

Important Notice

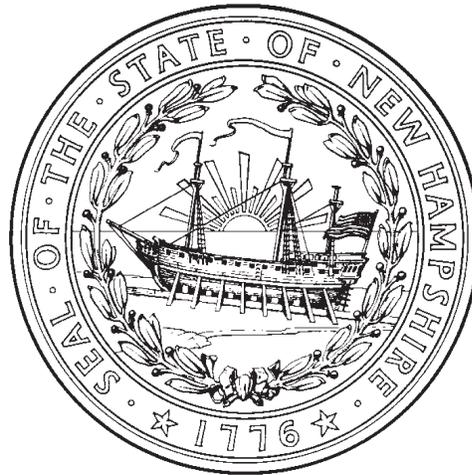
Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the General Court is conducting legislative activities remotely with the exception of publicly noticed sessions in the House or Senate Calendar. During this time, the State House and Legislative Office Building remain closed to visitors.

May 13, 2021
No. 24A

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Website Address: <http://gencourt.state.nh.us>

NH Senate Digital Calendar Website Address:
<http://gencourt.state.nh.us/senate/schedule/dailyschedule.aspx>



**First Year of the 167th Session of the
New Hampshire General Court**

SENATE CALENDAR ADDENDUM

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the General Court is conducting legislative activities remotely with the exception of publicly noticed sessions in the House or Senate Calendar. During this time, the State House and Legislative Office Building remain closed to visitors.

**THE SENATE WILL MEET IN SESSION ON
THURSDAY, MAY 20, 2021 AT 10:00 A.M. IN REPRESENTATIVES' HALL**

The Senate Session on Thursday, May 20, 2021, in Representatives' Hall
will be live streamed at the following link:

<http://sg001-harmony.sliq.net/00286/Harmony/en/View/Calendar/20210520/-1>

**Please note, this link will not be live until the Senate Session on
Thursday, May 20, 2021 at 10:00 A.M.**

CONSENT CALENDAR REPORTS

ELECTION LAW AND MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

HB 292, relative to the absentee ballot application process.

Re-refer to Committee, Vote 5-0.

Senator Birdsell for the committee.

This bill would establish procedures for the verification of certain mail-in absentee voter applications. Currently, there are other bills still in process that address the same area of concern. The Committee determined that this legislation would require more examination to avoid duplication in statute.

HB 326, requiring town and city clerks to make electronic lists of persons who have requested, been mailed, or returned absentee ballots available to candidates upon request.

Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 5-0.

Senator Ward for the committee.

This bill will amend RSA 657:15 to require that town clerks supply, if requested, an electronic copy of the list of absentee voter applicants. Information provided on the list will be what is already available to Candidates in the Statewide Centralized Voter Registration Data Base.

HB 555, relative to prisoners' voting rights.

Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0.

Senator Soucy for the committee.

This bill would amend the absentee voter application form and absentee voting affidavits to make clear that certain persons confined to penal institutions may vote by absentee ballot. Voters that find themselves incarcerated awaiting trial or serving a misdemeanor conviction are often disenfranchised because they do not have a clear legal option to apply for an absentee ballot. This legislation clarifies what is currently allowed and does not expand voting rights.

ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

HB 135, requiring parties responsible for pollution of a drinking water supply to be financially responsible for certain consequences of that pollution.

Re-refer to Committee, Vote 5-0.

Senator Watters for the committee.

This bill would have required parties deemed responsible for pollution of a drinking water supply to be financially responsible for certain consequences of that pollution. While the bill is well intended, this bill does not adequately establish criteria on how the NH Department of Environmental Services would assign financial responsibility to any given party for water pollution, detail any type of appeal process for that party, or how that financial responsibility would be shared if there were multiple parties found to be at fault. The Department indicated the bill in its current form may not address the appropriate section of statute. The committee feels this bill warrants additional review and study.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the General Court is conducting legislative activities remotely with the exception of publicly noticed sessions in the House or Senate Calendar. During this time, the State House and Legislative Office Building remain closed to visitors.

