

CHAPTER 178
SB 142-FN - FINAL VERSION

03/11/2021 0603s
04/01/2021 0997s
3Jun2021... 1612h
06/24/2021 1961CofC

2021 SESSION

21-0891
06/05

SENATE BILL ***142-FN***

AN ACT reestablishing the commission to study the incidence of post-traumatic stress disorder in first responders and reestablishing the commission to study grandfamilies in New Hampshire.

SPONSORS: Sen. Birdsell, Dist 19

COMMITTEE: Executive Departments and Administration

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill reestablishes the commission to study the incidence of post-traumatic stress disorder in first responders. This bill also reestablishes the commission to study grandfamilies in New Hampshire.

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 Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty One

AN ACT reestablishing the commission to study the incidence of post-traumatic stress disorder in first responders and reestablishing the commission to study grandfamilies in New Hampshire.

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

1 178:1 New Section; Commission to Study the Incidence of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder in
2 First Responders Reestablished. Amend RSA 281-A by inserting after section 17-c the following new
3 section:

4 281-A:17-d Commission to Study the Incidence of Post-traumatic Stress Disorder in First
5 Responders Reestablished.

6 I.(a) There is reestablished the commission to study the incidence of post-traumatic stress
7 disorder in first responders and whether such disorder should be covered under workers'
8 compensation. The members of the commission shall be as follows:

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

10 (2) Three members of the house of representatives, one of whom shall be from the
11 labor, industrial and rehabilitative services committee, one of whom shall be from the executive
12 departments and administration committee, and one of whom shall be from the state-federal
13 relations and veterans affairs committee, appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives.

14 (3) The labor commissioner, or designee.

15 (4) The commissioner of safety, or designee.

16 (5) The insurance commissioner, or designee.

17 (6) The commissioner of the department of corrections, or designee.

18 (7) A representative of the New Hampshire Municipal Association, appointed by the
19 association.

20 (8) A representative of the New Hampshire Association of Counties, appointed by
21 the association.

22 (9) A representative of the National Alliance on Mental Illness New Hampshire,
23 appointed by the alliance.

24 (10) A fire chief, appointed by the New Hampshire Association of Fire Chiefs.

25 (11) One member appointed by the New Hampshire Association of Chiefs of Police.

26 (12) One member appointed by the New Hampshire Police Association.

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1 (13) A representative of the Professional Firefighters of New Hampshire, appointed
2 by that organization.

3 (14) A representative of the New Hampshire Association of Emergency Medical
4 Technicians, appointed by the association.

5 (15) A representative of the New Hampshire Public Risk Management Exchange,
6 appointed by that organization.

7 (16) An attorney, appointed by the New Hampshire Association for Justice.

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

10 II.(a) The commission shall study:

11 (1) Costs associated with training and resources, application of training, and
12 operation of the presumption that post-traumatic stress disorder in first responders is occupationally
13 caused.

14 (2) Whether a first responder's death from suicide is a line of duty death.

15 (3) Life insurance payouts for first responders who die of suicide.

16 (4) Life insurance payouts for retired first responders who die of suicide.

17 (5) Federal line of duty deaths by suicide.

18 (6) Cost and administration of resiliency training.

19 (7) The need for culture change to enable first responders to openly address PTSD
20 issues without impacting their careers.

21 (8) Discuss the intersection of benefits provided by workers' compensation and the
22 New Hampshire retirement system when a first responder retires because of PTSD and whether
23 additional benefits are warranted, including a retirement insurance subsidy.

24 (b) The commission may solicit input from any person or entity the commission deems
25 relevant to its study.

26 III. The members of the commission shall elect a chairperson from among the members.
27 The first meeting of the commission shall be called by the senate member. The first meeting of the
28 commission shall be held within 45 days of the effective date of this section. Nine members of the
29 commission shall constitute a quorum.

30 IV. On or before November 1, 2021, the commission shall submit an interim report of its
31 findings and any recommendations for proposed legislation to the president of the senate, the
32 speaker of the house of representatives, the senate clerk, the house clerk, the governor, and the state
33 library and shall submit a final report on or before November 1, 2022.

