within 12 months  
33 from assuming custodial care of a child; or

34 (3) Has lost a pregnancy or relinquished an infant for adoption within the previous  
35 12 months.

1 (b) "Substance use treatment" and "substance use disorder services" mean health care  
2 services that are provided to a covered person as treatment for an addictive substance-related  
3 condition, not including treatment for any condition related to tobacco use.

4 417-D:2-f Coverage of Perinatal Home Visiting Services.

5 I. Each health carrier that issues or renews any group policy, plan, or contract of accident or  
6 health insurance providing benefits for medical or hospital expenses, shall provide certificate holders  
7 of such insurance coverage for home visiting services for pregnant and postpartum women who do  
8 not otherwise qualify.

9 II. Covered benefits shall include:

10 (a) Home visiting services for pregnant and postpartum women up to 12 months post  
11 birth of a child provided by a qualified health professional with maternal and pediatric health  
12 training.

13 (b) Instruction, resource referral, and materials necessary to home visiting care.

14 III. In this section, "home visiting services" includes evidence-based, voluntary home or  
15 community-based services for mothers and caregivers with newborns aimed at improving maternal  
16 and child health, including but limited to:

17 (a) Screenings for unmet health needs;

18 (b) Maternal and infant nutritional needs;

19 (c) Emotional health supports, including postpartum depression supports; and

20 (d) Resource and referral.

21 479 New Section; Expand Employee Protection to Attend Pregnancy Appointments to  
22 Postpartum and Fertility Appointments. Amend RSA 275 by inserting after section 37-e the  
23 following new section:

24 275:37-f Leave of Absence to Attend Medical Appointments for Childbirth, Postpartum Care,  
25 and Infant Pediatric Medical Appointments.

26 No employer with 20 employees or more, shall deny an employee leave from work up to a total of  
27 25 hours to attend the employee's own medical appointments for childbirth, postpartum care, or the  
28 employee's child's pediatric medical appointments within the first year of the child's birth or  
29 adoption. In the case where both parents of a child are employees of the same employer, the parents  
30 collectively may take unpaid leave according to this section, for a total of 25 hours in their child's  
31 first year. An employer is not required to pay an employee for any time taken as leave pursuant to  
32 this section. However, an employee shall be permitted to substitute any accrued vacation time or  
33 other appropriate paid leave for any leave taken pursuant to this section. When the employee  
34 returns from their own or their child's health appointments, that employee's original job shall be  
35 made available to the employee by the employer. An employee who wishes to request leave under  
36 this section shall provide reasonable notice to the employer prior to the leave and make a reasonable  
37 effort to schedule the leave so as not to unduly disrupt the operations of the employer. An employer

1 may ask for documentation from the employee to ensure the time is being used for its intended  
2 purpose.

3 480 Department of Health and Human Services; Perinatal Peer Support. The department of  
4 health and human services shall study how to operationalize a perinatal peer support certification  
5 program and determine best practices for perinatal peer support. The department shall provide a  
6 report of their findings to the senate president, speaker of the house of representatives, the senate  
7 clerk, house clerk, and governor no later than November 1, 2026.

8 481 Effective Date.

9 I. Sections 473, 474, 478, and 479 shall take effect January 1, 2026.

10 II. Section 475 shall take effect July 1, 2027.

11 482 Appropriation; Department of Health and Human Services; Supportive Housing Services.  
12 The commissioner of the department of health and human services shall submit a renewal of the  
13 state plan amendment as provided in Section 1915(i) of the Social Security Act or a waiver under  
14 other provisions of the Act to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to sustain a state  
15 Medicaid benefit for supportive housing services. The department of health and human services  
16 shall fully implement the new supportive housing Medicaid benefit and provide a report to the  
17 legislature on its implementation on November 1, 2025, and November 1, 2026.

18 483 Department of Health and Human Services; Appropriation; Funding for Community  
19 Residential Services for Individuals with Disabilities and Acquired Brain Disorders. There is hereby  
20 appropriated to the department of health and human services the sum of \$10,000,000 for the  
21 biennium ending June 30, 2027 for the purpose of financing room and board for individuals with  
22 disabilities and acquired brain disorders who live in a staffed community residence within the state  
23 of New Hampshire. The department may accept and expend matching federal funds without prior  
24 approval of the fiscal committee of the general court. The governor is authorized to draw a warrant  
25 for said sums out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

26 484 Committee Established.

27 I. There is established a committee to study long-term managed care and other relevant  
28 considerations related to long-term managed care.

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

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

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

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

35 IV. The committee shall:

36 (a) Solicit input regarding, and develop legislative proposals related to, the following:

1           (1) The integration of medicaid-funded long-term care services, including home and  
2 community based services waiver programs and nursing home benefits, into the department of  
3 health and human service's care management program, to be delivered by at least one managed care  
4 organization as defined in RSA 126-A:5, XIX(c)(3);

5           (2) Managed long-term care services and support programs run nationally;

6           (3) Waivers and nursing home benefits delivered through Medicaid managed care  
7 organizations, where managed care organizations are responsible for care coordination, service  
8 authorization, and payment administration for long-term support and services, as well as services  
9 supported under the choices for independence waiver under section 1902 (a)(30)(A) of the Social  
10 Security Act;

11           (4) Whether to include developmental disability waiver services into the Medicaid  
12 care management program;

13           (5) Ways in which the state and counties can obtain enhanced federal funding  
14 sources;

15           (6) Ways in which Medicaid eligibility can be streamlined to place priority on  
16 consumer choice and create a less restrictive environment;

17           (7) Ways in which nursing facility providers can be incentivized to accept Medicaid  
18 members with high acuity to reduce length of stay in hospitals;

19           (8) How managed care organizations collaborate with county governments, including  
20 delegating care coordination and service authorization functions;

21           (9) How to ensure nursing facilities are paid timely and utilize services consistent  
22 with the criteria established by the department of health and human services;

23           (10) How managed care organizations participate in discharge planning, transitional  
24 care, and other education programs for physicians, nurses, discharge planners and hospitals;

25           (11) How managed care organizations provide incentive payments to nursing facility  
26 providers, reward reductions in preventable acute care costs, and encourage transformative efforts  
27 in the delivery of nursing facility services, including efforts to promote transitions to community  
28 based settings and a resident-centered care culture through facility design and services provided;

29           (12) How a shared savings program with county governments and other nursing  
30 facility providers and active participants can ensure the delivery of quality services;

31           (13) How the department of health and human services can update its capitation  
32 payment plan to take into consideration payments to cover all managed long-term care support  
33 services;

34           (14) Issues relevant to ensure a seamless and effective transition to the integration  
35 of all long-term care services, including waiver services, to be managed through the care  
36 management program;

1           (15) The timeline and impact of a statewide program that aligns Medicare and  
2 Medicaid enrollment into a highly-integrated, special needs plan for all dually eligible Medicaid and  
3 Medicare beneficiaries;

4           (16) The benefits of dually eligible plans on meeting the needs of individuals who  
5 choose to remain in communities with appropriate services; and

6           (17) Other pertinent and relevant issues as deemed necessary by the committee.

7           (b) Solicit input from:

8                 (1) The department of health and human services;

9                 (2) County and private nursing home providers;

10                (3) Long-term service and support providers within the development and disability  
11 areas of state agencies;

12                (4) National Medicaid-managed care providers; and

13                (5) Other departments, groups, organizations, or individuals as deemed necessary by  
14 the committee.

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

19           VI. The committee shall report its findings and any recommendations for proposed  
20 legislation to the president of the senate, the speaker of the house of representatives, the senate  
21 clerk, the house clerk, the governor, and the state library on or before October 1, 2025.

22           485 Effective Date. Section 484 of this act shall take effect upon its passage.

23           486 Department of Health and Human Services; Processing of Medical Assistance Applications;  
24 Hiring Consultant; Appropriation.

25           I. The sum of \$3,000,000 for the biennium ending June 30, 2027, is hereby appropriated to  
26 the department of health and human services for the purpose of hiring a contractor to provide  
27 staffing support to assist with eliminating the backlog in Medicaid long-term care eligibility  
28 determinations. The department shall begin a competitive bidding process on or before September  
29 30, 2025, to hire a contractor to begin on or before December 31, 2025, subject to governor and  
30 executive council approval, for the purposes of this section. In addition to providing staffing support,  
31 the contractor shall develop a plan for the efficient processing of long-term care applications by or  
32 before June 30, 2026. The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said sum out of any money  
33 in the treasury not otherwise appropriated. The department may accept and expend additional  
34 federal funds without prior approval of the fiscal committee of the general court.

35           II. For the biennium ending June 30, 2027, the annual licensing fee set forth in RSA 151:5,  
36 IV for nursing homes shall be \$85 per licensed bed and \$60 of said fees collected by the department  
37 of health and human services during this period shall be deposited into the general fund of the state.

1 The purpose of this is to partially offset the appropriation set forth in paragraph I in this section.  
2 The remaining \$25 per licensed bed will continue to go into account 05-95-95-952010-5146.

3 487 Directive; Department of Health and Human Services. The department of health and  
4 human services shall report by January 1, 2026 on the status of the backlog in Medicaid long-term  
5 care eligibility determinations to the speaker of the house of representatives, the president of the  
6 senate, and the chairs of the senate health and human services committee and the house of  
7 representatives health, human services, and elderly affairs committee. The department shall  
8 provide an updated report every 6 months until the department reports that there is no further  
9 backlog.

10 488 Accident and Health Insurance; Coverage for Prosthetic Devices. Amend RSA 415:18-ff to  
11 read as follows:

12 415:18-ff Coverage for Prosthetic Devices [~~for Children~~].

13 **I.** Each insurer that issues or renews a policy of group or blanket accident or health  
14 insurance providing benefits for medical or hospital expenses shall provide coverage for prosthetic  
15 devices, including activity-specific prosthetic devices, for children under 19 years of age, who are  
16 residents of this state and covered by such insurance. The insurer may limit coverage for activity-  
17 specific prosthetic devices to one activity-specific prosthetic device per plan year. Medically  
18 necessary prosthetic devices shall not be subject to any annual limits. Coverage under this section  
19 shall be subject to such other terms and conditions of the policy that may apply.

20 **II.** *Each insurer that issues or renews a policy of group or blanket accident or*  
21 *health insurance providing benefits for medical or hospital expenses shall provide*  
22 *coverage for prosthetic devices, including activity-specific prosthetic devices, for*  
23 *individuals over 19 years of age, who are residents of this state and covered by such*  
24 *insurance. The insurer may limit coverage for activity-specific prosthetic devices to one*  
25 *activity-specific prosthetic device every 5 years. Medically necessary prosthetic devices*  
26 *shall not be subject to any annual limits. Coverage under this section shall be subject to*  
27 *such other terms and conditions of the policy that may apply. The terms of this section do*  
28 *not apply to self-funded plans, including the State of NH's employee benefit plan.*

29 [~~I.~~] **III.** Covered benefits shall include:

- 30 (a) All materials and components necessary to use the device;  
31 (b) Instruction to the enrollee on using the device; and  
32 (c) The repair or replacement of a prosthetic device that is determined medically  
33 necessary or is necessary for maximizing the enrollee's ability to engage in the specific activity.

34 [~~II.~~] **IV.** In this section:

- 35 (a) "Prosthetic" means an artificial substitute for a body part for functional or  
36 therapeutic purposes.

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1 (b) "Activity-specific prosthetic device" means a prosthetic device designed to allow an  
2 individual to participate in a specific activity that could damage the residual limb or everyday  
3 prosthesis, or when the everyday prosthesis would not function effectively to perform that specified  
4 activity.

5 ~~III.]~~ V. This section shall not apply to plans available through the Small Business Health  
6 Options Program (SHOP).

7 489 Coverage for Certain Prosthetic Devices. Amend RSA 415:18-n, I to read as follows:

8 I. Each insurer that issues or renews any policy of group accident or health insurance  
9 providing benefits for medical or hospital expenses, except for supplemental policies covering a  
10 specified disease or other limited benefit, shall provide to each group, or to the portion of each group  
11 comprised of certificate holders of such insurance who are residents of this state and whose principal  
12 place of employment is in this state, coverage for benefits for prosthetic devices under the same  
13 terms and conditions that apply to other durable medical equipment covered under the policy, except  
14 as otherwise provided in this section ***and except as otherwise provided in RSA 415:18-ff.***

15 490 Effective Date. Sections 488 and 489 of this act shall take effect January 1, 2026.

16 491 Department of Health and Human Services; Division of Public Health Services; Public-  
17 Private Health Care Workforce Recruitment and Retention Hub; Infrastructure Contracts. The  
18 department of health and human services, division of public health services, rural health and  
19 primary care section shall amend its current contract with Bi-State Primary Care Association's  
20 Recruitment Center to require the Recruitment Center to collaborate with a family medicine  
21 residency program in rural New Hampshire at a teaching health center program to support the  
22 training of family medicine residents in the north country. The teaching health center program shall  
23 be accredited or eligible for accreditation by a nationally recognized accreditation agency.

24 492 Appropriation; Bi-State Primary Care Association Sub-recipient Contract with a Rural  
25 Residency Training at a Teaching Health Center Program. The sum of \$500,000 for the fiscal year  
26 ending June 30, 2027 is hereby appropriated to the department of health and human services,  
27 division of public health services, rural health and primary care section for the purposes set forth in  
28 section 493 of this act. The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said sum out of any money  
29 in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

30 493 Personal Needs Allowance of Residents of Nursing Homes. Amend RSA 167:27-a, II to read  
31 as follows:

32 II. Every ~~[5-years]~~ **year**, the commissioner shall make the adjustment for cost of living  
33 increases in the personal needs allowance to reflect social security increases.

34 494 Department of Health and Human Services; Hampstead Hospital and Residential  
35 Treatment Facility Staff Transitioning; Certain Leave Accrual and Supplemental Payments;  
36 Supplemental Appropriation. Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, the sum of \$160,000  
37 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, is hereby appropriated to the department of health and

1 human services for the purposes of making certain leave accrual payments to temporary classified  
2 positions and any applicable bonus or retention payments prorated to the time worked in state  
3 service as part of staff transition at Hampstead hospital and residential treatment facility. This  
4 appropriation shall be nonlapsing and limited to the purposes of this section. The governor is  
5 authorized to draw a warrant for said sum out of any money in the treasury not otherwise  
6 appropriated.

7 495 New Paragraph; Department of Health and Human Services; Hampstead Hospital and  
8 Residential Treatment Facility; Establishing Fund. Amend RSA 126-A:5, by inserting after  
9 paragraph XXXVI the following new paragraph:

10 XXXVII. There is hereby established the Hampstead hospital and residential treatment  
11 facility capital investment fund. The department shall deposit revenue received through leasing  
12 Hampstead hospital and residential treatment facility or any other administrative activities into the  
13 fund. For the biennium ending June 30, 2027, the department shall deposit all revenue into the  
14 fund. In the event that such revenue exceeds \$3,000,000, for the biennium ending June 30, 2027, the  
15 department shall provide a report to the fiscal committee of the general court identifying the total  
16 amount. The fund shall be nonlapsing and continually appropriated to the commissioner for the  
17 purpose of supporting required capital investments and ongoing maintenance and upkeep of the  
18 campus at Hampstead hospital and residential treatment facility and may not be transferred or used  
19 for any other purpose.

20 496 Department of Health and Human Services; Carryforward. For the biennium ending June  
21 30, 2025, all revenue collected by the department of health and human service derived from the  
22 operations transfer and asset purchase agreement, lease agreement, and transition services  
23 agreement, approved by the governor and executive council on December 18, 2024, shall be deposited  
24 into the Hampstead hospital and residential treatment fund.

25 497 New Subparagraph; Application of Receipts; Hampstead Hospital and Residential  
26 Treatment Facility Capital Investment Fund. Amend RSA 6:12, I(b) by inserting after subparagraph  
27 (399) the following new subparagraph:

28 (400) Moneys deposited in the Hampstead hospital and residential treatment facility  
29 capital investment fund as established in RSA 126-A:5, XXXVII.

30 498 Effective Date.

31 I. Section 493 of this act shall take effect January 1, 2026.

32 II. Sections 494 through 497 of this act shall take effect June 30, 2025.

33 499 Department of Health and Human Services; Appropriation; Tier-One Call Center. There is  
34 hereby appropriated to the department of health and human services the sum of \$3,825,000 for the  
35 biennium ending June 30, 2027, for the purpose of financing a tier-one call center. The department  
36 may accept and expend matching federal funds without prior approval of the fiscal committee of the

1 general court. The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said sums out of any money in the  
2 treasury not otherwise appropriated.