HB 373, relative to state participation in low carbon fuel standards programs.
Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 5-0.
Senator Giuda for the committee.

This bill originally would have prohibited the NH Department of Environmental Services from participating in discussions of any state, regional, or national low carbon fuel standards program unless specifically directed by the governor. The committee felt the bill would have unduly restricted the Department from taking part in these program discussions, lessening the Department's ability to represent the state's interests. The committee replaced the entire bill with an amendment to RSA 21-O:23, I to require both legislative and executive council approval before NH joins, implements, or participates in any state, regional, or national low carbon fuel standards program.

REGULAR CALENDAR REPORTS

EDUCATION

HB 349, relative to certification requirements for school nurses.
Re-refer to Committee, Vote 4-1.
Senator Prentiss for the committee.

ELECTION LAW AND MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

HB 263, relative to campaign finance reform.
Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 3-2.
Senator Gray for the committee.

ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

HB 177, prohibiting the siting of a landfill near a state park.
Inexpedient to Legislate, Vote 3-2.
Senator Avard for the committee.

HB 199, including soil health and soil conservation in the state soil conservation plan.
Ought to Pass, Vote 4-0.
Senator Avard for the committee.

HB 271, relative to standards for per and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in drinking water and ambient groundwater.
Ought to Pass, Vote 4-0.
Senator Perkins Kwoka for the committee.

HB 289, relative to including electrical storage facilities in the definition of energy facility.
Ought to Pass, Vote 4-0.
Senator Gray for the committee.

HB 309, relative to the computation of renewable energy credits.
Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 4-0.
Senator Avard for the committee.

FINANCE

HB 385-FN, relative to workers' compensation for heart and lung disease in firefighters.
Ought to Pass, Vote 4-3.
Senator Rosenwald for the committee.

HB 600-FN, relative to funding for newborn screening.
Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 7-0.
Senator Daniels for the committee.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the General Court is conducting legislative activities remotely with the exception of publicly noticed sessions in the House or Senate Calendar. During this time, the State House and Legislative Office Building remain closed to visitors.

AMENDMENTS

Election Law and Municipal Affairs

May 17, 2021

2021-1523s

11/04

Amendment to HB 263

Amend the title of the bill by replacing it with the following:

AN ACT relative to campaign finance reform and increasing the threshold for reporting by political committees.

Amend the bill by replacing sections 3-6 with the following:

3 Political Expenditures and Contributions; Prohibited Political Contributions. Amend RSA 664:4, V to read as follows:

V. By any person (1) if in excess of \$5,000 in value ***to a candidate or a candidate committee***, except for contributions made by a candidate in behalf of his own candidacy, ~~or if in excess of \$1,000 in value by any person or by any political committee to a candidate or a political committee working on behalf of a candidate who does not voluntarily agree to limit his campaign expenditures and those expenditures made on his behalf as provided in RSA 664:5-a,]~~ ***or in excess of \$10,000 in value to a political committee other than a political committee of a candidate***, (2) if made anonymously or under a name not that of the donor, (3) if made in the guise of a loan, (4) if any other manner concealed, (5) if made without the knowledge and written consent of the candidate or his fiscal agent, a political committee or its treasurer, or not to any one of the same.

4 Political Expenditures and Contributions; Reporting by Political Committee. Amend RSA 664:6, I to read as follows:

664:6 Reporting by Political Committee.

I. Any political committee whose receipts or expenditures exceed ~~[\$500]~~ ***\$1,000*** shall file with the secretary of state an itemized statement in the form prescribed by the secretary of state, signed by its chairman and treasurer showing each of its receipts exceeding \$25 with the full name and postal address of the contributor in alphabetical order and the amount of the contribution, the date it was received, and the aggregate total for each election for each contributor of over \$100. Statements shall be filed not later than the first Wednesday in June and December after the state general election and before the filing deadline established in RSA 655:14, after which statements shall be filed no later than the Wednesday 12 weeks immediately preceding a primary election, before 5 o'clock in the afternoon, and shall cover the period from the day of the committee registration up to and including the Monday before the statement is due. All receipts of \$25 or under shall appear on the statements as unitemized receipts. Any listing that exceeds an individual's aggregate total of \$100 for each election shall be accompanied by the contributor's occupation including official job title, the name of the contributor's employer, and the city or town of the contributor's principal place of business, if any. The statement shall also show each committee expenditure exceeding \$25 with the full name and postal address of the payee or promise of payment, the date paid or obligated, and the election for which the expenditure was made, with the specific nature and amount of each expenditure since the date of the registration.

