

# Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

## Griffin Roberge 271-3042

**HB 226**, relative to the repeal of laws on produce safety.

**Hearing Date:** March 22, 2021.

**Time Opened:** 2:00 p.m.

**Time Closed:** 2:04 p.m.

**Members of the Committee Present:** Senators Avard, Giuda, Gray, Watters and Perkins Kwoka.

**Members of the Committee Absent:** None.

**Bill Analysis:** This bill extends the date for the repeal of the laws on produce safety.

This bill also enables the commissioner of the department of agriculture, markets, and food to stop the sale of produce violating produce safety rules.

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**Sponsors:**

Rep. Pearl

Rep. Lang

Rep. Moffett

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**Who supports the bill:** Ruth Larson; Nicole Fordey; Lucinda Hope; Robert Johnson, II, NH Farm Bureau Federation.

**Who opposes the bill:** Robin Vogt.

**Who is neutral on the bill:** None.

**Summary of testimony presented in support:**

*Representative Howard Pearl*

*Merrimack - District 26*

- HB 226's Section 1 adds a five-year extension to the repeal date of the produce inspection program under RSA 426-A from June 30, 2021 to June 30, 2026. This change was requested by the NH Department of Agriculture, Markets, and Food (DAMF). The produce inspection program is required under the federal Food Safety Modernization Act enacted by the US Department of Agriculture (USDA).
- HB 226's Section 2 creates a new section in RSA 426-A to give the DAMF Commissioner or his agent the ability to issue a "stop sale order" if produce is being sold in violation of produce safety rules under RSA 426-A. Section 2's language closely mirrors DAMF's current statutory authority under RSA 426:7-a on standards for farm products.

**Summary of testimony presented in opposition:** None.

**Neutral Information Presented:** None.

GJR

Date Hearing Report completed: March 22, 2021.