3 500 New Subparagraphs; New Hampshire Employment Program and Family Assistance  
4 Program; Rulemaking. Amend RSA 167:83, II by inserting after subparagraph (r) the following new  
5 subparagraphs:

6 (s) Payments for child care providers. Such rules shall:

7 (1) Streamline data entry requirements for providers receiving child care scholarship  
8 payments by eliminating any requirement to report hourly attendance, to the extent that such  
9 reporting is not necessary for administering child care scholarship payments; and

10 (2) By December 2025, implement a system of prospective provider payments,  
11 through which child care providers shall receive scholarship program payments in advance of or at  
12 the beginning of each payment period. If a provider begins providing care to a child in the middle of  
13 a service period, the department may delay the first payment until the start of the next service  
14 period.

15 (t) Child care scholarship presumptive eligibility pilot program.

16 (1) The department shall develop and implement a presumptive eligibility pilot  
17 program, whereby applicants who meet threshold screening requirements established by the  
18 department will receive the benefit of child care scholarship funds while the application process is  
19 underway, from the date of the initial screening until the earliest of:

20 (A) 60 days after the initial screening;

21 (B) The date on which a final eligibility determination is made; or

22 (C) The expiration of a submission period, the length of which shall be identified  
23 by the department, if the applicant fails to submit the required information or documentation to  
24 establish eligibility during this period. The department shall provide both the applicant and the  
25 child care provider at least 10 days notice, and shall supply the applicant a list of the verification  
26 documents still required to determine eligibility, before terminating the presumptive eligibility  
27 period on this basis.

28 (2) Except in cases of fraud or intentional violation of program rules, no child care  
29 provider and no scholarship applicant shall be held responsible for the costs of care paid from  
30 scholarship funds during such period of presumptive eligibility, even if the child is ultimately  
31 determined ineligible for scholarship funds.

32 (3) The department shall establish criteria and parameters as needed to implement  
33 the program.

34 (4) The duration of this pilot program shall be 24 months, beginning January 1,  
35 2026.

36 (5) The department may suspend this pilot program, with notice to providers and  
37 prospective applicants, if an active waitlist is maintained pursuant to N.H. Admin. Code section He-

1 C 6910.11, and the department shall reinstate the pilot program if such a waitlist ends during the  
2 duration of the pilot program.

3 (6) On or before May 1, 2028, the department shall provide a detailed report of the  
4 presumptive eligibility pilot program to the house health and human services oversight committee  
5 and senate health and human services committee of the general court. The report shall include the  
6 following information:

7 (A) Information regarding family and provider interest and utilization of the  
8 program during the pilot period;

9 (B) Information regarding the costs and benefits of the program as implemented,  
10 and any suggestions for improvements;

11 (C) Funding levels necessary to sustain the program going forward; and

12 (D) Any other relevant information regarding the program.

13 (u) District office staff training. The department of health and human services shall  
14 develop and engage in training of all district office staff regarding changes to the child care  
15 scholarship program.

16 501 Department of Health and Human Services; Appropriation. There is hereby appropriated to  
17 the department of health and human services the sum of \$100,000, for the biennium ending June 30,  
18 2027, to provide payments for child care providers, the child care scholarship presumptive eligibility  
19 pilot program, and the child care scholarship application process study. The governor is authorized  
20 to draw a warrant for said sums out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

21 502 Prospective Repeal. RSA 167:83, II(t), related to the child care scholarship presumptive  
22 eligibility pilot program, is repealed.

23 503 Effective Date. Section 502 of this act shall take effect May 2, 2028.

24 504 Department of Health and Human Services. Appropriation; Child Care Programs.

25 I. The sums of \$7,500,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026 and \$7,500,000 for the  
26 fiscal year ending June 30, 2027 are hereby appropriated from federal TANF reserve funds to the  
27 department of health and human services for the purpose of financing recruitment and retention  
28 bonus and benefit grants for New Hampshire child care employers. The appropriation is contingent  
29 upon the department seeking formal approval from the federal Department of Health and Human  
30 Services to use the funds for the purposes specified in this section. If necessary, and if a waiver  
31 process is available, the department of health and human services shall seek a waiver to use the  
32 funds for these purposes. The department shall make the initial request no later than August 1,  
33 2025, and upon receiving a determination, shall notify the fiscal committee of the general court of  
34 the decision received.

35 II. Eligible child care programs shall be programs operating in New Hampshire with an  
36 active child care license or that are license-exempt and enrolled in the department of health and  
37 human services child care scholarship program. These programs shall include those who serve

1 children from birth through age 12 and are also referred to as center-based, family-based, early  
2 childhood education, early learning, outside of school time, before and after school, and summer  
3 camp programs, as well as non-profit and privately-owned center-based and family-based child care  
4 programs.

5 III. The department shall develop and implement a grant application process for eligible  
6 programs, and may consider additional grant amounts for child care programs enrolled in or in  
7 preparation to enroll in the granite steps for quality in recognition of their extra effort and  
8 commitment to continuous quality improvement. Grant amounts shall be determined by the  
9 department after all applications have been received and approved.

10 IV. Grants received by the programs may be used in the following ways:

- 11 (a) Deposit into an eligible, tax-advantaged health savings account or flexible spending  
12 account;
- 13 (b) Mentor credentialing and support networks for mentors;
- 14 (c) Sign-on and/or retention incentives and/or wage increases;
- 15 (d) Professional costs such as training hours, CPR, or memberships in professional  
16 organizations;
- 17 (e) Child care tuition assistance;
- 18 (f) Credit towards the employee's share of the cost of their health insurance plan;
- 19 (g) Paid time off equivalent;
- 20 (h) Child care tuition discount;
- 21 (i) Student loan repayment;
- 22 (j) Telemedicine coverage; or
- 23 (k) Payment towards a physical, first-aid certification, CPR certification, background  
24 check, or other credential required for the child care position.

25 V. If grant application requests exceed available funding, preference shall be given to  
26 eligible child care programs which are:

- 27 (a) Enrolled in New Hampshire's child care scholarship program; and
- 28 (b) Connected to the work of their related early childhood regional network, as  
29 determined by the department.

30 VI. The department of health and human services shall incorporate in its biennial  
31 appropriation request pursuant to RSA 9:4 an amount necessary to fully fund the child care  
32 workforce programs contained in this section.

33 505 New Subparagraph; State Treasurer and State Accounts; Application of Receipts. Amend  
34 RSA 6:12, I(b) by inserting after subparagraph (399) the following new subparagraph:

35 (400) Moneys deposited in the 988 trust fund as established in RSA 135-C:70.

36 506 New Paragraph; Public Health; New Hampshire Mental Health Services System;  
37 Definitions. Amend RSA 135-C:2 by inserting after paragraph X the following new paragraph:

1 X-a. "National Suicide Prevention Lifeline" or "988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline" means the  
2 national network of local crisis hotline centers that provide free and confidential support to people in  
3 suicidal crisis or other behavioral health crisis 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, via a toll-free  
4 telephone hotline number that receives calls made through the 988 system.

5 507 New Paragraphs; Public Health; New Hampshire Mental Health Services System;  
6 Definitions. Amend RSA 135-C:2 by inserting after paragraph XVI the following new paragraphs:

7 XVII. "988" means the 3-digit telephone number designated by the Federal Communications  
8 Commission for the purpose of connecting individuals experiencing a behavioral health crisis with  
9 counselors trained in suicide prevention and behavioral health crisis and with the capacity to  
10 connect callers to behavioral health crisis services through the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline  
11 network.

12 XVIII. "988 Administrator" means the Administrator of the national 988 Suicide and Crisis  
13 Lifeline system maintained by the Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use.

14 XIX. "988 center" means a center operating on a county or regional basis in New Hampshire  
15 and participating in the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline network to respond to statewide or  
16 regional 988 calls, chats, and texts.

17 508 New Sections; Public Health; New Hampshire Mental Health Services System. Amend RSA  
18 135-C by inserting after section 69 the following new sections:

19 135-C:70 988 Trust Fund; Fund Established.

20 I. There is hereby established in the state treasury the 988 trust fund that shall be kept  
21 distinct and separate from all other funds. The 988 trust fund consists of:

22 (a) Revenues from the 988 coordinated crisis services telecommunications surcharge  
23 established under RSA 135-C:74;

24 (b) Gifts, grants, and donations to the fund from public and private sources; and

25 (c) Moneys deposited into the fund from other sources.

26 II. The state treasurer shall be the trustee of the trust fund, and shall invest the trust fund  
27 in accordance with RSA 6:8. Any earnings on trust fund moneys shall be added to the trust fund.  
28 All moneys in the trust fund shall be nonlapsing and shall be continually appropriated to the state  
29 treasury. The state treasurer shall disburse funds from the trust fund solely for the purposes and in  
30 the manner set forth in RSA 135-C:71.

31 III. Moneys in the 988 trust fund may only be used for expenses that are not:

32 (a) Reimbursed through Medicaid, Medicare, federal or state-regulated health insurance  
33 plans, disability insurers, and programs or funding not otherwise covered by another entity,  
34 including municipal or county programs; and

35 (b) Covered because the service recipient's name and health coverage information cannot  
36 be obtained or billed.

1           III-a. Moneys in the 988 trust fund originating from the 988 coordinated crisis services  
2 telecommunications surcharge shall only be used to fund the equipment, communications services,  
3 and direct costs for crisis hotline center personnel for 988 call-taking and appropriate call routing for  
4 988 centers.

5           IV. The department of health and human services shall provide an annual report of deposits  
6 into and expenditures from the 988 trust fund to the health and human services oversight  
7 committee, the speaker of the house of representatives, the president of the senate, the house clerk,  
8 the senate clerk, the governor, and to the Federal Communications Commission. The report shall  
9 include all revenue generated by the 988 coordinated crisis services telecommunications surcharge  
10 established under RSA 135-C:74.

11           135-C:71 988 Trust Fund; Management and Distribution of Funds.

12           I. The commissioner of the department of health and human services, in consultation with  
13 the behavioral health crisis services advisory commission established in RSA 135-C:72, shall  
14 administer the 988 trust fund established in RSA 135-C:70. The commissioner shall draw from the  
15 988 trust fund for qualifying purposes under paragraph II.

16           II. The purpose of the 988 trust fund shall be to establish, operate, maintain, promote  
17 awareness of, and improve 988 and the behavioral health crisis services system. The 988 trust fund  
18 shall be expended to offset costs that are or can be reasonably attributed to:

19           (a) Implementing, maintaining, and improving the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline  
20 including staffing and technological infrastructure enhancements necessary to achieve operational  
21 and clinical standards and best practices set forth by the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline;

22           (b) Provision of acute behavioral health, mobile crisis response teams, and receiving and  
23 stabilization services by directly responding to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline;

24           (c) Personnel for the 988 centers and acute mental health, mobile crisis response teams,  
25 and stabilization services, which should include individuals that reflect the demographics of the  
26 community served and have specialized training to serve at risk communities, including culturally  
27 and linguistically competent services for LGBTQIA+ individuals, children, youth, and young people,  
28 and racially, ethnically, and linguistically diverse communities;

29           (d) Provision of data, reporting, participation in evaluations and related quality  
30 improvement activities as required by the 988 administrator, department of health and human  
31 services, and the general court; and

32           (e) Administration, oversight, and evaluation of the fund.

33           135-C:72 Behavioral Health Crisis Services Advisory Commission Established.

34           I. There is hereby established a behavioral health crisis services advisory commission.

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

36           (a) The state treasurer, or designee.

1           (b) One member of the house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house of  
2 representatives.

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

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

5           (e) The director of the department of safety, division of emergency services and  
6 communications ("E911"), or designee.

7           (f) The commissioner of the insurance department, or designee.

8           (g) One representative from the National Alliance on Mental Illness of New Hampshire,  
9 appointed by that organization.

10          (h) One representative of the New Hampshire Community Behavioral Health  
11 Association, appointed by the association.

12          (i) One representative of the New Hampshire Hospital Association, appointed by the  
13 association.

14          (j) One representative of New Futures, appointed by the organization.

15          (k) One representative from each of New Hampshire's 2 centers participating in the  
16 National Suicide Prevention Lifeline network.

17          (l) One representative of America's Health Insurance Plans (AHIP), appointed by the  
18 association.

19          (m) One representative of community health centers appointed by the Bi-State Primary  
20 Care Association.

21          (n) One representative from the New Hampshire Psychological Association, appointed by  
22 that organization.

23          III. Members appointed under subparagraphs (b) through (c) shall serve a term coterminous  
24 with their term in office, or for 2 years, whichever is shorter. Members appointed under  
25 subparagraphs (g) through (n) shall serve 2 years, or until a successor is appointed and qualified in  
26 the case of a vacancy, and shall be eligible for reappointment at the end of their term. The term of  
27 office for all other members shall be coterminous with the term of office for the position that qualifies  
28 that member to serve on the advisory council. A vacancy shall be filled in the same manner, but only  
29 for the unexpired term. The advisory commission shall elect a chairperson every year with no  
30 person serving as chairperson for more than 2 consecutive one-year terms.

31          IV. Each member of the advisory commission shall have one vote, with all actions being  
32 taken by an affirmative vote of the majority of present members. Eight members shall constitute a  
33 quorum.

34          V. Legislative members shall receive the receive mileage at the legislative rate while  
35 attending to the duties of the commission.

36          VI. Meetings of the advisory commission shall be conducted in accordance with RSA 91-A  
37 and take place no less than 4 times per year.

1           VII. The department of health and human services shall provide administrative support to  
2 the advisory commission.

3           135-C:73 Behavioral Health Crisis Services Advisory Commission; Duties. The behavioral  
4 health crisis services advisory commission established in RSA 135-C:72 shall be responsible for:

5           I. Consulting with and advising the commissioner of the department of health and human  
6 services on the administration and management of the 988 trust fund under RSA 135-C:70, and  
7 advise and make recommendations on expenditures from that fund under RSA 135-C:71.

8           II. Advising and making recommendations to the governor, general court, department of  
9 health and human services, and other necessary stakeholders on strategies to support and fund the  
10 behavioral health crisis system.

11           III. Overseeing and making recommendations about the provision of 988 and behavioral  
12 health crisis services throughout the state.

13           135-C:74 988 Coordinated Crisis Services Telecommunications Surcharge Established.

14           I. In compliance with the National Suicide Hotline Designation Act of 2020, and by  
15 recommendation of the commission on behavioral health crisis services, the equipment,  
16 communications services, and direct costs for crisis hotline center personnel for 988 call-taking and  
17 appropriate call routing for 988 centers shall be funded through a surcharge to be levied upon each  
18 residence and business telephone exchange line, including PBX trunks and Centrex lines, each  
19 individual commercial mobile radio service number and each VoIP service number with a place of  
20 primary use within New Hampshire, and each semi-public and public coin and public access line.  
21 For purposes of this paragraph, "place of primary use" shall have the same meaning as the definition  
22 contained in 4 U.S.C. section 124(8). No such surcharge shall be imposed upon more than 25  
23 business telephone exchange lines, including PBX trunks and Centrex lines, or more than 25  
24 commercial mobile radio service exchange lines or VoIP service lines or channels per customer  
25 billing account. No other services shall be funded using revenue from the 988 coordinated crisis  
26 services telecommunications surcharge.

27           II. In the case of local exchange telephone companies, the surcharge shall be contained  
28 within tariffs or rate schedules filed with the public utilities commission and shall be billed on a  
29 monthly basis by each local exchange telephone company. The public utilities commission may  
30 impose a tax, fee, or surcharge on telecommunications services for 988 services of no more than 75  
31 cents per line per month.

32           III. In the case of an entity which provides commercial mobile radio service the surcharge  
33 shall be billed to each customer on a monthly basis and shall not be subject to any state or local tax;  
34 the surcharge shall be collected by the commercial mobile radio service provider, and may be  
35 identified on the customer's bill. For prepaid commercial mobile radio service, the provisions of  
36 paragraph VI of this section shall apply.

1           IV. In the case of a VoIP provider, the surcharge shall be billed to each customer on a  
2 monthly basis and shall not be subject to any state or local tax; the surcharge shall be collected by  
3 the VoIP provider, and may be identified on the customer's bill.

