

**CHAPTER 230**  
**HB 256-FN – FINAL VERSION**

08Jan2014... 2344h  
05/01/14 1542s  
4Jun2014... 1925CofC  
4Jun2014... 2019EBA

2014 SESSION

13-0296  
10/03

HOUSE BILL                    ***256-FN***

AN ACT                    relative to establishing a voluntary hike safe card for fish and game search and rescue operations, relative to deputy fish and game conservation officers, and relative to the commission on sustainability of the fish and game department.

SPONSORS:            Rep. G. Chandler, Carr 1; Rep. Goley, Hills 8; Rep. Reed, Merr 2; Rep. Kappler, Rock 3; Sen. Bradley, Dist 3; Sen. D'Allesandro, Dist 20; Sen. Watters, Dist 4

COMMITTEE:          Fish and Game and Marine Resources

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AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill:

I. Establishes a voluntary hike safe card issued by the fish and game department for the purpose of funding search and rescue response operations.

II. Removes the requirement that deputy conservation officers of the fish and game department serve 8 hours per month without compensation.

III. Reestablishes the commission to study opportunities and options to improve the sustainability of the fish and game department.

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                         Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

*In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Fourteen*

AN ACT                    relative to establishing a voluntary hike safe card for fish and game search and rescue operations, relative to deputy fish and game conservation officers, and relative to the commission on sustainability of the fish and game department.

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

1            230:1 Search and Rescue Response Expenses. Amend RSA 206:26-bb, I to read as follows:

2            I. Notwithstanding RSA 153-A:24, any person determined by the department to have acted  
3 negligently in requiring a search and rescue response by the department shall be liable to the  
4 department for the reasonable cost of the department's expenses for such search and rescue  
5 response, ***unless the person shows proof of possessing a current version of any of the***  
6 ***following:***

7                    (a) ***A hunting or fishing license issued by this state under title XVIII.***

8                    (b) ***An OHRV registration under RSA 215-A, a snowmobile registration under***  
9 ***RSA 215-C, or a vessel registration under RSA 270-E.***

10                    (c) ***A voluntary hike safe card. The executive director shall adopt rules under***  
11 ***RSA 541-A for the issuance to purchasers on the department's Internet site, and subsequent***  
12 ***annual renewals, of a hike safe card prior to a person's need for a search and rescue***  
13 ***response. The annual fee for a hike safe card shall be \$25 for an individual or \$35 for a***  
14 ***family. A "family" shall consist of the purchaser, the purchaser's spouse, and the***  
15 ***purchaser's minor children or stepchildren. A transaction fee determined by the***  
16 ***department shall be for the Internet license agent as provided in RSA 214-A:2. The***  
17 ***executive director shall forward to the state treasurer the sum collected from each***  
18 ***individual hike safe card purchased and each family hike safe card purchased, less the***  
19 ***amount of such transaction fee, for deposit in the fish and game search and rescue fund***  
20 ***under RSA 206:42.***

21            ***I-a.*** The executive director shall bill the responsible person for such costs. Payment shall be  
22 made to the department within 30 days after the receipt of the bill, or by some other date determined  
23 by the executive director. If any person shall fail or refuse to pay the costs by the required date, the  
24 department may pursue payment by legal action, or by settlement or compromise, and the  
25 responsible person shall be liable for interest from the date that the bill is due and for legal fees and

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costs incurred by the department in obtaining and enforcing judgment under this paragraph. All amounts recovered, less the costs of collection and any percentage due pursuant to RSA 7:15-a, IV(b), shall be paid into the fish and game search and rescue fund established in RSA 206:42.

230:2 Fish and Game; Deputy Conservation Officers; Compensation. Amend RSA 206:27-h to read as follows:

206:27-h Compensation. All deputy conservation officers shall be compensated for their services while actively engaged in the performance of their official duties at rates as fixed by the executive director~~[- provided, however, all deputy conservation officers shall serve 8 hours per month without compensation]~~. This section shall not prohibit a deputy conservation officer from volunteering ~~[more hours than the 8 hours per month]~~ **his or her service** without compensation.

230:3 New Section; Commission to Study Opportunities and Options to Improve the Sustainability of the Fish and Game Department. Amend RSA 206 by inserting after section 1-b the following new section:

206:1-c Commission to Study Opportunities and Options to Improve the Sustainability of the Fish and Game Department.

I. There is established a commission to study opportunities and options to improve the sustainability of the fish and game department.

II.(a) The members of the commission shall be as follows:

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

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

(3) The director of the fish and game department, or designee.

(4) The chairman of the fish and game commission, or designee.

(5) Three public members appointed by the governor.

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

III. The commission shall study options and opportunities for ensuring the financial stability and sustainability of the fish and game department. The commission may solicit information and testimony from those with experience or expertise relevant to the study.

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

V. The commission shall report its findings and any recommendations for proposed legislation to the speaker of the house of representatives, the president of the senate, the house clerk, the senate clerk, the governor, and the state library on or before November 1, 2014.

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230:4 Repeal. RSA 206:1-c, relative to the commission to study opportunities to improve the sustainability of the fish and game department, is repealed.

230:5 Effective Date.

I. Section 1 of this act shall take effect January 1, 2015.

II. Section 4 of this act shall take effect November 1, 2014.

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

Approved: July 21, 2014

Effective Date: I. Section 1 shall take effect January 1, 2015

II. Section 4 shall take effect November 1, 2014

III. Remainder shall take effect July 21, 2014