34 178:2 New Section; Commission to Study Grandfamilies in New Hampshire. Amend RSA 170-G
35 by inserting after section 17-a the following new section:

36 170-G:17-b Commission to Study Grandfamilies in New Hampshire.

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1 I. There is established a commission to study grandfamilies in New Hampshire. The
2 membership of the commission shall be as follows:

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

4 (b) Three members of the house of representatives, one of whom shall serve on the
5 health, human services and elderly affairs committee, one of whom shall serve on the committee
6 responsible for children and family law, and one of whom shall serve on the finance committee,
7 appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives.

8 (c) The commissioner of the department of health and human services, or designee.

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

10 (e) One representative of the division of family assistance, department of health and
11 human services, appointed by that division.

12 (f) One representative of the division for children, youth and families, department of
13 health and human services, appointed by that division.

14 (g) One representative of the Family Assistance Advisory Council, appointed by the
15 council.

16 (h) One representative of Waypoint, formerly Child and Family Services of New
17 Hampshire, appointed by that organization.

18 (i) One representative of a family resource center, appointed by Family Support New
19 Hampshire.

20 (j) One representative of Court Appointed Special Advocates of New Hampshire,
21 appointed by that organization.

22 (k) One representative of New Futures, appointed by that organization.

23 (l) One representative of National Alliance on Mental Illness New Hampshire, appointed
24 by that organization.

25 (m) One representative of the NH Head Start Directors Association, appointed by the
26 association.

27 (n) One public school principal, appointed by the New Hampshire Association of School
28 Principals.

29 (o) One pediatrician licensed in New Hampshire, appointed by the New Hampshire
30 Pediatric Society.

31 (p) One member of the New Hampshire Bar Association, appointed by the association.

32 (q) One representative of AARP, appointed by that organization.

33 (r) One representative of the New Hampshire Association of Chiefs of Police, appointed
34 by the association.

35 (s) Three grandparent caregivers, appointed by the Family Assistance Advisory Council.

36 (t) One representative of a community health center in New Hampshire, appointed by
37 the governor.

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1 (u) One member of the Parenting a Second Time Around (PASTA) support group,
2 appointed by the YMCA of Greater Londonderry.

3 II. The commission shall address issues related to grandfamilies in New Hampshire. The
4 commission's duties shall include, but not be limited to:

5 (a) Review of current data regarding grandfamilies in New Hampshire.

6 (b) Review of current barriers facing grandparents who are raising children in New
7 Hampshire.

8 (c) Identification of causes of issues affecting New Hampshire grandfamilies.

9 (d) Development of corrective actions for addressing issues facing grandfamilies in New
10 Hampshire.

11 (e) Identification of current actions being taken to assist grandfamilies in New
12 Hampshire and their effectiveness.

13 III. Members of the commission shall elect a chairperson from among the members. The
14 first meeting of the commission shall be called by the senate member. The first meeting of the
15 commission shall be held within 30 days of the effective date of this section. Seven members of the
16 commission shall constitute a quorum.

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

19 V. The commission shall submit an interim report of its findings and any recommendations
20 for proposed legislation to the president of the senate, the speaker of the house of representatives,
21 the senate clerk, the house clerk, the governor, and the state library on or before November 1, 2021.
22 The commission shall submit a final report on or before November 1, 2022.

23 178:3 Repeal. The following are repealed:

24 I. RSA 281-A:17-d, establishing a commission to study the incidence of post-traumatic stress
25 disorder in first responders.

26 II. RSA 170-G:17-b, establishing a commission to study grandfamilies in New Hampshire.

27 178:4 Effective Date.

28 I. Section 3 of this act shall take effect November 1, 2022.

29 II. The remainder shall take effect upon its passage.

Approved: July 30, 2021

Effective Date:

I. Section 3 shall take effect November 1, 2022.

II. Remainder shall take effect July 30, 2021.

