

HB 371 – AS INTRODUCED

2013 SESSION

13-0753  
05/03

HOUSE BILL

**371**

AN ACT           repealing the statute recognizing cohabitation as a basis for legal marriage.

SPONSORS:       Rep. Bickford, Straf 3

COMMITTEE:     Judiciary

---

ANALYSIS

This bill repeals the statute recognizing cohabitation as a basis of legal marriage.

---

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                      Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.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

AN ACT                   repealing the statute recognizing cohabitation as a basis for legal marriage.

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

1           1 Death Benefit for Police Officer or Firefighter Killed in Line of Duty. Amend RSA 21-I:29-a,  
2 I(a) to read as follows:

3                   (a) “Family” means the surviving spouse of the police officer or firefighter who was  
4 wholly or partially dependent, in fact, upon the earnings of the police officer or firefighter; or, if there  
5 is no surviving spouse, the surviving dependent child or dependent children, of such police officer or  
6 firefighter or, if there is no surviving dependent child, [~~a surviving person qualifying as a common-~~  
7 ~~law spouse pursuant to RSA 457:39, or if there is no surviving common-law spouse,~~] the surviving  
8 adult child or adult children, or if there is no surviving adult child or adult children, the surviving  
9 parent or parents of such police officer or firefighter. A surviving dependent child shall include a  
10 dependent step-child whose expenses of daily living were substantially paid for by the decedent at  
11 the time of the death.

12           2 Repeal. The following are repealed:

13                   I. RSA 457:39, relative to cohabitation as a basis for legal marriage.

14                   II. RSA 457:40, relative to proof of marriage in civil actions.

15                   III. RSA 457:41, relative to proof of marriage in criminal cases.

16           3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect January 1, 2014.