4           V. Each local exchange telephone company, VoIP service provider, or entity which provides  
5 commercial mobile radio service, including prepaid commercial mobile radio service except as  
6 otherwise provided in subparagraph VI (i), shall remit the surcharge amounts on a monthly basis to  
7 the department of health and human services, which shall be forwarded to the state treasurer for  
8 deposit in the 988 trust fund. The state treasurer shall disburse funds from the 988 trust fund solely  
9 for the purposes and in the manner set forth in RSA 135-C:71. 988 coordinated crisis services  
10 telecommunications surcharge revenue shall be used to supplement any federal, state or local  
11 funding for suicide prevention or behavioral health crisis services. Surcharge amounts shall be  
12 reviewed after the budget has been approved or modified, and if appropriate, new tariffs or rate  
13 schedules shall be filed with the public utilities commission reflecting the surcharge amount.

14           VI. Prepaid commercial mobile radio service.

15           (a) In this paragraph:

16                   (1) "Consumer" means a natural person or any other person who purchases prepaid  
17 commercial mobile radio service in a retail transaction.

18                   (2) "Commissioner" means the commissioner of the department of health and human  
19 services.

20                   (3) "Division" means the division of behavioral health of the department of health  
21 and human services.

22                   (4) "Entity" means a natural person or any other person, including any firm,  
23 corporation, partnership, or business organization.

24                   (5) "Provider" means an entity that provides prepaid commercial mobile radio  
25 service pursuant to a license issued by the Federal Communications Commission.

26                   (6) "Retail transaction" means the purchase of prepaid commercial mobile radio  
27 service from a seller for any purpose other than resale.

28                   (7) "Seller" means an entity, including a provider, who sells prepaid commercial  
29 mobile radio service to a consumer.

30           (b) There is hereby imposed a prepaid commercial mobile radio service 988 coordinated  
31 crisis services telecommunications surcharge that shall be levied on each retail transaction sourced  
32 to New Hampshire. The amount of the surcharge levied for each retail transaction shall be the same  
33 as the surcharge imposed under RSA 135-C:74, I.

34           (c) For purposes of subparagraph (b), a retail transaction is sourced to New Hampshire:

35                   (1) If the transaction occurs in person at a seller's location in New Hampshire; or

1           (2) If subparagraph (1) does not apply, the prepaid commercial mobile radio service  
2 is evidenced by a physical item, such as a card, and the purchaser provides a New Hampshire  
3 delivery address for such item; or

4           (3) If subparagraphs (1) and (2) do not apply, the consumer gives a New Hampshire  
5 address during the consummation of the sale, including the address associated with the consumer's  
6 payment instrument if no other address is available, and the address is not given in bad faith; or

7           (4) If subparagraphs (1)-(3) do not apply, the consumer's mobile telephone number is  
8 associated with a postal zip code, telephone area code, or location within New Hampshire.

9           (d) The prepaid commercial mobile radio service 988 coordinated crisis services  
10 telecommunications surcharge shall be collected by the seller from the consumer with respect to each  
11 retail transaction sourced to New Hampshire. The amount of the surcharge shall be either  
12 separately stated on an invoice, receipt, or other similar document that is provided by the seller to  
13 the consumer, or otherwise disclosed to the consumer.

14           (e) The seller shall be liable to remit all charges required by this paragraph that are  
15 collected from consumers, including all such charges that the seller is deemed to collect where the  
16 amount of the surcharge has not been separately stated on an invoice, receipt, or other similar  
17 document provided by the seller to the consumer.

18           (f) The prepaid commercial mobile radio service 988 coordinated crisis services  
19 telecommunications surcharge shall not be subject to any other state or local tax.

20           (g) If a minimal amount of prepaid commercial mobile radio service is sold with a  
21 prepaid mobile device for a single, non-itemized price, then the seller may elect not to apply the  
22 surcharge to such transaction. For purposes of this subparagraph, an amount of service  
23 denominated as 10 minutes or less, or \$5 or less, is minimal.

24           (h) A seller may deduct and retain 3 percent of the prepaid commercial mobile radio  
25 service 988 coordinated crisis services telecommunications surcharges that are collected by the seller  
26 from consumers.

27           (i) A seller having less than 150 retail transactions in a calendar quarter and who has  
28 not collected the surcharge on such transactions shall not be required to remit the surcharge on  
29 those transactions, provided that the seller:

30               (1) Submits a certification to the department of health and human services, not later  
31 than the 15th day following such quarter, that the seller had less than 150 retail transactions in  
32 such quarter and did not collect the surcharge; and

33               (2) Submits with such certification copies of invoices, receipts, or other similar  
34 documentation establishing the number of retail transactions in such quarter.

35           (j) Whenever lawful, providers and sellers of prepaid commercial mobile radio service  
36 shall put forth reasonable good faith efforts to cooperate with and provide timely and reasonable  
37 assistance to the division, its 988 centers, in connection with locating the source of any emergency

1 988 call. In such instances, providers and sellers of prepaid commercial mobile radio service shall  
2 not be liable for damages to any person resulting from or incurred in connection with the provision of  
3 such lawful assistance.

4 (k) Beginning on January 1, 2026, prepaid commercial mobile radio service providers  
5 shall report annually to the division the total number of active prepaid commercial mobile radio  
6 service customers in New Hampshire. For purposes of such report, "active prepaid commercial  
7 mobile radio service customers" shall include all prepaid commercial mobile radio service customers  
8 with a New Hampshire telephone number on the date of the report, or if account balance information  
9 is not available, otherwise determined not to be active by comparable data. All information  
10 submitted to the division by a provider shall be considered proprietary and confidential and shall not  
11 be considered a public record under RSA 91-A.

12 VII.(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, and except as otherwise provided in  
13 RSA 82-A, the records and files of the department, related to this section, are confidential and  
14 privileged. Neither the department of health and human services, nor any employee of the  
15 department, nor any other person charged with the custody of such records or files, nor any vendor  
16 or any of its employees to whom such information becomes available in the performance of any  
17 contractual services for the department shall disclose any information obtained from the  
18 department's records, files, or returns or from any examination, investigation, or hearing, nor may  
19 any such employee or person be required to produce any such information for the inspection of any  
20 person or for the use in any action or proceeding except as provided in this paragraph.

21 (b) The following exceptions shall apply to this paragraph:

22 (1) Delivery to the surcharge collector or its representative of a copy of any return or  
23 other papers filed by the surcharge collector.

24 (2) Disclosure of department records, files, returns, or information in a New  
25 Hampshire state judicial or administrative proceeding pertaining to administration of the surcharge  
26 where the information is directly related to an issue in the proceeding regarding the surcharge under  
27 this section, or the surcharge collector whom the information concerns is a party to such proceeding,  
28 or the information concerns a transactional relationship between a person who is a party to the  
29 proceeding and the taxpayer.

30 (3) Disclosure to the department of revenue administration of records, files, and  
31 information required by the department of revenue administration to administer the  
32 communications services tax pursuant to RSA 82-A and to assist the bureau in its administration of  
33 RSA 135-C:71.

34 (4) Disclosure of department records, files, and information to the legislative budget  
35 assistant, when requested by the legislative budget assistant pursuant to RSA 14:31, IV.

36 VIII. Any information or records compiled under this chapter shall not be considered a  
37 public record for the purposes of RSA 91-A regardless of the use of such information.

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1 IX. The commissioner is authorized to charge a penalty not to exceed \$1,000, plus interest of  
2 18 percent per year, on surcharge receipts that are more than 90 days in arrears, which penalty and  
3 interest shall be forwarded to the state treasurer for deposit in the 988 trust fund.

4 509 Effective Date. Section 508 of this act shall take effect 30 days after its passage.

5 510 New Section; Long-Term Care; Guardianship Contracted Services. Amend RSA 151-E by  
6 inserting after section 27 the following new section:

7 151-E:28 Guardianship Contracted Services.

8 I. When all other resources are exhausted, hospitals seeking to assist older adults or adults  
9 with a disability as defined in RSA 151-E:24 with discharge from a hospital setting to a less  
10 restrictive setting may seek to have a guardian or conservator appointed by the probate court,  
11 pursuant to RSA 464-A, for any older adult or adult with a disability who:

- 12 (a) Requires an alternative decision maker to assist with discharge;
- 13 (b) Is deemed incapacitated by a court of competent jurisdiction; and
- 14 (c) Cannot secure guardianship services through any other alternative.

15 II. The department shall contract with office of the public guardian to provide publicly  
16 funded guardianship slots for individuals in need of guardianship pursuant to paragraph I.

17 III. Hospitals seeking to assist adults with discharge shall apply to the department for  
18 access to the publicly funded guardianship slots.

19 IV. Availability of publicly funded guardianship slots shall be subject to the availability of  
20 funding.

21 511 Appropriation; Department of Health and Human Services. The sum of \$550,000 for the  
22 biennium ending June 30, 2027 is hereby appropriated to the department of health and human  
23 services. Said appropriation shall be used by the department to fund services for individuals as set  
24 forth in RSA 151-E:28. In the event these funds are not fully expended for this population, the  
25 department shall have the authority to use said funds to fund services for individuals served under  
26 RSA 171-A, RSA 161-F:52, and RSA 135-C. The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said  
27 sum out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

28 512 Effective Date. Sections 512 and 513 of this act shall take effect September 30, 2025.

29 513 Directive; Department of Health and Human Services. For the fiscal year ending June 30,  
30 2027, if the commissioner of the department of health and human services determines that there are  
31 insufficient funds in accounts 05-95-042-421010-2958, child and family services, and 05-95-092-  
32 921010-2053, system of care, to fund residential placements for youth, he or she may request, with  
33 prior authorization of the fiscal committee of the general court, that the governor and council  
34 authorize additional funding. The governor is authorized to draw a warrant from any money in the  
35 treasury not otherwise appropriated.

36 514 Residential Care and Health Facility Licenses; Fees. Amend RSA 151:5 to read as follows:

37 151:5 Licenses.

1 Licenses issued hereunder shall expire one year after the date of issuance. Licenses shall be  
2 issued only for the premises and persons named in the application, and shall not be transferable or  
3 assignable; provided that home health care providers, personal care providers, home health hospice  
4 providers, and case management agencies shall not be required to apply for and receive a new  
5 license if they change the physical location of their office within the one year licensing period.  
6 Licenses shall be posted in a conspicuous place on the licensed premises. Fees for an annual license  
7 shall be as follows:

- 8 I. Hospitals; [~~\$25~~] **\$38** per licensed bed.
- 9 II. Specialty hospital-psychiatric; [~~\$25~~] **\$38** per licensed bed.
- 10 III. Specialty hospital-rehabilitation; [~~\$25~~] **\$38** per licensed bed.
- 11 IV. Nursing homes; [~~\$25~~] **\$38** per licensed bed.
- 12 V. Acute psychiatric residential treatment programs; [~~\$25~~] **\$38** per licensed bed.
- 13 VI. Residential treatment and rehabilitation facilities; [~~\$25~~] **\$38** per licensed bed.
- 14 VII. Hospice houses; [~~\$25~~] **\$38** per licensed bed.
- 15 VIII. Adult family care homes; [~~\$25~~] **\$38** per licensed bed.
- 16 IX. Residential and supported residential care; [~~\$15~~] **\$23** per licensed bed.
- 17 X. Home health hospice providers; [~~\$250~~] **\$380**.
- 18 XI. Home health care providers:
  - 19 (a) Registered individuals; [~~\$25~~] **\$38**.
  - 20 (b) Agencies; [~~\$250~~] **\$380**.
- 21 XII. Personal care providers:
  - 22 (a) Fewer than 10 clients; [~~\$25~~] **\$38**.
  - 23 (b) Ten (10) or more clients; [~~\$250~~] **\$380**.
- 24 XIII. Outpatient clinics; [~~\$500~~] **\$758**.
- 25 XIV. End stage renal dialysis centers; [~~\$500~~] **\$758**.
- 26 XV. Ambulatory surgical centers; [~~\$500~~] **\$758**.
- 27 XVI. Educational health centers; [~~\$500~~] **\$758**.
- 28 XVII. Freestanding emergency rooms; [~~\$500~~] **\$758**.
- 29 XVIII. Health promotion clinics; [~~\$500~~] **\$758**.
- 30 XIX. Collecting stations; [~~\$250~~] **\$380**.
- 31 XX. Adult day care centers; [~~\$200~~] **\$304**.
- 32 XXI. Birthing centers; [~~\$150~~] **\$228**.
- 33 XXII. Case management agencies; [~~\$150~~] **\$228**.
- 34 XXIII. Laboratories; [~~\$150~~] **\$228** per year for each category of testing licensed.

35 515 Department of Health and Human Services; Public Health Fees. The department of health  
36 and human services is hereby directed to increase the following fees set by administrative rule by no

1 less than the inflationary increases experienced since the year the fee was last established or  
2 increased:

- 3 I. Special health care license (mega voltage, cardiac) under He-P 4070.
- 4 II. Radioactive materials use license under He-P 4070.
- 5 III. Radiation-producing equipment use license under He-P 4071.
- 6 IV. Low-level radioactive waste disposal under He-P 4071.
- 7 V. Food service establishments and homestead operations under He-P 2300.
- 8 VI. Shellfish certificate fees under He-P 2151.
- 9 VII. Beverage and bottled water manufacturing registration under He-P 2100.
- 10 VIII. Milk plans, distributors, and dairy plants under He-P 2700.
- 11 IX. Clinical specimens chemistry under He-P 2205.01.
- 12 X. Clinical specimens, microbiology under He-P 2205.02.
- 13 XI. Occupation and environmental health samples under He-P 2205.03.
- 14 XII. Consumer protection samples under He-P 2205.04.
- 15 XIII. Therapeutic cannabis patient application fee under He-C 401.14.

16 516 Legislative Offices and Proceedings; Office Space and Parking Facilities. Amend RSA  
17 14:14-b to read as follows:

18 14:14-b Office Space and Parking Facilities.

19 Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary the following shall be assigned for  
20 use by the speaker of the house and the president of the senate:

21 I. ~~[The]~~ ***Any*** legislative parking facilities, ***including but not limited to the legislative***  
22 ***parking garage on Storrs Street, the legislative office building parking garage, the***  
23 ***legislative parking garage at 33 Capitol Street, the legislative parking lot at 33 Green***  
24 ***Street, and 7 spaces in the parking lot on the north side of the state library at 20 Park***  
25 ***Street;***

26 II. The legislative office building and Upham-Walker house; ~~[and]~~

27 III. All rooms and other spaces of the state house with the exception of those areas under  
28 the use and control of the executive branch, including the governor's offices, the executive council  
29 chamber and offices, and the secretary of state's offices;

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

33 ***V. All rooms and other spaces on the western side of the first and second floor of the***  
34 ***legislative offices at Granite Place located at 1 Granite Place South.***

35 517 Youth Development Center Claims Administrator. Amend RSA 21-M:11-a, III to read as  
36 follows:

1 III. There is further established in the ~~[judicial]~~ **executive** branch a temporary full-time or  
2 part-time position known as the youth development center claims administrator, to be appointed by  
3 the ~~[supreme court]~~ **governor with the consent of the executive council**. A part-time  
4 administrator may maintain a private, unrelated mediation or legal practice apart from the duties as  
5 administrator notwithstanding any other provision of rule or law to the contrary. The ~~[supreme~~  
6 ~~court]~~ **governor, with the consent of the executive council**, shall appoint an administrator  
7 agreed to by the attorney general and counsel for claimants. If the attorney general and counsel for  
8 claimants are unable to agree upon an administrator, the ~~[supreme court]~~ **governor, with the**  
9 **consent of the executive council**, shall select the administrator from the candidates submitted to  
10 the court by the attorney general and counsel for claimants, not later than 30 days following the  
11 court's receipt of the candidates. The attorney general and counsel for claimants shall each submit  
12 two candidates, not later than 30 days following the joint fiscal committee's approval of the claim  
13 process and guidelines as provided in paragraph IV. The administrator shall receive compensation  
14 at no more than the rate of salary of an active superior court justice and shall, if working full-time,  
15 receive the same benefits as other ~~[non-judicial employees of the judicial]~~ **executive** branch  
16 **employees**. If working part-time, the administrator shall receive compensation at no more than the  
17 equivalent per diem rate of an active superior court justice, provided that in any calendar year, the  
18 administrator shall not receive more in total compensation than that received by an active superior  
19 court justice. The ~~[judicial]~~ **executive** branch shall provide the administrator and any necessary  
20 support staff with office space. The salary, benefits, and expenses of the administrator, and any  
21 necessary support staff, shall be paid from the fund. The administrator shall report to the ~~[chief~~  
22 ~~justice of the supreme court or the chief justice's designee]~~ **governor or the governor's designee**  
23 for employment-related purposes, but the ~~[supreme court]~~ **governor** shall have no authority to  
24 review the administrator's decisions. At such time as the administrator's duties are concluded, or at  
25 such time as full-time service by the administrator is no longer needed to carry out the  
26 administrator's duties, the ~~[supreme court]~~ **governor** shall either eliminate the administrator's  
27 position or reduce it from a full-time to a part-time position as may be appropriate. The ~~[supreme~~  
28 ~~court]~~ **governor** may remove the administrator ~~[if, after a request for removal received from the~~  
29 ~~attorney general or claimants' counsel, or upon the court's own motion, the court determines that~~  
30 ~~good cause for removal exists]~~ **at any time, as the administrator serves at the pleasure of the**  
31 **governor**. Once appointed, the administrator shall process claims as provided herein and may  
32 settle claims at such amounts as may be agreed upon between the AG designee and each claimant,  
33 or at amounts which are determined by the administrator, giving due consideration to the guidelines  
34 adopted by the joint fiscal committee as provided in paragraph IV.

