



## New Hampshire Senate **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **Senate Judiciary takes up criminal justice reform bills**

*SB92 focuses on bail reform*

*SB96 supports implicit bias training for judges and a body camera fund for police*

**CONCORD, NH** – The Judiciary Committee today heard two bi-partisan bills concerning criminal justice reform – one focusing on bail reform, the other supporting implicit bias training for judges and creating a fund to purchase body cameras for police officers. Majority Leader Jeb Bradley (R-Wolfeboro) is the prime sponsor on the legislation and introduced both bills to the committee.

During his testimony on SB92, Sen. Bradley said, “Bail reforms are absolutely essential to protect the public.” He explained that previous legislation (SB556) creating new rules regarding bail was “well-intentioned but when it was applied, it undermined public safety in New Hampshire.”

Bradley said that under SB556, defendants could not be denied bail simply because they could not afford it, adding, “The legislation assured that violent criminals would not be released, or a spate of repeat offenses would not occur if bail were easier to obtain.” The senator pointed out that, in many instances, this turned out not to be true. He listed several examples of crimes that were committed by individuals who were released on bail, but should not have been, including shootings, assaults, domestic violence incidents and a dangerous car chase.

Bradley said he supports “surgical changes” to the current law as do the police chiefs he worked with on crafting his bill. “Under SB92, a violent offender would be held until a judge determined whether the offender could be safely released on bail,” said Bradley, “This means a potentially dangerous criminal would stay confined and not get bail automatically.”

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