

SPECIAL SESSION HCR 1 – VERSION ADOPTED BY BOTH BODIES

2015 SESSION

15-1040
03/10

SPECIAL SESSION HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION *1*

A RESOLUTION establishing a joint task force for the response to the heroin and opioid epidemic in New Hampshire.

SPONSORS: Rep. Jasper, Hills 37; Rep. Hinch, Hills 21; Sen. Morse, Dist 22; Sen. Bradley, Dist 3

COMMITTEE:

ANALYSIS

This house concurrent resolution establishes a legislative task force to address the heroin and opioid epidemic.

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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Fifteen

A RESOLUTION establishing a joint task force for the response to the heroin and opioid epidemic in New Hampshire.

1 Whereas, the members of the general court acknowledge there is a crisis in New Hampshire
2 regarding heroin and opioids; and

3 Whereas, the members of the general court believe that a serious and thoughtful examination of
4 these issues is required before the passage of legislation which could have unintended consequences;
5 and

6 Whereas, the members of the general court are willing to take up this study in a timely and
7 studious manner and return with ideas for legislation in an expedited fashion; now, therefore, be it

8 Resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

9 That there is hereby established a joint task force for the response to the heroin and opioid
10 epidemic in New Hampshire; and

11 That the members of the task force shall be as follows:

12 The house majority leader, or designee;

13 The senate majority leader;

14 The house minority leader, or designee;

15 The senate minority leader;

16 The chairperson of the senate judiciary committee;

17 A minority member of the senate judiciary committee, appointed by the president of the
18 senate;

19 The chairperson of the house judiciary committee, or designee;

20 The ranking minority member of the house judiciary committee, or designee;

21 The chairperson of the senate finance committee;

22 A minority member of the senate finance committee, appointed by the president of the
23 senate;

24 The chairperson of the house finance committee, or designee;

25 The ranking minority member of the house finance committee, or designee;

26 The chairperson of the house criminal justice and public safety committee, or designee;

27 The ranking minority member of the house criminal justice and public safety committee, or
28 designee;

29 The chairperson of the house health, human services and elderly affairs committee, or
30 designee;

31 The ranking minority member of the house health, human services and elderly affairs
32 committee, or designee;

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1 The chairperson of the senate health and human services committee;

2 A minority member of the senate health and human services committee, appointed by the
3 president of the senate;

4 The chairperson of the house executive departments and administration committee, or
5 designee;

6 The ranking minority member of the house executive departments and administration
7 committee, or designee;

8 The vice chairperson of the senate executive departments and administration committee;

9 A minority member of the senate executive departments and administration committee,
10 appointed by the president of the senate;

11 Two members of the house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house of
12 representatives; and

13 Two members of the senate, appointed by the president of the senate; and

14 That the speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the senate are hereby
15 authorized to appoint alternate members to the task force in the event of absences, as needed; and

16 That 14 members of the task force shall constitute a quorum; and

17 That the first meeting of the task force shall be called by the first-named member appointed by
18 the speaker of the house of representatives; and

19 That the first meeting of the task force shall be held no later than November 25, 2015; and

20 That the members of the task force shall elect a chairperson and a vice chairperson from among
21 the members; and

22 That the chairperson shall have the authority to separate the task force members into divisions,
23 as necessary; and

24 That the duties of the task force shall be to review the following issues in consultation with the
25 necessary relevant experts and to issue recommendations relating to:

26 1. Amending the laws and penalties relating to the distribution of fentanyl to ensure they
27 are on par with the laws and penalties relating to the distribution of heroin; and

28 2. Requiring insurance companies to use the same evaluation criteria for substance abuse
29 treatment and removing prior authorization requirements; and

30 3. Mandating greater use of the state's prescription drug monitoring program and upgrading
31 its technology; and

32 4. Continuing medical education relating to prescribing schedule II, III, and IV drugs; and

33 5. Providing for a statewide drug court grant program; and

34 6. Reviewing the successful law enforcement partnership program taking place between the
35 city of Manchester police department and New Hampshire state police; and

36 That task force recommendations shall be issued in a report to the president of the senate, the
37 speaker of the house of representatives, the house clerk, the senate clerk, and the governor by

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1 Wednesday, January 6, 2016; and

2 That the chairperson and vice chairperson, or their designees, may file legislative services
3 requests until Wednesday, January 12, 2016 consistent with the recommendations issued.