35 518 Youth Development Center Claims Administration and Settlement Fund; Attorney's Fees;  
36 Periodic Payment. Amend RSA 21-M:11-a, XV to read as follows:

1 XV. The administrator may approve all fees and costs of attorneys who represent claimants  
2 in proceedings before the administrator. The administrator shall not approve any request of an  
3 attorney for fees or costs which are not reasonable. The administrator shall not approve an  
4 attorney's fee in excess of 33.33 percent of the amount of the award. All costs and attorney's fees  
5 paid to a claimant's attorney shall be paid from the amount awarded to the claimant. *Whenever the*  
6 *administrator determines that a claim shall be paid in periodic payments pursuant to*  
7 *subparagraph XII(a), the administrator shall require that any attorney's fee approved*  
8 *under this paragraph be paid in equal installments and over the same number of years as*  
9 *the periodic payment schedule that is applicable to the amount awarded to the claimant.*  
10 *The administrator shall add an interest assessment of 5 percent of the remaining unpaid*  
11 *amount of the fee per annum for each year of repayment, which shall be compounded*  
12 *annually.*

13 519 Applicability; Re-retiring. Notwithstanding the provisions of RSA 100-A, any retiree who  
14 returns to active service shall only retain eligibility for the benefits applicable to their initial  
15 retirement and the calculation of average final compensation, or the calculation of other benefits  
16 resulting from the return to active service under RSA 100-A shall not apply.

17 520 New Section; Rate Setting Parity for Medicaid State Plan Case Management Services.  
18 Amend RSA 126-A by inserting after section 18-b the following new section:

19 126-A:18-c Rate Setting Parity for Medicaid State Plan Case Management Services.

20 I. Annually, on or before October 1, the department of health and human services shall  
21 establish unit rates for all case management services paid under the state Medicaid plan which  
22 better reflect the average cost to deliver services.

23 II. The department shall consider the factors of economy, efficiency, quality of care, and  
24 access to care, in accordance with guidelines in federal regulations.

25 III. The department shall ensure equitable rate parity by giving comprehensive  
26 consideration to factors which cause disparity, including but not limited to administrative payments  
27 of overhead costs made to certain providers, in the calculations to achieve parity.

28 IV. Annually, on or before October 31, the department shall file a report detailing their  
29 compliance with RSA 126-A:18-c with the senate president, speaker of the house, and chairs of the  
30 committees with jurisdiction.

31 521 Appropriation; Department of Health and Human Services; Rate Setting Parity for  
32 Medicaid State Plan Case Management Services. The sum of \$2,300,000 for the fiscal year ending  
33 June 30, 2027, is hereby appropriated to the department of health and human services for the  
34 purpose of ensuring equitable rate parity for all case management services paid under the state  
35 Medicaid plan. The department may accept and expend additional federal funds for this purpose  
36 without prior approval of the fiscal committee of the general court. The governor is authorized to  
37 draw a warrant for said sum out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

1           522 Effective Date.

2           I. Section 520 of this act shall take effect July 1, 2025.

3           II. Section 521 of this act shall take effect July 1, 2026.

4           523 Solid Waste Facility Site Evaluation Committee; Purpose and Findings. The general court  
5 hereby finds and declares that:

6           I. There is a compelling state interest in maintaining adequate, reasonably priced disposal  
7 capacity for solid waste generated in New Hampshire.

8           II. As a result of changes in federal and state law over the past 50 years and the economics  
9 of solid waste management, waste disposal facilities are sited regionally in New Hampshire, but they  
10 provide disposal capacity for municipalities throughout the state, often irrespective of whether a  
11 municipality is in close proximity to the disposal facility.

12           III. The siting of new disposal capacity is often locally controversial and the use of local  
13 land-use regulation to prevent siting of new capacity can result in the frustration of the state's  
14 interest in maintaining adequate capacity. The general court prefers that new landfill capacity be  
15 developed in expansions of existing permitted landfills instead of on greenfield sites because existing  
16 sites have already been carefully studied before being permitted and have been found suitable for  
17 landfilling by the department of environmental services.

18           IV. The department of environmental services typically has decades of familiarity with  
19 conditions at such sites and the expansion of an existing use is generally consistent with the overall  
20 objectives of land-use controls.

21           V. The state's preference for such expansions warrants that the state's regulatory and policy  
22 interests take precedence over local regulation and restrictions, particularly because the  
23 department's rules provide robust protection of human health and the environment.

24           VI. Because of the overriding state interest, the department already regulates virtually  
25 every aspect of landfill siting and development that would ordinarily be regulated under local zoning  
26 and planning ordinances.

27           VII. This legislation establishes a preference for siting of new landfill capacity on land  
28 adjacent to existing permitted landfill capacity and gives the department of environmental services  
29 comprehensive exclusive authority to approve the siting of such new capacity.

30           VIII. This legislation leaves unchanged current law regarding siting of new landfill capacity  
31 on land that is not adjacent to existing permitted landfill capacity.

32           524 New Paragraph; Public Health; Solid Waste Management; Definitions. Amend RSA 149-  
33 M:4 by inserting after paragraph X-a the following new paragraph:

34           X-b. "Landfill expansion" means a landfill cell permitted under this chapter and located  
35 within 500 feet of an existing landfill that was permitted under this chapter but does not include a  
36 remedial landfill expansion. Subject to approval by the department, a landfill expansion may either  
37 be integrated into an existing landfill or be developed separately from the existing landfill.

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1           525 New Paragraph; Public Health; Solid Waste Management; Definitions. Amend RSA 149-  
2 M:4 by inserting after paragraph XX the following new paragraph:

3           XX-a. “Recycling facility” means a collection, storage, and transfer facility which collects,  
4 stores, and prepares recyclable materials for market and transfers both processed recyclable  
5 materials to markets for recycling and bypass waste for disposal.

6           526 New Paragraph; Public Health; Solid Waste Management; Definitions. Amend RSA 149-  
7 M:4 by inserting after paragraph XXI the following new paragraph:

8           XXI-a. “Remedial landfill expansion” means an expansion of an existing landfill that has  
9 ceased operating, that is not in compliance with the department’s then-current rules for the design  
10 and construction of landfills, and that is a source of ongoing contamination of soils, surface water, or  
11 groundwater, where there is no solvent person other than state, county, or municipal government  
12 that can be compelled by law to fully remediate the existing landfill site and where expansion will  
13 provide the permittee with revenue to effectuate a substantial reduction in such ongoing  
14 contamination and provide substantially greater protection of the environment during operation and  
15 upon closure of the expansion than would be the case if the expansion were not permitted.

16           527 New Paragraph; Public Health; Solid Waste Management; Definitions. Amend RSA 149-  
17 M:9 by inserting after paragraph XV the following new paragraph:

18           XVI.(a) To implement the state’s preference for landfill expansion over greenfield siting of  
19 new landfill capacity and notwithstanding any other provision in this section, landfill expansions  
20 shall be subject to approval solely by the department, and no municipal ordinance, bylaw, rule,  
21 regulation, agreement, or other restriction shall be effective to prevent the siting of a landfill  
22 expansion approved by the department. Nothing in this subparagraph shall be construed to limit  
23 the jurisdiction that any other state department may have over such landfill expansions.

24           (b) The owner of any landfill receiving an approval of a landfill expansion under this  
25 paragraph and who has an existing agreement with the host municipality to pay the municipality a  
26 fee for each ton of waste received at the landfill shall increase the fee by a minimum of 25 percent for  
27 all waste received in the landfill expansion.

28           528 New Paragraph; Public Health; Solid Waste Management; Definitions. Amend RSA 149-  
29 M:11 by inserting after paragraph VII the following new paragraph:

30           VII-a. Any remedial landfill expansion or facility designed to manage food waste in  
31 accordance with RSA 149-M:27, V(b) shall be deemed to satisfy the requirements of paragraph III.

32           529 New Subdivision; Solid Waste Facility Site Evaluation Committee. Amend RSA 149-M by  
33 inserting after section 64 the following new subdivision:

34           Solid Waste Facility Site Evaluation Committee

35           149-M:65 Declaration of Purpose. The legislature and the executive branch recognize that the  
36 selection of sites for major solid waste disposal facilities may have significant statewide, regional  
37 and local impacts that are not fully evaluated through existing regulatory review. Accordingly, the

1 legislature and the executive branch find that it is in the public interest to establish a procedure to  
2 evaluate the suitability of the proposed site for a new major solid waste facility, considering criteria  
3 that are not captured by existing regulatory reviews, including local and in-state regional economic  
4 impacts, property value impacts, and impacts on tourism and recreation.

5 149-M:66 Definitions. In this subdivision:

6 I. "Acceptance" means a determination by the committee that it finds that the application is  
7 complete and ready for consideration.

8 II. "Administrator" means the administrator of the site evaluation committee established  
9 pursuant to RSA 162-H:3-a.

10 III. "Affected municipality" means any municipality or unincorporated place in which a  
11 major solid waste disposal facility is proposed to be located and any bordering municipality or  
12 unincorporated place from which any part of the proposed major solid waste disposal facility will be  
13 visible or audible.

14 IV. "Certificate" means the document issued by the committee, containing such reasonable  
15 terms and conditions as the committee deems appropriate, that authorizes the use of the site for the  
16 proposed facility.

17 V. "Committee" means the solid waste facility site evaluation committee established by this  
18 subdivision.

19 VI. "Major solid waste disposal facility" means a location, system, or physical structure for  
20 the collection, separation, storage, transfer, processing, treatment, or disposal of solid waste with a  
21 proposed waste acceptance rate greater than 100,000 tons per year and includes the real property on  
22 which such structure or system is sited. Major solid waste disposal facility does not include a facility  
23 designed to manage food waste in accordance with RSA 149-M:27, V(b)(1)-(5), an expansion of a  
24 recycling facility, a landfill expansion, or any facility proposed to be constructed by a New  
25 Hampshire municipal government.

26 VII. "Filing" means the date on which the application is first submitted to the committee.

27 VIII. "Person" means any individual or other jural entity.

28 IX. "Region" means the area of the state in which a major solid waste disposal facility is to  
29 be sited if a certificate is issued.

30 149-M:67 Solid Waste Facility Site Evaluation Committee Established.

31 I. There is hereby established a committee to be known as the New Hampshire solid waste  
32 facility site evaluation committee consisting of 5 members, as follows:

33 (a) The commissioner of the department of business and economic affairs, or designee,  
34 who shall serve as chairperson of the committee.

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

36 (c) Three members and, as provided by RSA 149-M:68, alternate members, appointed by  
37 the governor with the consent of the executive council, including a member with expertise in

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1 municipal planning, a member with expertise in achieving natural resource protection in the context  
2 of large project development, and a member who is representative of the business community.

3 II. All members, including those who sit for a member disqualified or recused under RSA  
4 149-M:68, shall refrain from ex parte communications regarding any matter pending before the  
5 committee.

6 III. The committee shall be administratively attached to the department of environmental  
7 services.

8 IV. The chairperson shall serve as the chief executive of the committee and may:

9 (a) Serve as presiding officer.

10 (b) Delegate to other members the duties of the presiding officer, as appropriate.

11 (c) Establish, with the consent of the committee, the budgetary requirements of the  
12 committee.

13 (d) Engage personnel in accordance with this subdivision.

14 V. The presiding officer may appoint a retired justice of the supreme court, superior court, or  
15 circuit court or another person with similar experience adjudicating disputes as a hearing officer to  
16 perform the functions described in RSA 149-M:70, V.

17 149-M:68 Committee Members.

18 I. All members of the committee and any hearing officer appointed under RSA 149-M:67, V,  
19 shall meet the impartiality standard set forth in Part 1 Article 35 of the state constitution.

20 II. Members and alternate members appointed under RSA 149-M:67, I(c) shall serve 5-year  
21 terms and until their successors are appointed and qualified. Any member chosen to fill a vacancy  
22 occurring other than by expiration of a term shall be appointed for the unexpired term of the  
23 member who is succeeded.

24 III. If at any time a member appointed by the governor with the consent of the executive  
25 council is recused or otherwise disqualified from participating in a matter before the committee or is  
26 not otherwise available for good reason, an alternate member shall replace such member.

27 IV. If at any time an ex officio member of the committee under RSA 149-M:67, I(a) and (b) or  
28 designee is recused or otherwise disqualified from participating in a matter before the committee or  
29 is not otherwise available for good reason, the ex officio member shall designate a replacement for  
30 such member.

31 V. Neither a member nor any spouse or domestic partner, parent, child, in-law, or sibling of  
32 a member shall receive income from entities that own or operate, or have applied to own or operate,  
33 major solid waste disposal facilities in New Hampshire. The members appointed by the governor  
34 with the consent of the executive council and their alternates shall comply with RSA 15-A and RSA  
35 15-B.

1           VI. Any member appointed by the governor with the consent of the executive council may be  
2 removed from office in accordance with RSA 4:1 and shall be promptly replaced by the governor with  
3 the consent of the executive council.

4           149-M:69 Administrator and Other Committee Support. The administrator shall provide  
5 support to the committee. If the administrator is not available or the position is vacant, the  
6 committee may hire an independent contractor. The administrator shall be under the supervision of  
7 the chairperson when performing duties for the committee. The administrator shall be compensated  
8 for work performed for the committee as set forth in RSA 149-M:85. The administrator, or  
9 chairperson in the absence of an administrator, with committee approval, may engage additional  
10 technical, legal, or administrative support to fulfill the functions of the committee as necessary.

11           149-M:70 Powers and Duties of the Committee; Rules.

12           I. The committee shall:

13               (a) Evaluate an application on the merits after acceptance and timely grant or deny the  
14 application in accordance with this subdivision, incorporating in its decision such findings and  
15 rulings as are reasonably necessary to support its decision.

16               (b) Include with any decision the reasonable terms and conditions of any certificate  
17 issued under this subdivision, including, without limitation and if warranted, bonding or other form  
18 of security for performance.

19               (c) Assist the public in understanding the requirements of this subdivision.

20           II. The committee shall hold the hearings required by this subdivision and in addition to any  
21 other notice requirements provided by law it shall ensure public notice of such hearings of no less  
22 than 7 calendar days.

23           III. The department shall use its enforcement powers under this chapter, including its  
24 power to refer a matter to the department of justice, to enforce the terms and conditions the  
25 committee imposes on the issuance of a certificate.

26           IV. The committee shall not delegate its authority or duties except as provided under this  
27 subdivision.