5 Political Expenditures and Contributions; Reporting by Political Committee. Amend RSA 664:6, IV and IV-a to read as follows:

IV. Any political committee whose receipts or expenditures do not exceed ~~[\$500]~~ ***\$1,000*** for a reporting period need not file. However, when a committee's accumulated receipts or expenditures for an election exceed ~~[\$500]~~ ***\$1,000*** the committee shall file a statement at the next reporting deadline, and shall continue to file at each reporting deadline.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the General Court is conducting legislative activities remotely with the exception of publicly noticed sessions in the House or Senate Calendar. During this time, the State House and Legislative Office Building remain closed to visitors.

IV-a. Any political committee whose independent expenditures, in aggregate, exceed ~~[\$500]~~ **\$1,000** shall file an itemized statement with the secretary of state which shall be received by the secretary of state not later than 48 hours after such expenditures are made, and thereafter each time a further ~~[\$500]~~ **\$1,000** is expended. Such itemized statements shall cover the period during which independent expenditures totaling ~~[\$500]~~ **\$1,000** were made. Each statement shall include a certification by the chairman of the political committee that the independent expenditure meets the definition in RSA 664:2, XI. Each statement shall contain the date of each independent expenditure; the name and address of the person to whom the expenditure was made; the name of the candidate on whose behalf or against whom each independent expenditure was made; the amount of each expenditure; the purpose of each expenditure, and the aggregate amount of all previous independent expenditures. If the independent expenditure is made in support of or in opposition to more than one candidate, the statement made under this paragraph shall allocate the way in which the expenditure was made among the candidates on a reasonable basis. For the purposes of this paragraph, "reasonable basis" means a statement that reflects the benefit or the burden reasonably expected to be derived or suffered by each candidate. The filing requirements of this paragraph shall be in addition to all other filing requirements under this section, and shall not be limited to the filing periods during which expenditures must otherwise be reported.

6 Political Expenditures and Contributions; Reporting by Candidate Committee. Amend RSA 664:7 to read as follows:

664:7 Reporting by Candidates. Each candidate at the primary or general election for governor, councilor, state senator, representative to general court, or county officer, who has expenditures exceeding ~~[\$500]~~ **\$1,000**, shall file statements before and after an election in like manner and detail as prescribed in RSA 664:6, II, II-a, III, IV, and V, excepting, however, the expenditures of political committees of the party to which the candidate belongs in elections other than primaries.

Amend the bill by replacing all after section 9 with the following:

10 Reporting by Political Committee. Amend RSA 664:6, I to read as follows:

I. Any political committee whose receipts or expenditures exceed \$500 shall file with the secretary of state an itemized statement in the form prescribed by the secretary of state, signed by its chairman and treasurer showing each of its receipts exceeding ~~[\$25]~~ **\$50** with the full name and postal address of the contributor in alphabetical order and the amount of the contribution, the date it was received, and the aggregate total for each election for each contributor of over ~~[\$100]~~ **\$200**. Statements shall be filed not later than the first Wednesday in June and December after the state general election and before the filing deadline established in RSA 655:14, after which statements shall be filed no later than the Wednesday 12 weeks immediately preceding a primary election, before 5 o'clock in the afternoon, and shall cover the period from the day of the committee registration up to and including the Monday before the statement is due. All receipts of ~~[\$25]~~ **\$50** or under shall appear on the statements as unitemized receipts. Any listing that exceeds an individual's aggregate total of ~~[\$100]~~ **\$200** for each election shall be accompanied by the contributor's occupation including official job title, the name of the contributor's employer, and the city or town of the contributor's principal place of business, if any. The statement shall also show each committee expenditure exceeding ~~[\$25]~~ **\$50** with the full name and postal address of the payee or promise of payment, the date paid or obligated, and the election for which the expenditure was made, with the specific nature and amount of each expenditure since the date of the registration.

