

# Bill as Introduced

HB 273 - AS INTRODUCED

2003 SESSION

03-0789  
05/09

HOUSE BILL

**273**

AN ACT

requiring town and city clerks to distribute a list of crisis pregnancy centers to persons issued a marriage certificate.

SPONSORS:

Rep. Woods, Straf 69

COMMITTEE:

Municipal and County Government

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ANALYSIS

This bill requires town and city clerks to distribute a list of crisis pregnancy centers to persons issued a marriage certificate.

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Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

*In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Three*

AN ACT requiring town and city clerks to distribute a list of crisis pregnancy centers to persons issued a marriage certificate.

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

- 1       1 Marriage Certificates; List of Family Planning Services and Crisis Pregnancy Centers. Amend
- 2       RSA 457:28-a to read as follows:
- 3       457:28-a List of Family Planning Services. The town clerk shall distribute with each certificate
- 4       issued to couples under the provisions of RSA 457:26, a list of family planning agencies, *crisis*
- 5       *pregnancy centers*, and services that are available to them in the state of New Hampshire. The
- 6       ~~[bureau, maternal and child health,]~~ *department* of ~~[the]~~ health and human services ~~[department]~~
- 7       shall supply each town clerk with sufficient quantity of the list initially, copies of the list to be
- 8       resupplied upon the request of the town clerk.
- 9       2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

# Speakers



# Hearing Minutes

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT

PUBLIC HEARING ON HB 273

**BILL TITLE:** requiring town and city clerks to distribute a list of crisis pregnancy centers to persons issued a marriage certificate.

**DATE:** January 22, 2003

**LOB ROOM:** 301      **Time Public Hearing Called to Order:** 1:05 PM

**Time Adjourned:** 1:55 PM

(please circle if present)

**Committee Members:** Reps. Patten, Brundige, Lockwood, Twombly, Boyce, Dumaine, Stoh, Noyes, Buhlman, Doyle, C. Dunne, Dupuis, Gillick, Gould, M. Pappas, N. Johnson, M. Cooney, Davidson, Osborne, Schmid and Theberge.

**Bill Sponsors:** Rep. Woods, Straf 69

TESTIMONY

\* Use asterisk if written testimony and/or amendments are submitted.

**Rep. Phyllis Woods, Dist 69**

Constituent request. Presently, town clerks have to provide family planning info when issuing a marriage license. In interest of equal access, this bill would add the crisis pregnancy centers. Not a large cost for Department of Health & Human Services. Will allow for fully informed citizens. Feels the current information is not complete.

**Karen Testerman, Cornerstone Policy Research**

Favors the bill. Believe it helps to give a complete picture of reproductive rights. Both sides of picture given. They provide information to women in crisis situation. Provide some services. Volunteers in centers are trained.

**Jennifer Frizzell, Planned Parenthood**

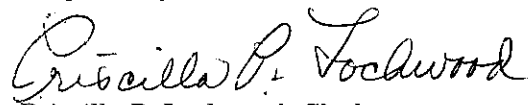
In 1970's, joint initiation (Federal and State) to disperse information on family planning. Doesn't oppose, but has concerns. Crisis centers do not offer all the planning options. Family Planning has oversight from State to meet state goals. Crisis centers are not medical centers; they are counseling centers. Family Planning centers meet many goals of state – medical information, child spacing, raising birth weight, etc. State framework for Family Planning Centers.

**Claire Ebel, NHCLU**

Some legal concerns about this legislation. The agencies listed in brochures the State hands out are regulated by the state. The Crisis Pregnancy Centers are not regulated and the State may be set up for litigation. There is a cost related to this – needs a fiscal note.

Adding this amendment to this statute violates the statute itself. This statute deals with family planning, not just pregnancy. NHCLU supports right to choose, but the legal aspects of this bill are important.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Priscilla P. Lockwood". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Priscilla P. Lockwood, Clerk  
Municipal and County Government



# Voting Sheets

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT

EXECUTIVE SESSION on HB 273

**BILL TITLE:** requiring town and city clerks to distribute a list of crisis pregnancy centers to persons issued a marriage certificate.

**DATE:** ~~March 18, 2003~~ Jan. 30, 2003

**LOB ROOM:** 301

**Amendments:**

Sponsor: Rep.	OLS Document #:
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Sponsor: Rep.	OLS Document #:

**Motions:** OTP, OTP/A, ITL Interim Study (Please circle one.)

Moved by Rep. Schmidt

Seconded by Rep. Johnson

Vote: 17-1 (Please attach record of roll call vote.)

**Motions:** OTP, OTP/A, ITL, Interim Study (Please circle one.)

Moved by Rep.

Seconded by Rep.

Vote: (Please attach record of roll call vote.)

**CONSENT CALENDAR VOTE: 18-0**

(Vote to place on Consent Calendar must be unanimous.)