28           V. In any matter before the committee, the presiding officer, or a hearing officer designated  
29 by the presiding officer, may hear and decide prehearing matters that are before the committee,  
30 including procedural schedules, consolidation of parties with substantially similar interests,  
31 discovery schedules and methods, motions, and conferences to identify witnesses and exhibits and  
32 otherwise plan for the hearing on the merits. Undisputed motions for intervention may be decided  
33 by the hearing officer and disputed motions for intervention shall be decided by the presiding officer.  
34 Any party aggrieved by a decision on a motion to intervene may within 10 calendar days request  
35 that the committee review such decision de novo. All prehearing decisions by the presiding officer or  
36 the hearing officer shall be provided promptly to the committee members, and any such decision

1 shall be reviewed de novo by the full committee upon written request by any member to the  
2 presiding officer within 7 days of the member's receipt of the decision.

3 VI. On or before July 1, 2026, the committee shall adopt rules to implement and administer  
4 the requirements of this subdivision pursuant to RSA 541-A, after public notice and hearing, and  
5 may adopt further rules thereafter as may from time to time be required. The committee's failure to  
6 adopt rules under this paragraph shall not affect the committee's obligation to accept, process, and  
7 rule upon applications for a certificate under this subdivision.

8 VII. The committee shall hold its first organizational meeting on or before September 1,  
9 2025. The department shall prepare an application form for the use of applicants for a certificate  
10 and shall present such application form to the committee at its first organizational meeting for the  
11 committee's review and approval.

12 149-M:71 Prohibitions and Restrictions.

13 I. No person shall commence construction of any major solid waste disposal facility within  
14 the state unless it has obtained a certificate pursuant to this subdivision. Such facilities shall be  
15 constructed, operated, and maintained in accordance with the terms and conditions of the certificate.  
16 Such a certificate shall not be transferred or assigned without approval of the committee as provided  
17 by RSA 149-M:73, VII. Unless otherwise specified in this subdivision or required by any other state  
18 or federal permit for the facility, any approved major solid waste facility shall not be constructed,  
19 operated, or closed in a manner materially different than the manner in which it was presented in  
20 the application for a certificate as modified and conditioned by such certificate.

21 II. Applications for certificates may at the election of the applicant be filed and evaluated by  
22 the committee concurrently with other state approvals and public hearings may be scheduled  
23 concurrently with hearings held by other state agencies as part of their permitting process for the  
24 same facility.

25 III. Notwithstanding paragraph II, for permit applications under this subdivision for major  
26 solid waste disposal facilities pending before the department on or prior to July 1, 2025, the  
27 applicant shall make a filing with the committee within one year of the effective date of this act.

28 149-M:72 Application for Certificate.

29 I. All applications for a certificate for a major solid waste disposal facility shall be filed with  
30 the administrator or the chair of the committee.

31 II. Within 30 days of the filing of an application, the committee shall notify the applicant in  
32 writing whether the application contains all of the information required by this subdivision and by  
33 rule for such applications. If the committee concludes that the application is not complete, it shall  
34 include in its notice the specific information the applicant must submit to render the application  
35 complete. The applicant's submission of additional information in response to any notice from the  
36 committee that the application is incomplete shall restart the 30-day period for the committee's  
37 determination whether the application is complete. If the committee concludes that the application

1 is complete, it shall notify the applicant, and such notice shall constitute an acceptance. During any  
2 period between a notice that the application is incomplete and the applicant's response to such a  
3 notice, the committee shall suspend its consideration of the application.

4 III. To carry out the committee's duties in RSA 149-M:70, each application shall:

5 (a) Describe in reasonable detail the types and quantities of waste the applicant expects  
6 to accept and the proposed location and dimensions of each principal component of the proposed  
7 facility.

8 (b) Describe in reasonable detail the impact of the proposed facility on existing local,  
9 regional, and state land uses.

10 (c) Document that copies of the application have been hand-delivered or sent by certified  
11 mail to the governing body of each affected municipality. The application shall include a list of each  
12 affected municipality.

13 (d) Provide analysis on the visual impact of the proposed facility during construction,  
14 operation, and post-closure through a visual impact assessment prepared in accordance with  
15 professional standards by an expert in the field.

16 (e) Provide information in reasonable detail about the projected impacts of the proposed  
17 facility on state and regional business development, local, regional and state economies, property  
18 values, aesthetics, tourism, and outdoor recreation. These analyses shall be conducted in accordance  
19 with professional standards by an expert in these fields.

20 (f) Provide information in reasonable detail relative to the economic impacts of the  
21 proposed facility and potential infrastructure improvements associated with the proposed project on  
22 affected municipalities, the region, and the state.

23 (g) Provide information in reasonable detail about the projected impacts from noise,  
24 odor, or traffic associated with the transportation of waste to the facility over roads between the  
25 closest federal interstate highway and the facility site to the extent such noise, odor, or traffic is not  
26 regulated by the department. These analyses shall be conducted in accordance with professional  
27 standards by an expert in these fields.

28 (h) Provide such additional information regarding subjects not regulated by the  
29 department or any other state agency as the committee may require by rule to carry out the purpose  
30 of this subdivision.

31 IV. For all information submitted with the application that was prepared by a consultant or  
32 expert retained by the applicant, the applicant shall submit the qualifications of each such  
33 consultant or expert to prepare such information.

34 V. The committee may seek such additional information from the applicant or a consultant  
35 or expert retained by the applicant as may be necessary for the committee to conduct its assessment  
36 of the application and proposed project and to understand the basis for the analyses and conclusions  
37 prepared by such consultant or expert as part of the application. To the extent any such consultant

1 or expert fails to respond to such a request for additional information to the reasonable satisfaction  
2 of the committee, the committee may hire another consultant or expert with expertise in the same  
3 discipline as the applicant's retained consultant or expert to assist the commission in its assessment  
4 of the application. The applicant shall bear the reasonable fees and expenses of any such consultant  
5 or expert hired by the committee.

6 VI. Public information sessions shall be held in accordance with RSA 149-M:76, I and II.

7 VII. Within 180 days of the acceptance of an application, the committee shall issue or deny a  
8 certificate for the proposed major solid waste disposal facility.

9 VIII. The committee may request that state agencies with relevant technical expertise  
10 participate in committee proceedings.

11 IX. The committee may deny a certificate based upon the criteria in RSA 149-M:9, IX.

12 X. A state agency may seek intervention as a party in any proceeding before the committee  
13 in accordance with RSA 541-A:32.

14 149-M:73 Disclosure of Ownership. Any application for a certificate, or for change in ownership  
15 and transfer of certificate, shall be signed and sworn to by or on behalf of the person making such  
16 application and shall contain the following information:

17 I. Full name and address of the applicant.

18 II. If the applicant is not an individual,

19 (a) The state in which the applicant was formed and the address of the applicant's  
20 principal place of business.

21 (b) The names and addresses of each person having an ownership interest in the  
22 applicant, provided that if the applicant is a subsidiary of a publicly traded company it shall provide,  
23 (1) the names and addresses of each intermediate subsidiary of the publicly traded company having  
24 an ownership interest in the applicant and the names and addresses of each person having an  
25 ownership interest in each intermediate subsidiary and (2) the names and addresses of the directors  
26 and officers and the states of formation and principal places of business of the publicly traded  
27 company and each such intermediate subsidiary.

28 III. A statement demonstrating that the applicant will have the financial resources to  
29 develop the major solid waste disposal facility as proposed in the application.

30 IV. The committee shall administratively approve changes of ownership and transfers of  
31 certificates within 90 days of a petition if it determines the new certificate holder has adequate  
32 financial, technical, and managerial capability to assure construction and operation of the facility in  
33 continuing compliance with the terms and conditions of the certificate.

34 149-M:74 Application and Filing Fees.

35 I. A person filing an application for a certificate for a major solid waste disposal facility  
36 under this subdivision shall pay to the committee at the time of filing the fee prescribed in  
37 paragraph II.

1           II. The committee shall charge the following fees for filings made pursuant to this  
2 subdivision and shall post such filing fees on its website:

3           (a) Application fee for a major solid waste disposal facility: \$20,000 base charge and  
4 \$1,000 per additional 10,000 tons/year throughput in excess of 100,000 tons per year.

5           (b) Filing fees for administrative proceedings:

6                 (1) Petition for committee jurisdiction: \$500.

7                 (2) Certificate transfer of ownership: \$1,000.

8                 (3) Request to modify a certificate: \$1,000.

9           III. All fees charged shall be deposited in the solid waste evaluation committee fund  
10 established in RSA 149-M:84 and shall be nonlapsing and accounted for as a separate line item.

11           IV. Each year the committee may increase the fees prescribed in paragraph II by no more  
12 than the increase in the consumer price index from the prior year, provided that any such increase  
13 shall occur not more frequently than once during any 12-month period. Modifications to the fee  
14 schedule shall be posted on the committee website, with a link prominently displayed on the home  
15 page.

16           149-M:75 Counsel for the Public.

17           I. An application for a certificate under this subdivision shall be served contemporaneously  
18 by the applicant upon the attorney general. Upon receipt of such an application, the attorney  
19 general shall appoint an assistant attorney general as counsel for the public in connection with the  
20 committee's consideration of the application. Counsel for the public shall be deemed to represent  
21 the public as a party to the proceedings before the committee.

22           II. This section shall not be construed to prevent any person otherwise entitled to  
23 participate in any meeting or hearing under this subdivision from being heard or represented by  
24 counsel.

25           149-M:76 Public Hearing; Studies.

26           I. At least 30 days prior to filing an application for a certificate, an applicant shall hold at  
27 least one public information session in the affected municipality where the proposed facility is to be  
28 located. This session may be held concurrently with a public session held as a requirement of any  
29 other state or federal permit or approval.

30           II. Within 60 days after acceptance of an application for a certificate, the committee shall  
31 hold at least one public information session in the municipality where the major solid waste disposal  
32 facility is proposed to be located. Public information sessions under paragraphs I and II shall not be  
33 public hearings and shall be designed to reasonably explain and answer the public's questions about  
34 the proposed project and the committee's procedure for considering and deciding upon an  
35 application.

1           III. Public hearings on the application shall be in the nature of adjudicative proceedings  
2 under RSA 541-A and shall be held in the municipality in which the proposed major solid waste  
3 disposal facility is to be located or in Concord, New Hampshire, as determined by the committee.

4           IV. The committee shall adopt rules regarding the timing and method of notices for public  
5 information sessions and public hearings and any other requirements regarding such sessions and  
6 hearings, provided that such rules shall not provide less protection of the public's right to know than  
7 RSA 91-A provides.

8           V. The committee shall consider and weigh all evidence presented at public hearings.  
9 Members of the public may provide written comments, information, reports, arguments, analyses,  
10 and the like to counsel for the public who may present such comments, information, reports,  
11 arguments, analyses, and the like or a compilation or summary thereof in public hearings if they are  
12 relevant to the committee's jurisdiction and otherwise admissible under RSA 541-A:33. The  
13 committee shall provide an opportunity at one or more public hearings for testimony from the  
14 governing body of each affected municipality and the governing body of the county in which the  
15 proposed facility is proposed to be located. The committee shall consider, as appropriate, prior  
16 committee findings and rulings on the same or similar subject matters. The burden of establishing  
17 the existence of any adverse impacts from the proposed facility at the public hearing shall be upon  
18 the persons asserting their existence.

19           VI. The committee and counsel for the public shall conduct such reasonable studies and  
20 investigations as are necessary or appropriate to carry out the purposes of this subdivision and may  
21 employ one or more qualified experts to the extent necessary to enable them to carry out their duties  
22 under this subdivision, the reasonable cost of which shall be borne by the applicant or certificate  
23 holder in such amount as may be approved by the committee.

24           VII. Times for conducting public hearings and rendering a decision on the application may  
25 be extended for good cause upon written request of the applicant.

26           149-M:77 Judicial Review. Decisions made pursuant to this subdivision shall be reheard and  
27 appealed in accordance with RSA 541.

28           149-M:78 Monitoring and Enforcement.

29           I. The department shall monitor the construction and operation of any major solid waste  
30 disposal facility granted a certificate under this subdivision to ensure compliance with the terms and  
31 conditions of such certificate. With the exception of the authority retained by the state agencies in  
32 accordance with paragraph V, the department may delegate the authority to monitor the  
33 construction or operation of any major solid waste disposal facility granted a certificate under this  
34 subdivision to such state agency or official as it deems appropriate but shall ensure that the terms  
35 and conditions of the certificate are met. Any authorized representative or delegate of the  
36 department shall have a right of entry onto the premises of any part of the facility to ascertain if it is  
37 being constructed or operated in continuing compliance with the terms and conditions of the

1 certificate. During normal hours of business, such a representative or delegate shall also have a  
2 right to inspect such records of the certificate-holder as are relevant to the terms or conditions of the  
3 certificate.

4 II. Whenever the department administratively determines, on its own or in response to a  
5 complaint, that any term or condition of any certificate issued under this subdivision or prior law is  
6 being violated, it shall, in writing, notify the certificate holder of the specific violation and order the  
7 person to immediately terminate the violation. If, 15 days after receipt of the order, the person has  
8 failed or neglected to terminate the violation, the department shall notify the committee which may  
9 suspend the person's certificate. Except for emergencies posing an imminent threat to human health  
10 or the environment, prior to any suspension the committee shall give written notice of its  
11 consideration of suspension and of its reasons therefor and shall provide reasonable notice and an  
12 opportunity for a hearing before a suspension is ordered. In addition to suspension, if, after 15 days  
13 of receipt of the order, the person has failed or neglected to terminate the violation, after notice and  
14 a hearing the committee may impose a fine not to exceed \$5,000 per day until the violation is  
15 corrected.

16 III. In addition to other remedies provided in this subdivision, upon petition of the  
17 department, the committee may suspend a certificate if the committee determines that a person has  
18 made a material misrepresentation in the application, or in supplemental or additional statements  
19 of fact, or studies required of the applicant, or if the committee determines that the person has  
20 violated the provisions of this subdivision, or any rule adopted under this subdivision. Except for  
21 emergencies, prior to any suspension, the committee shall give written notice of its consideration of  
22 suspension and of its reasons therefor and shall provide an opportunity for a prompt hearing before  
23 a suspension is ordered.

24 IV. Upon petition of the department, the committee may revoke any certificate that is  
25 suspended after the person holding the suspended certificate has been given at least 90 days' written  
26 notice of the committee's consideration of revocation and of its reasons therefor and has been  
27 provided an opportunity for a full hearing before a revocation is ordered.

28 V. Notwithstanding any other provision of this subdivision, each state agency having  
29 permitting or other regulatory authority shall retain all of its powers and duties of enforcement.

30 VI. The full amount of actual costs and expenses incurred by the department and committee  
31 in connection with any enforcement action against a person holding a certificate, in which the person  
32 is determined to have violated any provision of this subdivision, any rule adopted by the committee,  
33 or any of the terms and conditions of the issued certificate, shall be assessed to the person and shall  
34 be paid by the person to the committee. Any amounts paid by a person to the committee pursuant to  
35 this paragraph shall be deposited in the state's general fund.

36 VII. The department may adopt rules in furtherance of its monitoring and enforcement  
37 responsibilities under this subdivision.

1           149-M:79 Records. Complete verbatim records shall be kept by the committee of all hearings,  
2 and records of all other actions, proceedings, and correspondence of the committee, including  
3 submittals of information and reports by members of the public, shall be maintained, all of which  
4 records shall be open to the public inspection and copying as provided for under RSA 91-A and made  
5 available on the committee's website unless such records were submitted under seal and are exempt  
6 from public disclosure under RSA 91-A.

7           149-M:80 Findings and Certificate Issuance.

8           I. The decision to issue or deny a certificate shall be based on the hearing record and made  
9 by a majority of the committee.

10          II. In order to issue a certificate, the committee shall find that:

11           (a) The applicant has adequate financial, technical, and managerial capability to assure  
12 construction, operation, and closure of the facility in continuing compliance with the terms and  
13 conditions of the certificate.

14           (b) The facility will not unduly interfere with the orderly development of the region with  
15 due consideration having been given to the views of municipal and regional planning commissions  
16 and municipal governing bodies.

17           (c) The public benefit of the facility outweighs any adverse impact of the facility on  
18 aesthetics, historic preservation, economic impacts to the region, tourism, outdoor recreation,  
19 regional and statewide business development, existing land uses, and property values and from  
20 noise, odor, or traffic associated with the transportation of waste to the facility over roads between  
21 the closest federal interstate highway and the facility site to the extent such noise, odor, or traffic is  
22 not otherwise regulated by the department.