11 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

2021-1523s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill repeals voluntary expenditure limits, increases the expenditure and contribution reporting threshold for all political entities, and modifies the maximum contribution amount a person may contribute to candidate committees and political committees. This bill also increases the dollar threshold for reporting by political committees.

Important Notice

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the General Court is conducting legislative activities remotely with the exception of publicly noticed sessions in the House or Senate Calendar. During this time, the State House and Legislative Office Building remain closed to visitors.

Energy and Natural Resources
 May 18, 2021
 2021-1548s
 10/06

Amendment to HB 309

Amend the title of the bill by replacing it with the following:

AN ACT relative to the computation of renewable energy credits and clarifying certain renewable energy classes.

Amend the bill by inserting after section 1 the following and renumbering the original section 2 to read as 3:

2 Electric Renewable Portfolio Standards; Electric Renewable Energy Classes. Amend RSA 362-F:4, I (c) to read as follows:

(c) Hydrogen derived from biomass fuels, ***water***, or methane gas.

2021-1548s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill revises the methodology for the public utilities commission to estimate renewable energy credits for certain sources that are net metered. The bill also clarifies the renewable energy class for hydrogen derived from water.

Election Law and Municipal Affairs
 May 17, 2021
 2021-1525s
 11/08

Amendment to HB 326

Amend the title of the bill by replacing it with the following:

AN ACT requiring town and city clerks to make electronic lists of persons who have applied for absentee ballots available to candidates upon request.

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 Absentee Ballot Lists; Electronic Copies. Amend RSA 657:15, II to read as follows:

II. Candidates whose names appear on the ballot and persons bearing notarized requests or copies of notarized requests from candidates whose names appear on the ballot may obtain a list of absentee voter applicants from the clerk, excluding voters who have presented to the supervisors of the checklist valid protective orders pursuant to RSA 173-B. ***If requested this list may be supplied electronically from the information in the statewide centralized voter registration database.***

2021-1525s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill requires that town and city clerks make electronic lists of absentee voter applicants available to candidates who request them.

Energy and Natural Resources
 May 17, 2021
 2021-1527s
 06/10

Amendment to HB 373

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the General Court is conducting legislative activities remotely with the exception of publicly noticed sessions in the House or Senate Calendar. During this time, the State House and Legislative Office Building remain closed to visitors.

1 Low Carbon Fuel Standards Programs; State Participation. Amend RSA 21-O:23, I to read as follows:

I. The state of New Hampshire shall not join, implement, or participate in any state, regional, or national low carbon fuel standards program or any similar program that requires quotas, caps, or mandates on any fuels used for transportation, industrial purposes, or home heating without seeking and receiving prior legislative **and executive council** approval.

2021-1527s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill prohibits the state from participating in any state, regional, or national low carbon fuel standards program without prior approval of the legislature and the executive council.

Senate Finance

May 18, 2021

2021-1539s

12/05

Amendment to HB 600-FN

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

1 Newborn Health Screening; Funding. Amend RSA 132:10-a, II to read as follows:

II. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the commissioner of the department of health and human services shall establish fees, pursuant to RSA 541-A, to be paid *directly* by hospitals *in their entirety, acknowledging that fees may be offset by reimbursement from commercial insurance, Medicaid, or other payors, paid to hospitals* for the tests required under paragraph I. *Nothing in this section is intended to prescribe the reimbursement method or the reimbursement level from a payor. The commissioner shall structure these fees to be reimbursable without out of pocket cost to the patient pursuant to 45 C.F.R. 147.130.* All such fees shall be paid into the newborn screening fund, hereby established in the state treasury. Moneys from the newborn screening fund established under this section shall be nonlapsing and shall be continually appropriated for use by the department to cover laboratory analysis and related newborn screening program costs.