**Statement of Intent:** Refer to Committee Report

Respectfully submitted,

Rep. Priscilla P. Lockwood, Clerk

MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Bill #: HO 273 Title: Add Crisis preg. centers to Fam. Plan. Info

PH Date: 11 22 / 03 Exec Session Date: 11 30 / 03

Motion: ITL Amendment #:

MEMBER	YEAS	NAYS
Patten. Betsev L. Chairman	17	
Brundige. Robert W. V Chairman	1	
Lockwood. Priscilla P	2	
Twombly. James E	3	
Boyce. Laurie J	4	
Dumaine. Dudley Daniels	5	
Pappas. Marc	<i>absent</i>	
Dunne. Christopher H	<i>absent</i>	
Stohl. Eric G	6	
Noves. Richard A	7	
Buhlman. David L		1
Dovle. Christopher L	<i>absent</i>	
Dupuis. Roland L	8	
Gillick. Thomas J	9	
Gould. Kenneth H	10	
Johnson. Nancy K	11	
Coonev. Marv R	12	
Davidson. Robert A	13	
Osborne. Jessie L	14	
Schmidt. Peter B	15	
Theberge. Robert L	16	
TOTAL VOTE:	17	1

# Committee Report

# COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: **Municipal and County Government**

BILL NUMBER: **HB 273**

TITLE: **requiring town and city clerks to distribute a list of crisis pregnancy centers to persons issued a marriage certificate.**

DATE: **January 30, 2003**

CONSENT CALENDAR YES  NO

- OUGHT TO PASS
- OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT
- INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE
- REFER TO COMMITTEE FOR INTERIM STUDY  
(Available only in second year of biennium.)

## STATEMENT OF INTENT (Include Committee Vote)

The application process for a marriage license is outlined in RSA 457:23. Pursuant thereto, couples applying for a marriage license must be provided by town clerks with brochures about family planning agencies, fetal alcohol syndrome (FAS) and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV); and couples must affirm that they have received and discussed them. HB 273 would have added a brochure about crisis pregnancy centers to the above listed information. Crisis pregnancy centers are not regulated by the State. The committee recognized potential problems in referring couples to unlicensed entities, and it also felt that the distribution of the above referenced information, however useful it might be, is intrusive and excessive and should not be done by town clerks. The committee believed such material is readily available from other sources and that town clerks are not the proper means of distributing them.

Vote 17-1.

Rep. Peter B. Schmidt  
FOR THE COMMITTEE

Original: House Clerk  
cc: Committee Bill file

USE ANOTHER REPORT FOR MINORITY REPORT

## CONSENT CALENDAR

### Municipal and County Government

**HB 273**, requiring town and city clerks to distribute a list of crisis pregnancy centers to persons issued a marriage certificate. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE**

Rep. Peter B. Schmidt for Municipal and County Government: The application process for a marriage license is outlined in RSA 457:23. Pursuant thereto, couples applying for a marriage license must be provided by town clerks with brochures about family planning agencies, fetal alcohol syndrome (FAS) and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV); and couples must affirm that they have received and discussed them. HB 273 would have added a brochure about crisis pregnancy centers to the above listed information. Crisis pregnancy centers are not regulated by the State. The committee recognized potential problems in referring couples to unlicensed entities, and it also felt that the distribution of the above referenced information, however useful it might be, is intrusive and excessive and should not be done by town clerks. The committee believed such material is readily available from other sources and that town clerks are not the proper means of distributing them.  
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Vote 17-1.

Rep. Peter B. Schmidt  
FOR THE COMMITTEE

Original: House Clerk  
cc: Committee Bill file

USE ANOTHER REPORT FOR MINORITY REPORT

HB 273

\*HIV

The application process for a marriage license is outlined in RSA 457:23. There are brochures that provide information about family planning agencies, fetal alcohol syndrome and human immunodeficiency virus that the town clerk must give to each couple who applies for a marriage license. This bill would have required a brochure listing crisis pregnancy centers be included in that packet of information provided by the department of health and human services and made available to couples through the town clerk. The crisis pregnancy centers are not regulated by the State and therefore this information could not be easily verified or accessible to the department. Another bill, HB 311, addresses the issue by eliminating the brochure about the family planning agencies and the committee felt that this was a better way to keep the town clerks out of individual couples decisions.

HB311

This bill repeals the requirement found in RSA 457:28-a that the town clerk must distribute family planning services lists to marriage license applicants and the couple has to sign an affidavit acknowledging that they received and discussed the brochure regarding family planning services. The sponsor did not want to eliminate the other two brochures about fetal alcohol syndrome and human immunodeficiency virus that are also required to be handed out to applicants. The committee felt that it was an important step towards keeping the town clerk and government out of individual couples decisions and therefore voted the bill Ought to Pass.

M & C G ~~Committee~~ ILL

HB 273, relative to distribution of crisis pregnancy information to persons applying for a marriage license

Peter B. Schmidt for M & C G couples applying for a marriage license

Pursuant thereto, ~~town clerks must provide~~ ILL

must be provided by town clerks with brochures about family planning agencies, fetal alcohol syndrome (FAS) and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV); and ~~the~~ couples must affirm that they have received ~~and~~ discussed them. HB 273 would have added a <sup>brochure</sup> ~~brochure~~ about crisis pregnancy centers to the above listed information. Crisis pregnancy centers are not



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~~it~~ recognized potential problems in referring couples  
to unlicensed entities, and it also felt that the  
distribution of the above referenced information,  
however useful it might be, ~~is~~ <sup>is</sup> intrusive and  
excessive and should not ~~be done~~ <sup>be done</sup> by town clerks.  
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