23          III. The committee shall issue a written order granting or denying a certificate. Within 90  
24 days of an order granting a certificate the committee shall issue a written summary and analysis of  
25 each issue raised in the public hearing in opposition to issuance of the certificate unless such issue  
26 addresses a subject matter regulated by a division of the department created by RSA 21-O or any  
27 other state agency, in which case the committee shall refer such issue in writing to such division or  
28 agency for analysis and response as part of the division or agency's consideration of an application  
29 for a permit for such facility. Motions for rehearing of an order granting a certificate under RSA  
30 541:3 shall not be due until 30 days after the committee has issued such written summary and  
31 analysis.

32          IV. A certificate, when issued, shall be final and subject only to rehearing and judicial  
33 review.

34          V. The committee shall condition the certificate upon the applicant's obtaining the requisite  
35 federal and state approvals.

36           149-M:82 Penalties.

1           I. Any construction or operation of major solid waste disposal facilities without first  
2 obtaining a certificate from the committee, or any material violation of the terms and conditions of a  
3 certificate issued by the committee, shall be subject to a civil penalty not to exceed \$10,000 for each  
4 violation or for each day of a continuing violation. Such violation may also be enjoined by the  
5 superior court upon application of the attorney general.

6           II. Whoever purposely or knowingly commits any violation of any provision of this section  
7 shall be guilty of a misdemeanor if a natural person, or guilty of a felony if any other person.

8           149-M:83 Severability. If any provision of this subdivision, or application thereof to any person  
9 or circumstance is held invalid, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or applications of the  
10 subdivision which can be given effect without the invalid provisions or applications, and to this end,  
11 the provisions of this subdivision are severable.

12           149-M:84 Fund Established; Funding Plan; Fines and Penalties.

13           I. There is hereby established in the office of the state treasurer a nonlapsing, special fund  
14 to be known as the solid waste facility site evaluation committee fund. All application and other  
15 filing fees received by the committee under this subdivision shall be deposited in the fund. All  
16 moneys in the fund shall be continually appropriated to the committee and shall be used to pay for  
17 operating costs of the committee and the partial salary of the administrator. If the administrator  
18 position is vacant, the fund may be used to pay an independent contractor to perform the duties of  
19 the administrator for the committee. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the committee  
20 may engage the department for technical, legal, or administrative support to fulfill the requirements  
21 of this subdivision. Any cost incurred by the committee for such support shall be charged directly to  
22 the applicant.

23           II. In the event lawful expenditures by the committee in a fiscal year are greater than the  
24 total monies held in the solid waste evaluation committee fund, the chair of the committee may  
25 request, with prior approval of the legislative fiscal committee, that the governor and council  
26 authorize additional funding from general funds not otherwise appropriated.

27           III. All fines and civil penalties recovered by the committee, the department, or the  
28 department of justice from the enforcement of the provisions of this subdivision shall be deposited  
29 into the state's general fund.

30           149-M:85 Compensation and Reimbursement.

31           I. The public members of the committee shall be compensated for all time spent on  
32 committee business, including compensation and reimbursement for major solid waste disposal  
33 facility proceeding time and expenses. Compensation shall be provided on a pro rata basis, based  
34 upon the daily salary rate of an unclassified position at the initial step in grade FF under RSA 94:1-  
35 a, I(a).

36           II. State agencies represented on the committee shall be reimbursed for major solid waste  
37 disposal facility proceeding time and expenses incurred by their respective members or designees,

1 except that time spent for the first 5 full days of their participation with respect to any application or  
2 other proceeding concerning a major solid waste disposal facility shall not be subject to  
3 reimbursement. The rate of reimbursement to each respective agency shall be based on a pro rata  
4 share of the employee's salary, benefits, and related costs.

5 III. The department of justice shall be reimbursed in the same manner as described in  
6 paragraph II for major solid waste disposal facility proceeding time and expenses that are incurred  
7 by the counsel for the public.

8 IV. All persons or agencies seeking compensation or reimbursement under this section shall  
9 keep detailed time and expense records which shall be submitted to the chairperson or administrator  
10 and used to determine the amount of compensation or reimbursement. The chairperson or  
11 administrator shall develop a recordkeeping system and accounting and payment procedures.

12 V. Compensation shall not be provided to members of the committee for initial meetings  
13 conducted prior to acceptance of application fees. The department shall provide support for the  
14 adoption of rules established by the committee.

15 149-M:86 Solid Waste Permit Applications Suspended. Except for an application for a landfill  
16 expansion or a remedial landfill expansion, the department shall not issue any permit approvals that  
17 authorize new capacity for major solid waste disposal facilities until July 1, 2026. During the period  
18 that the department's authority to issue such permit approvals is suspended under this section, the  
19 department shall accept applications for new capacity at such facilities, evaluate such applications  
20 for completeness, request more information to make such applications complete, and, if warranted  
21 under the department's rules, find such applications to be complete, but shall not further evaluate or  
22 process any such complete applications, notwithstanding RSA 149-M:9, VIII.

23 530 New Subparagraph; The State and Its Government; State Treasurer; Application of  
24 Receipts. Amend RSA 6:12, I(b) by inserting after subparagraph (399) the following new  
25 subparagraph:

26 (400) Moneys deposited in the solid waste facility site evaluation committee fund as  
27 established in RSA 149-M:84.

28 531 New Paragraph; Definition; Vested; 2026 Change. Amend RSA 100-A:1 by inserting after  
29 paragraph XXXVII the following new paragraph:

30 XXXVIII. "Vested" means that a member is eligible for a benefit after 10 years of service.  
31 The calculations of earnable compensation under RSA 100-A:1, XVII, and average final  
32 compensation under RSA 100-A:1, XVIII, shall not be reduced after 3 years of service.

33 532 Earnable Compensation; 2026 Change. Amend RSA 100-A:1, XVII to read as follows:

34 XVII. "Earnable compensation" shall mean:

35 (a) For *group I* members who have attained vested status prior to January 1, 2012 the  
36 full base rate of compensation paid, as determined by the employer, plus any overtime pay, holiday  
37 and vacation pay, sick pay, longevity or severance pay, cost of living bonus, annual attendance

1 stipend or bonus, additional pay for extracurricular and instructional activities for full-time teachers  
2 and full-time employees who are employed in paraprofessional or support position, additional pay for  
3 instructional activities of full-time faculty of the community college system, and any military  
4 differential pay, plus the fair market value of non-cash compensation paid to, or on behalf of, the  
5 member for meals or living quarters if subject to federal income tax, but excluding other  
6 compensation except cash incentives paid by an employer to encourage members to retire,  
7 supplemental pay paid by the employer while the member is receiving workers' compensation, and  
8 teacher development pay that is not part of the contracted annual salary. [~~Compensation for extra~~  
9 ~~and special duty, as reported by the employer, shall be included but limited during the highest 3~~  
10 ~~years of creditable service as provided in paragraph XVIII.~~] However, earnable compensation in the  
11 final 12 months of creditable service prior to termination of employment shall be limited to 1-1/2  
12 times the higher of the earnable compensation in the 12-month period preceding the final 12 months  
13 or the highest compensation year as determined for the purpose of calculating average final  
14 compensation, but excluding the final 12 months. Any compensation received in the final 12 months  
15 of employment in excess of such limit shall not be subject to member or employer contributions to  
16 the retirement system and shall not be considered in the computation of average final compensation.  
17 Provided that, the annual compensation limit for members of governmental defined benefit pension  
18 plans under section 401(a)(17) of the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended,  
19 shall apply to earnable compensation for all employees[,] **and** teachers[, ~~permanent firemen, and~~  
20 ~~permanent policemen~~] who first become eligible for membership in the system on or after July 1,  
21 1996. Earnable compensation shall not include compensation in any form paid later than 120 days  
22 after the member's termination of employment from a retirement eligible position, with the limited  
23 exceptions of disability related severance pay paid to a member or retiree no later than 120 days  
24 after a decision by the board of trustees granting the member or retiree disability retirement  
25 benefits pursuant to RSA 100-A:6 and of severance pay which a member was entitled to be paid  
26 within 120 days after termination but which, without the consent of the member and not through  
27 any fault of the member, was paid more than 120 days after the member's termination. The member  
28 shall have the burden of proving to the board of trustees that any severance payment paid later than  
29 120 days after the member's termination of employment is earnable compensation and meets the  
30 requirements of an asserted exception to the 120-day post-termination payment requirement.

31 (b)(1) For **group I** members who have not attained vested status prior to January 1,  
32 2012, the full base rate of compensation paid, as determined by the employer, plus compensation  
33 over base pay. Compensation over base pay shall include as applicable, subject to subparagraphs  
34 (2)[~~(3), and (4),]~~ **and (3)**, any overtime pay, cost of living bonus, annual attendance stipend or  
35 bonus, annual longevity pay, additional pay for extracurricular and instructional activities for full-  
36 time teachers and full-time employees who are employed in paraprofessional or support position,  
37 additional pay for instructional activities of full-time faculty of the community college system[;

1 ~~compensation for extra and special duty,~~ and any military differential pay, plus the fair market  
2 value of non-cash compensation paid to, or on behalf of, the member for meals or living quarters if  
3 subject to federal income tax, but excluding other compensation except supplemental pay paid by the  
4 employer while the member is receiving workers' compensation and teacher development pay that is  
5 not part of the contracted annual salary.

6 (2) Compensation over base pay shall be limited during the highest 5 years of  
7 creditable service as provided in paragraph XVIII.

8 ~~[(3) Earnable compensation shall not include compensation for extra and special  
9 duty for members who commence service on and after July 1, 2011.]~~

10 ~~[(4)]~~ (3) Earnable compensation shall not include incentives to encourage members  
11 to retire, severance pay or end-of-career additional longevity payments, and pay for unused sick or  
12 vacation time. Earnable compensation in the final 12 months of creditable service prior to  
13 termination of employment shall be limited to 1 1/2 times the higher of the earnable compensation in  
14 the 12-month period preceding the final 12 months or the highest compensation year as determined  
15 for the purpose of calculating average final compensation, but excluding the final 12 months. Any  
16 compensation received in the final 12 months of employment in excess of such limit shall not be  
17 subject to member or employer contributions to the retirement system and shall not be considered in  
18 the computation of average final compensation. Provided that, the annual compensation limit for  
19 members of governmental defined benefit pension plans under section 401(a)(17) of the United  
20 States Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, shall apply to earnable compensation for all  
21 employees~~;~~ **and** teachers~~;~~ ~~permanent firemen, and permanent policemen~~ who first become eligible  
22 for membership in the system on or after July 1, 1996. Earnable compensation shall not include  
23 compensation in any form paid later than 120 days after the member's termination of employment  
24 from a retirement eligible position.

25 (c) *For group II members who attained vested status prior to September 1, 2013,*  
26 *the full base rate of compensation paid, as determined by the employer, plus any overtime*  
27 *pay, holiday and vacation pay, sick pay, longevity or severance pay, cost of living bonus,*  
28 *annual attendance stipend or bonus, additional pay for instructional activities, and any*  
29 *military differential pay, plus the fair market value of non-cash compensation paid to, or*  
30 *on behalf of, the member for meals or living quarters if subject to federal income tax, but*  
31 *excluding other compensation except cash incentives paid by an employer to encourage*  
32 *members to retire, supplemental pay paid by the employer while the member is receiving*  
33 *workers' compensation. Compensation for extra and special duty, as reported by the*  
34 *employer, shall be included but limited during the highest 3 years of creditable service as*  
35 *provided in paragraph XVIII. However, earnable compensation in the final 12 months of*  
36 *creditable service prior to termination of employment shall be limited to 1-1/2 times the*  
37 *higher of the earnable compensation in the 12-month period preceding the final 12 months*

1 *or the highest compensation year as determined for the purpose of calculating average*  
2 *final compensation, but excluding the final 12 months. Any compensation received in the*  
3 *final 12 months of employment in excess of such limit shall not be subject to member or*  
4 *employer contributions to the retirement system and shall not be considered in the*  
5 *computation of average final compensation. Provided that, the annual compensation limit*  
6 *for members of governmental defined benefit pension plans under section 401(a)(17) of the*  
7 *United States Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, shall apply to earnable*  
8 *compensation for all permanent firemen and permanent policemen who first become*  
9 *eligible for membership in the system on or after July 1, 1996. Earnable compensation*  
10 *shall not include compensation in any form paid later than 120 days after the member's*  
11 *termination of employment from a retirement-eligible position, with the limited exceptions*  
12 *of disability-related severance pay paid to a member or retiree no later than 120 days after*  
13 *a decision by the board of trustees granting the member or retiree disability retirement*  
14 *benefits pursuant to RSA 100-A:6 and of severance pay which a member was entitled to be*  
15 *paid within 120 days after termination but which, without the consent of the member and*  
16 *not through any fault of the member, was paid more than 120 days after the member's*  
17 *termination. The member shall have the burden of proving to the board of trustees that*  
18 *any severance payment paid later than 120 days after the member's termination of*  
19 *employment is earnable compensation and meets the requirements of an asserted exception*  
20 *to the 120-day post-termination payment requirement.*

21 *(d)(1) For group II members who have not attained vested status prior to*  
22 *September 1, 2013, the full base rate of compensation paid, as determined by the employer,*  
23 *plus compensation over base pay. Compensation over base pay shall include, as applicable*  
24 *and subject to subparagraphs (2) and (3), any overtime pay, cost of living bonus, annual*  
25 *attendance stipend or bonus, annual longevity pay, compensation for extra and special*  
26 *duty, and any military differential pay, plus the fair market value of non-cash*  
27 *compensation paid to or on behalf of the member for meals or living quarters if subject to*  
28 *federal income tax, but excluding other compensation except supplemental pay paid by the*  
29 *employer while the member is receiving workers' compensation that is not part of the*  
30 *contracted annual salary.*

31 *(2) Earnable compensation shall not include compensation for extra and*  
32 *special duty for members who began service on or after July 1, 2011.*

33 *(3) Earnable compensation shall not include incentives to encourage*  
34 *members to retire, severance pay, end-of-career additional longevity payments, or pay for*  
35 *unused sick or vacation time. Earnable compensation in the final 12 months of creditable*  
36 *service prior to termination of employment shall be limited to 1 1/2 times the higher of the*  
37 *earnable compensation in the 12-month period preceding the final 12 months or the*

1 *highest compensation year as determined for the purpose of calculating average final*  
2 *compensation, but excluding the final 12 months. Any compensation received in the final*  
3 *12 months of employment in excess of such limit shall not be subject to member or employer*  
4 *contributions to the retirement system and shall not be considered in the computation of*  
5 *average final compensation. Provided that, the annual compensation limit for members of*  
6 *governmental defined benefit pension plans under section 401(a)(17) of the United States*  
7 *Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, shall apply to earnable compensation for all*  
8 *permanent firemen and permanent policemen who first become eligible for membership in*  
9 *the system on or after July 1, 1996. Earnable compensation shall not include compensation*  
10 *in any form paid later than 120 days after the member's termination of employment from a*  
11 *retirement-eligible position.*

12 533 Average Final Compensation; 2026 Change. Amend RSA 100-A:1, XVIII to read as follows:

13 XVIII. "Average final compensation" shall mean:

14 (a) For **group I** members who have attained vested status prior to January 1, 2012, the  
15 average annual earnable compensation of a member during his or her highest 3 years of creditable  
16 service, or during all of the years in his or her creditable service if less than 3 years. [~~For purposes~~  
17 ~~of this calculation, the inclusion of the average annual compensation for extra and special duty in~~  
18 ~~the 3 years shall not exceed the average annual amount of compensation for extra and special duty~~  
19 ~~paid to the member over the member's last 7 years of creditable service on or after July 1, 2009, as~~  
20 ~~reported by the employer in accordance with RSA 100-A:16, VI, or over all of the years in his or her~~  
21 ~~creditable service on or after July 1, 2009, if less than 7 years.]~~

22 (b) *For group II members who attained vested status prior to September 1, 2013,*  
23 *the average annual earnable compensation shall be calculated based on the member's*  
24 *highest 3 years of creditable service, or during all years of creditable service if less than 3*  
25 *years. For purposes of this calculation, the inclusion of the average annual compensation*  
26 *for extra and special duty in the 3 years shall not exceed the average annual amount of*  
27 *compensation for extra and special duty paid to the member over the member's last 7 years*  
28 *of creditable service on or after July 1, 2009, as reported by the employer in accordance*  
29 *with RSA 100-A:16, VI, or over all of the years in the member's creditable service on or after*  
30 *July 1, 2009, if less than 7 years.*

31 [~~(b)~~] (c) For group I members who commenced service on or after July 1, 2011 or who  
32 have not attained vested status prior to January 1, 2012, the average annual earnable compensation  
33 of a member during his or her highest 5 years of creditable service, or during all of the years in his or  
34 her creditable service if less than 5 years. For purposes of inclusion in this calculation, the average  
35 percentage of compensation paid in excess of the full base rate of compensation in the highest 5  
36 years shall not exceed the average percentage of compensation paid in excess of the full base rate of

1 compensation over all the member's years of service on or after January 1, 2012, but excluding the  
2 highest 5 years.

3 ~~[(c)(1)]~~ **(d)(1)** For group II members [~~who commenced service prior to July 1, 2011 and~~  
4 who have not attained vested status prior to ~~January 1, 2012,~~ **September 1, 2013**, the average  
5 annual earnable compensation of a member during his or her highest 5 years of creditable service, or  
6 during all of the years in his or her creditable service if less than 5 years. For purposes of inclusion  
7 in this calculation, the average percentage of compensation paid in excess of the full base rate of  
8 compensation in the highest 5 years shall not exceed the average percentage of compensation paid in  
9 excess of the full base rate of compensation over all the member's years of service on or after  
10 ~~January 1, 2012~~ **September 1, 2013**.

11 (2) For group II members who commenced service on or after July 1, 2011, [~~and who~~  
12 ~~have not attained vested status prior to January 1, 2012,~~] the average annual earnable  
13 compensation of a member during his or her highest 5 years of creditable service, or during all of the  
14 years in his or her creditable service if less than 5 years. For purposes of inclusion in this  
15 calculation, the average percentage of compensation paid in excess of the full base rate of  
16 compensation in the highest 5 years shall not exceed the average percentage of compensation paid in  
17 excess of the full base rate of compensation over all the member's years of service on or after  
18 January 1, 2012, but excluding the highest 5 years.

19 534 Group II Service Retirement Benefits; 2026 Change. Amend RSA 100-A:5, II(a) to read as  
20 follows:

21 II. Group II Members.

22 (a) Any group II member in service, who is in vested status before [~~January 1,~~  
23 ~~2012~~] **September 1, 2013**, who has attained age 45 and completed 20 years of creditable service, and  
24 any group II member who commenced service on or after July 1, 2011, who has attained age 50 and  
25 completed 25 years of creditable service, and group II members who have not attained vested status  
26 prior to [~~January 1, 2012~~] **September 1, 2013**, as provided in the transition provisions in RSA 100-  
27 A:5, II(d), or any group II member in service who has attained age 60 regardless of the number of  
28 years of creditable service, may retire on a service retirement allowance upon written application to  
29 the board of trustees setting forth at what time not less than 30 days nor more than 90 days  
30 subsequent to the filing thereof the member desires to be retired, notwithstanding that during such  
31 period of notification the member may have separated from service. Provided, however, that a  
32 group II member who commenced service on or after July 1, 2011 shall not receive a service  
33 retirement allowance until attaining the age of 52.5; but may receive a reduced allowance after age  
34 50 if the member has at least 25 years of creditable service where the allowance shall be reduced, for  
35 each month by which the date on which benefits commence precedes the month after which the  
36 member attains 52.5 years of age, by 1/4 of one percent.



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1	January 1, 2012	of service	age attained	multiplier
2	<del>[(1) Less than 4 years</del>	<del>24</del>	<del>age 49</del>	<del>2.1%</del>
3	<del>(2) At least 4 years</del>	<del>23</del>	<del>age 48</del>	<del>2.2%</del>
4	<del>but less than 6 years</del>			
5	<del>(3) At least 6 years</del>	<del>22</del>	<del>age 47</del>	<del>2.3%</del>
6	<del>but less than 8 years</del>			
7	<del>(4) At least 8 years</del>	<del>21</del>	<del>age 46</del>	<del>2.4%</del>
8	<del>but less than 10 years]</del>			
9	<b>(1) Less than 1 year</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>age 49</b>	<b>2.1%*</b>
10	<b>(2) At least 1 years</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>age 49</b>	<b>2.1%*</b>
11	<b>but less than 2 years</b>			
12	<b>(3) At least 2 years but</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>age 49</b>	<b>2.1%*</b>
13	<b>less than 3 years</b>			
14	<b>(4) At least 3 years but</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>age 49</b>	<b>2.1%*</b>
15	<b>less than 4 years</b>			
16	<b>(5) At least 4 years</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>age 48</b>	<b>2.2%*</b>
17	<b>but less than 5 years</b>			
18	<b>(6) At least 5 years</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>age 48</b>	<b>2.2%*</b>
19	<b>but less than 6 years</b>			
20	<b>(7) At least 6 years but</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>age 47</b>	<b>2.3%*</b>
21	<b>less than 7 years</b>			
22	<b>(8) At least 7 years but</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>age 47</b>	<b>2.3%*</b>
23	<b>less than 8 years</b>			
24	<b>(9) At least 8 years but</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>age 46</b>	<b>2.4%*</b>
25	<b>less than 9 years</b>			

26 \* The annuity multiplier applied to creditable service earned beyond 15 years of creditable service,  
27 shall be 2.5 percent, but only for group II members in service who have attained age 60 regardless of  
28 the number of years of creditable service, or who work up to their full age and service requirements  
29 and retire under service retirement. If a member retires prior to reaching full age and service  
30 requirements, then their annuity multiplier remains the same as their first 15 years of creditable  
31 service.

32 538 Retirement System; 2026 Change; Group II; Date Change for Application of Retirement  
33 Provisions Adopted in 2011 to Members in Vested Status. Amend the following RSA provisions by  
34 replacing "January 1, 2012" with "September 1, 2013": 21-I:30, VIII; 100-A:1, XXXVII(b)(1) and (3);  
35 100-A:5, II(a); 100-A:5, II(b)(2); 100-A:5, II(c)(1); 100-A:5, II(d) (except table heading); 100-A:6, II(b);  
36 100-A:6, II(d)(1) and (3); 100-A:10, II(b); 100-A:16, I(aa); 100-A:19-b, II(a) and (c); and 100-A:19-d.

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1       539 Retirement System; 2026 Change; Group II; Date Change for Application of Retirement  
2 Provisions Adopted in 2011 to Members in Vested Status. Amend the following RSA provisions by  
3 replacing "September 1, 2013" with "January 1, 2014": 21-I:30, VIII; 100-A:1, XVII(c); 100-A:1,  
4 XVII(d)(1); 100-A:1, XVIII(b); 100-A:1, XVIII(d)(1); 100-A:1, XXXVII(b)(1) and (3); 100-A:5, II(a); 100-  
5 A:5, II(b)(2); 100-A:5, II(c)(1); 100-A:5, II(d) (except table heading); 100-A:6, II(b); 100-A:6, II(d)(1)  
6 and (3); 100-A:10, II(b); 100-A:16, I(aa); 100-A:19-b, II(a) and (c); and 100-A:19-d.

7       540 Retirement System; 2027 Change; Group II; Date Change for Application of Retirement  
8 Provisions Adopted in 2011 to Members in Vested Status. Amend the following RSA provisions by  
9 replacing "January 1, 2014" with "January 1, 2015": 21-I:30, VIII; 100-A:1, XVII(c); 100-A:1,  
10 XVII(d)(1); 100-A:1, XVIII(b); 100-A:1, XVIII(d)(1); 100-A:1, XXXVII(b)(1) and (3); 100-A:5, II(a); 100-  
11 A:5, II(b)(2); 100-A:5, II(c)(1); 100-A:5, II(d) (except table heading); 100-A:6, II(b); 100-A:6, II(d)(1)  
12 and (3); 100-A:10, II(b); 100-A:16, I(aa); 100-A:19-b, II(a) and (c); and 100-A:19-d.

13       541 Retirement System; 2028 Change; Group II; Date Change for Application of Retirement  
14 Provisions Adopted in 2011 to Members in Vested Status. Amend the following RSA provisions by  
15 replacing "January 1, 2015" with "January 1, 2016": 21-I:30, VIII; 100-A:1, XVII(c); 100-A:1,  
16 XVII(d)(1); 100-A:1, XVIII(b); 100-A:1, XVIII(d)(1); 100-A:1, XXXVII(b)(1) and (3); 100-A:5, II(a); 100-  
17 A:5, II(b)(2); 100-A:5, II(c)(1); 100-A:5, II(d) (except table heading); 100-A:6, II(b); 100-A:6, II(d)(1)  
18 and (3); 100-A:10, II(b); 100-A:16, I(aa); 100-A:19-b, II(a) and (c); and 100-A:19-d.

19       542 Retirement System; 2029 Change; Group II; Date Change for Application of Retirement  
20 Provisions Adopted in 2011 to Members in Vested Status. Amend the following RSA provisions by  
21 replacing "January 1, 2016" with "January 1, 2017": 21-I:30, VIII; 100-A:1, XVII(c); 100-A:1,  
22 XVII(d)(1); 100-A:1, XVIII(b); 100-A:1, XVIII(d)(1); 100-A:1, XXXVII(b)(1) and (3); 100-A:5, II(a); 100-  
23 A:5, II(b)(2); 100-A:5, II(c)(1); 100-A:5, II(d) (except table heading); 100-A:6, II(b); 100-A:6, II(d)(1)  
24 and (3); 100-A:10, II(b); 100-A:16, I(aa); 100-A:19-b, II(a) and (c); and 100-A:19-d.

25       543 Retirement System; 2030 Change; Group II; Date Change for Application of Retirement  
26 Provisions Adopted in 2011 to Members in Vested Status. Amend the following RSA provisions by  
27 replacing "January 1, 2017" with "January 1, 2018": 21-I:30, VIII; 100-A:1, XVII(c); 100-A:1,  
28 XVII(d)(1); 100-A:1, XVIII(b); 100-A:1, XVIII(d)(1); 100-A:1, XXXVII(b)(1) and (3); 100-A:5, II(a); 100-  
29 A:5, II(b)(2); 100-A:5, II(c)(1); 100-A:5, II(d) (except table heading); 100-A:6, II(b); 100-A:6, II(d)(1)  
30 and (3); 100-A:10, II(b); 100-A:16, I(aa); 100-A:19-b, II(a) and (c); and 100-A:19-d.

31       544 Retirement System; 2031 Change; Group II; Date Change for Application of Retirement  
32 Provisions Adopted in 2011 to Members in Vested Status. Amend the following RSA provisions by  
33 replacing "January 1, 2018" with "January 1, 2019": 21-I:30, VIII; 100-A:1, XVII(c); 100-A:1,  
34 XVII(d)(1); 100-A:1, XVIII(b); 100-A:1, XVIII(d)(1); 100-A:1, XXXVII(b)(1) and (3); 100-A:5, II(a); 100-  
35 A:5, II(b)(2); 100-A:5, II(c)(1); 100-A:5, II(d) (except table heading); 100-A:6, II(b); 100-A:6, II(d)(1)  
36 and (3); 100-A:10, II(b); 100-A:16, I(aa); 100-A:19-b, II(a) and (c); and 100-A:19-d.

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1       545 Retirement System; 2032 Change; Group II; Date Change for Application of Retirement  
2 Provisions Adopted in 2011 to Members in Vested Status. Amend the following RSA provisions by  
3 replacing "January 1, 2019" with "January 1, 2020": 21-I:30, VIII; 100-A:1, XVII(c); 100-A:1,  
4 XVII(d)(1); 100-A:1, XVIII(b); 100-A:1, XVIII(d)(1); 100-A:1, XXXVII(b)(1) and (3); 100-A:5, II(a); 100-  
5 A:5, II(b)(2); 100-A:5, II(c)(1); 100-A:5, II(d) (except table heading); 100-A:6, II(b); 100-A:6, II(d)(1)  
6 and (3); 100-A:10, II(b); 100-A:16, I(aa); 100-A:19-b, II(a) and (c); and 100-A:19-d.

7       546 Retirement System; 2033 Change; Group II; Date Change for Application of Retirement  
8 Provisions Adopted in 2011 to Members in Vested Status. Amend the following RSA provisions by  
9 replacing "January 1, 2020" with "January 1, 2021": 21-I:30, VIII; 100-A:1, XVII(c); 100-A:1,  
10 XVII(d)(1); 100-A:1, XVIII(b); 100-A:1, XVIII(d)(1); 100-A:1, XXXVII(b)(1) and (3); 100-A:5, II(a); 100-  
11 A:5, II(b)(2); 100-A:5, II(c)(1); 100-A:5, II(d) (except table heading); 100-A:6, II(b); 100-A:6, II(d)(1)  
12 and (3); 100-A:10, II(b); 100-A:16, I(aa); 100-A:19-b, II(a) and (c); and 100-A:19-d.

13       547 Medical and Surgical Benefits; 2034 Change. Amend RSA 21-I:30, VIII to read as follows:

14           VIII. Any vested deferred state retiree may receive medical and surgical benefits under this  
15 section if the vested deferred state retiree is eligible. To be eligible, a group I vested deferred state  
16 retiree shall have at least 10 years of creditable service with the state if the employee's service began  
17 prior to July 1, 2003 or 20 years of creditable service with the state if the employee's service began  
18 on or after July 1, 2003 and a group II vested deferred state retiree shall have at least 20 years of  
19 creditable service with the state if the employee's service with the state began on or after July 1,  
20 2010. In addition, if the vested deferred state retiree is a member of group I, such retiree shall be at  
21 least 60 years of age to be eligible. If the vested deferred state retiree is a member of group II who is  
22 in vested status before January 1, 2012, such retiree shall not be eligible until 20 years from the date  
23 of becoming a member of group II and shall be at least 45 years of age, and any group II member  
24 who commenced service on or after July 1, 2011 shall not be eligible until 25 years from the date of  
25 becoming a member of group II and shall be at least 52.5 years of age [~~and group II members who~~  
26 ~~have not attained vested status prior to January 1, 2012 shall be as provided in the transition~~  
27 ~~provisions in RSA 100-A:5, II(d)].~~

28       548 Definitions; 2034 Change. Amend RSA 100-A:1, XVII(d)(1) to read as follows:

29           (d)(1) For group II members [~~who have not attained vested status prior to January 1,~~  
30 ~~2021] **who commenced service on or after July 1, 2011**, the full base rate of compensation paid,  
31 as determined by the employer, plus compensation over base pay. Compensation over base pay shall  
32 include, as applicable and subject to subparagraphs (2) and (3), any overtime pay, cost of living  
33 bonus, annual attendance stipend or bonus, annual longevity pay, compensation for extra and  
34 special duty, and any military differential pay, plus the fair market value of non-cash compensation  
35 paid to or on behalf of the member for meals or living quarters if subject to federal income tax, but  
36 excluding other compensation except supplemental pay paid by the employer while the member is  
37 receiving workers' compensation that is not part of the contracted annual salary.~~

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1       549 Definitions; 2034 Change. Amend RSA 100-A:1, XXXVII(b)(1) through (3) to read as  
2 follows:

3               (b)(1) For a group II member who is [~~in vested status before January 1, 2012~~] **who**  
4 **commenced service prior to July 1, 2011**, the later of the date that the member has both attained  
5 age 45 and completed 20 years of creditable service; **or**

6               (2) For a group II member who commenced service on or after July 1, 2011, the later  
7 of the date that the member has both attained age 52.5 and completed 25 years of creditable  
8 service.[;]

9               [~~(3) For a group II member who commenced service prior to July 1, 2011, and who~~  
10 ~~has not attained vested status prior to January 1, 2012, as provided in the transition provisions in~~  
11 ~~RSA 100-A:5, II(d); or]~~

12       550 Service Retirement Benefits; 2034 Change. Amend RSA 100-A:5, II(a) to read as follows:

13               (a) Any group II member in service, [~~who is in vested status before January 1,~~  
14 ~~2021~~] **who commenced service prior to July 1, 2011**, who has attained age 45 and completed 20  
15 years of creditable service, and any group II member who commenced service on or after July 1, 2011  
16 who has attained age 50 and completed 25 years of creditable service[~~, and group II members who~~  
17 ~~have not attained vested status prior to January 1, 2021, as provided in the transition provisions in~~  
18 ~~RSA 100-A:5, II(d)~~], or any group II member in service who has attained age 60 regardless of the  
19 number of years of creditable service, may retire on a service retirement allowance upon written  
20 application to the board of trustees setting forth at what time not less than 30 days nor more than 90  
21 days subsequent to the filing thereof the member desires to be retired, notwithstanding that during  
22 such period of notification the member may have separated from service. Provided, however, that a  
23 group II member who commenced service on or after July 1, 2011 shall not receive a service  
24 retirement allowance until attaining the age of 52.5; but may receive a reduced allowance after age  
25 50 if the member has at least 25 years of creditable service where the allowance shall be reduced, for  
26 each month by which the date on which benefits commence precedes the month after which the  
27 member attains 52.5 years of age, by 1/4 of one percent.

28       551 Service Retirement Benefits; 2034 Change. Amend RSA 100-A:5, II(b)(2) to read as follows:

29               (2) For members [~~who are in vested status before January 1, 2021~~] **who**  
30 **commenced service prior to July 1, 2011**, a state annuity which, together with his or her member  
31 annuity, shall be equal to 2- 1/2 percent of his or her average final compensation multiplied by the  
32 number of years of his or her creditable service not in excess of 40 years, or for members who  
33 commenced service on or after July 1, 2011, a state annuity which, together with his or her member  
34 annuity, shall be equal to 2 percent of his or her average final compensation multiplied by the  
35 number of years of his or her creditable service not in excess of 42.5 years[~~, and group II members~~  
36 ~~who have not attained vested status prior to January 1, 2021 shall be as provided in the transition~~

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1 ~~provisions in RSA 100-A:5, II(d) with the maximum number of years of creditable service not in~~  
2 ~~excess of 40.5 years].~~

3 552 Service Retirement Benefits; 2034 Change. Amend RSA 100-A:5, II(c)(1) to read as follows:

4 (c)(1) Notwithstanding any provision of RSA 100-A to the contrary, any group II member  
5 who ~~[is in vested status before January 1, 2021 and]~~ **commenced service prior to July 1,**  
6 **2011**, has retired on or after the effective date of this subparagraph after attaining the age of 45  
7 with at least 20 years of creditable service, and any group II member who commenced service on or  
8 after July 1, 2011 and retires after the effective date of this subparagraph after attaining the age of  
9 50 with at least 25 years of creditable service, ~~[and group II members who have not attained vested~~  
10 ~~status prior to January 1, 2021 who qualify as provided in the transition provisions in RSA 100-A:5,~~  
11 ~~II(d),]~~ shall receive a minimum annual service retirement allowance of \$10,000. If such group II  
12 member has elected to convert the retirement allowance into an optional allowance for the surviving  
13 spouse under RSA 100-A:13, the surviving spouse shall be entitled to a proportional share of the  
14 \$10,000.

15 553 Disability Retirement Benefit; 2034 Changes. Amend RSA 100-A:6, II(b) to read as follows:

16 (b) Upon ordinary disability retirement, the group II member shall receive an ordinary  
17 disability retirement allowance which shall consist of: a member annuity which shall be the  
18 actuarial equivalent of his or her accumulated contributions at the time of his or her ordinary  
19 disability retirement; and a state annuity which, together with his or her member annuity, for  
20 members who ~~[are in vested status before January 1, 2012]~~ **commenced service before July 1,**  
21 **2011**, shall be equal to 2 1/2 percent of his or her average final compensation at the time of ordinary  
22 disability retirement multiplied by the number of years of his or her creditable service not in excess  
23 of 40 at the time of ordinary disability retirement, or for members who commenced service on or  
24 after July 1, 2011, shall be equal to 2 percent of his or her average final compensation at the time of  
25 ordinary disability retirement multiplied by the number of years of his or her creditable service not  
26 in excess of 42.5 at the time of ordinary disability retirement, ~~[and group II members who have not~~  
27 ~~attained vested status prior to January 1, 2012, shall be as provided in the transition provisions in~~  
28 ~~RSA 100-A:5, II(d) with the maximum number of years of creditable service not in excess of the~~  
29 ~~limits under RSA 100-A:6-a provided],~~ however, that such allowance shall not be less than 25  
30 percent of the member's final compensation at the time of his or her disability retirement. Members  
31 who retire upon ordinary disability or qualify for accidental death benefits as outlined in RSA 100-  
32 A:8 shall not be subject to the full age and service requirements listed under RSA 100-A:5, II(d).

33 554 Disability Retirement Benefits; 2034 Change. Amend RSA 100-A:6, II(d)(1) through (3) to  
34 read as follows:

35 (1) For members ~~[who are in vested status before January 1, 2021]~~ **who**  
36 **commenced service before July 1, 2011**, any group II member who has more than 262/3 years of  
37 service, a supplemental disability retirement allowance shall be paid. Such supplement shall be

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1 equal to 21/2 percent of his or her average final compensation multiplied by the number of years of  
2 his or her creditable service in excess of 262/3 but not in excess of 40 years.

3 (2) For members who commenced service on or after July 1, 2011, any group II  
4 member who has more than 331/3 years of service, a supplemental disability retirement allowance  
5 shall be paid. Such supplement shall be equal to 2 percent of his or her average final compensation  
6 multiplied by the number of years of his or her creditable service in excess of 331/3 but not in excess  
7 of 42.5 years.

8 ~~[(3) For group II members who have not attained vested status prior to January 1,~~  
9 ~~2012, calculation of the supplemental allowance shall use the percentage multipliers for the~~  
10 ~~corresponding years of creditable service on January 1, 2012 in the transition provisions in RSA 100-~~  
11 ~~A:5, II(d) with the range for the number of excess years for the supplement adjusted proportionally.]~~

12 555 Vested Deferred Retirement Benefit; 2034 Change. Amend RSA 100-A:10, II(b) to read as  
13 follows:

14 (b) For members ~~[who are in vested status before January 1, 2021]~~ **who commenced**  
15 **service before July 1, 2011**, upon the member's attainment of age 45, provided the member would  
16 then have completed 20 years of creditable service, otherwise the subsequent date on which such 20  
17 years would have been completed, or for members who commenced service on or after July 1, 2011,  
18 upon the member's attainment of age 50, provided the member would then have completed 25 years  
19 of creditable service, otherwise the subsequent date on which such 25 years would have been  
20 completed, ~~[and group II members who have not attained vested status prior to January 1, 2012~~  
21 ~~shall be as provided in the transition provisions in RSA 100-A:5, II(d),]~~ or at any time after age 60, a  
22 group II member who meets the requirement of subparagraph (a) may make application on a form  
23 prescribed by the board of trustees and receive a vested deferred retirement allowance which shall  
24 consist of: (1) A member annuity which shall be the actuarial equivalent of accumulated  
25 contributions on the date the member's retirement allowance commences; and (2) A state annuity  
26 which, together with the member annuity, shall be equal to a service retirement allowance based on  
27 the member's average final compensation and creditable service at the time the member's service is  
28 terminated. Provided, however, that a group II member who commenced service on or after July 1,  
29 2011 shall not receive a vested deferred retirement allowance until attaining the age of 52.5; but  
30 may receive a reduced allowance after age 50 if the member has at least 25 years of creditable  
31 service where the allowance shall be reduced, for each month by which the date on which benefits  
32 commence precedes the month after which the member attains 52.5 years of age, by 1/4 of one  
33 percent.

34 556 Method of Financing; 2034 Change. Amend RSA 100-A:16, I(aa) to read as follows:

35 (aa) The board of trustees shall certify to the proper authority or officer responsible for  
36 making up the payroll of each employer, and such authority or officer shall cause to be deducted  
37 from the compensation of each member, except group II members who are in vested status before

1 January 1, 2012 with creditable service in excess of 40 years, and group II members who commenced  
2 service on or after July 1, 2011 or who have not attained vested status prior to January 1, 2012 with  
3 creditable service in excess of 42.5 years as provided in RSA 100-A:5, II(b) and RSA 100-A:6, II(b), on  
4 each and every payroll of such employer for each and every payroll period, the percentage of  
5 earnable compensation applicable to such member. No deduction from earnable compensation under  
6 this paragraph shall apply to any group II member [~~who is in vested status before January 1,~~  
7 ~~2021~~] **who commenced service prior to July 1, 2011**, with creditable service in excess of 40 years,  
8 and any group II member who commenced service on or after July 1, 2011 or who have not attained  
9 vested status prior to January 1, 2012 with creditable service in excess of 42.5 years as provided in  
10 RSA 100-A:5, II(b) and RSA 100-A:6, II(b), and this provision for such members shall not affect the  
11 method of determining average final compensation as provided in RSA 100-A:1, XVIII. In  
12 determining the amount earnable by a member in a payroll period, the board may consider the rate  
13 of compensation payable to such member on the first day of a payroll period as continuing  
14 throughout the payroll period and it may omit deduction from compensation for any period less than  
15 a full payroll period if such person was not a member on the first day of the payroll period, and to  
16 facilitate the making of deductions it may modify the deduction required of any member by such an  
17 amount as shall not exceed 1/10 of one percent of the annual earnable compensation upon the basis  
18 of which such deduction is made. The amounts deducted shall be reported to the board of trustees.  
19 Each of such amounts, when deducted, shall be paid to the retirement system at such times as may  
20 be designated by the board of trustees and credited to the individual account, in the member annuity  
21 savings fund, of the member from whose compensation the deduction was made.

22 557 Minimum Age; 2034 Change. Amend RSA 100-A:19-b, II to read as follows:

23 II.(a) For a member [~~who is in vested status before January 1, 2021~~] **who commenced**  
24 **service prior to July 1, 2011**, and, who has completed 20 or more years of combined creditable  
25 service, one year shall be deducted from age 60 for each year of creditable group II service, provided  
26 that the age shall not be less than 45 years.

27 (b) For a member who commenced service on or after July 1, 2011 and who has  
28 completed 25 or more years of combined creditable service, one year shall be deducted from age 60  
29 for each year of creditable group II service, provided that the age shall not be less than 50 years, and  
30 provided that a the member shall not be eligible to receive a retirement allowance until attaining the  
31 age of 52.5.

32 [~~(c) For members who have not attained vested status prior to January 1, 2012,~~  
33 ~~minimum age shall be as provided in the transition provisions in RSA 100-A:5, II(d) with one year~~  
34 ~~deducted from age 60 to not less than the adjusted minimum age.]~~

35 558 Reduced Early Retirement; 2034 Change. Amend RSA 100-A:19-d to read as follows:

36 100-A:19-d Reduced Early Retirement. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any  
37 retirement system member who has creditable service in both group I and group II with at least 10

1 years combined creditable service, and who has attained an age which is at least 45 [~~for members~~  
2 ~~who are in vested status with group II service before January 1, 2012]~~ **for members who**  
3 **commenced service before July 1, 2011**, or at least 50 for members who commenced group II  
4 service on or after July 1, 2011, and group II members who have not attained vested status prior to  
5 January 1, 2012 shall be as provided in the transition provisions in RSA 100-A:5, II(d), and is within  
6 10 years of the minimum age set forth in RSA 100-A:19-b, may elect to retire and have benefits  
7 commence immediately as a reduced split-benefit service retirement allowance. Application shall be  
8 as provided in RSA 100-A:5, I(c). The allowance shall be determined as a split-benefit service  
9 retirement allowance in accordance with RSA 100-A:19-c, and the total combined split-benefit  
10 service allowance shall be reduced by the percentages shown in RSA 100-A:5, I(c), based on the total  
11 combined length of creditable service, for each month by which the date on which benefits commence  
12 precedes the month after which the member attains the minimum age set forth in RSA 100-A:19-b.

13 559 Public Officers and Employees; Method of Financing; 2027 Change. Amend RSA 100-A:16,  
14 II(b) to read as follows:

15 (b) The contributions of each employer for benefits under the retirement system on  
16 account of group II members shall consist of a percentage of the earnable compensation of its  
17 members to be known as the "normal contribution," and an additional amount to be known as the  
18 "accrued liability contribution;" provided that beginning with state fiscal year [2013] **2028** and for  
19 each state fiscal year thereafter, **the state shall pay the normal contribution and accrued**  
20 **liability contributions attributable to this act, and** any employer [~~shall pay the full amount of~~  
21 ~~such total contributions]~~ **other than the state, shall pay the remaining percentage, thereof;**  
22 **and provided further that, in the case of group II members employed by the state, the state**  
23 **shall pay both normal and accrued liability contributions.** The rate percent of such normal  
24 contribution, including contributions on behalf of group II members whose group II creditable service  
25 is in excess of 40 years, in each instance shall be fixed on the basis of the liabilities of the system  
26 with respect to the particular members of the various member classifications as shown by actuarial  
27 valuations, except as provided in subparagraph (i). **The board of trustees of the retirement**  
28 **system shall certify the amount required for each such state payment and each biennium**  
29 **thereafter, and the total amount of the state grants, to the treasurer. The governor is**  
30 **authorized to draw a warrant for said sum out of any money in the treasury not otherwise**  
31 **appropriated.**

32 560 Funding; Appropriations. The sum of \$14,500,000 for fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, and  
33 \$27,500,000 per state fiscal year every year thereafter is hereby appropriated to the retirement  
34 system to fund the cost of benefits under this act. Such sums shall be transferred on July 1 each  
35 year until 2034. The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said sums out of any money in the  
36 treasury not otherwise appropriated.

37 561 Repeal. RSA 100-A:5, II(d)(9), relative to group II service retirement benefits.

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1       562 Repeal. RSA 100-A:5, II(d)(8), relative to group II service retirement benefits.  
2       563 Repeal. RSA 100-A:5, II(d)(7), relative to group II service retirement benefits.  
3       564 Repeal. RSA 100-A:5, II(d)(6), relative to group II service retirement benefits.  
4       565 Repeal. RSA 100-A:5, II(d)(5), relative to group II service retirement benefits.  
5       566 Repeal. RSA 100-A:5, II(d)(4), relative to group II service retirement benefits.  
6       567 Repeal. RSA 100-A:5, II(d)(3), relative to group II service retirement benefits.  
7       568 Repeal. RSA 100-A:5, II(d)(2), relative to group II service retirement benefits.  
8       569 Repeal. RSA 100-A:5, II(d), relative to group II service retirement benefits.  
9       570 Repeal. RSA 100-A:1, XXXVII(d)(1) relative to group II service retirement definition.  
10      571 Effective Date.

- 11           I. Sections 531 through 538 and 570 of this act shall take effect January 1, 2026.
- 12           II. Sections 539 and 561 of this act shall take effect July 1, 2026.
- 13           III. Sections 540, 559, and 562 of this act shall take effect July 1, 2027.
- 14           IV. Sections 541 and 563 of this act shall take effect July 1, 2028.
- 15           V. Sections 542 and 562 of this act shall take effect July 1, 2029.
- 16           VI. Sections 543 and 565 of this act shall take effect July 1, 2030.
- 17           VII. Sections 544 and 566 of this act shall take effect July 1, 2031.
- 18           VIII. Sections 545 and 567 of this act shall take effect July 1, 2032.
- 19           IX. Sections 546 and 568 of this act shall take effect July 1, 2033.
- 20           X. Sections 547 through 558, and 569 of this act shall take effect July 1, 2034.

21      572 Appropriation; Department of Education. There is hereby appropriated to the department  
22 of education the sum of \$460,000, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, for facility related  
23 expenditures, including but not limited to repairs, improvements, maintenance, technology, safety,  
24 security, and facility improvements. The funds shall not lapse until June 30, 2027. The governor is  
25 authorized to draw a warrant for said sum out of any money in the treasury not otherwise  
26 appropriated.

27      573 Department of Health and Human Services; Summer EBT. For the fiscal year ending June  
28 30, 2026, the department of health and human services is authorized to accept and expend federal  
29 funds for the purposes of administering payments for the 2025 summer EBT program, in accordance  
30 with RSA 161:2, without prior approval of the fiscal committee of the general court.

31      576 Effective Date. Unless otherwise specified, the remainder of this act shall take effect July 1,  
32 2025.

LBA  
25-1170  
2/27/25

**HB 2-FN-A-LOCAL- FISCAL NOTE  
AS INTRODUCED**

AN ACT                   relative to state fees, funds, revenues, and expenditures.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Due to time constraints, the Office of Legislative Budget Assistant is unable to provide a fiscal note for this bill at this time. When completed, the fiscal note will be forwarded to the House Clerk's Office.