

Bill as Introduced

HB 1360 - AS INTRODUCED

2010 SESSION

10-2384

03/01

HOUSE BILL **1360**

AN ACT permitting persons 17 years of age to register to vote.

SPONSORS: Rep. Gargas, Hills 5

COMMITTEE: Election Law

ANALYSIS

This bill permits persons 17 years of age to register to vote.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.
Matter removed from current law appears ~~(in brackets and struck through.)~~
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.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 Ten

AN ACT permitting persons 17 years of age to register to vote.

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

1 1 New Paragraph; Registration by 17-Year-Olds. Amend RSA 654:1 by inserting after
2 paragraph II the following new paragraph:

3 III. A person who is 17 years of age and who otherwise meets the eligibility requirements of
4 paragraph I may register to vote, but may not vote in an election before attaining the age of 18 years.
5 If the supervisors of the checklist determine that the person registering under this paragraph will be
6 qualified to vote upon attaining the age of 18 years, the supervisors shall retain the person's voter
7 registration form and shall add the person's name to the checklist at their meeting next following the
8 person's eighteenth birthday.

9 2 Determining Qualifications of Applicant; Age. Amend RSA 654:12, I(b) to read as follows:

10 (b) AGE. Any reasonable documentation indicating the applicant is 18 years of age or
11 older, *or that the applicant is 17 years of age if the person is registering under RSA 654:1,*
12 *III*, or, if the applicant does not have reasonable documentation in his or her possession at the place
13 and time of voter registration, a qualified voter affidavit.

14 3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

Speakers

Hearing Minutes

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ELECTION LAW

PUBLIC HEARING ON HB 1360

BILL TITLE: permitting persons 17 years of age to register to vote.

DATE: January 19, 2010

LOB ROOM: 308 **Time Public Hearing Called to Order:** 11:15 am

Time Adjourned: 11:22 am

(please circle if present)

Committee Members: Rep. Clemons, Pierce, Splaine, C. Chase, Perry, Levesque, Bartlett, Caron,
Hodges, Horrigan, Kom, Drisko, Jasper, Maybeck, Hoelzel, Bates, Comerford, Doherty, Scala and
Garcia

Bill Sponsors: Rep. Gargasz, Hills 5

TESTIMONY

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

Rep. Gargasz, sponsor, introduced bill. Youth advisory committee is behind this bill. This bill will allow 17 year olds to register to vote. The younger a person is when he or she gets involved in the voting process, the more likely they are to become life-long voters. This is intended to increase voter participation. It would also be an educational opportunity.

Respectfully submitted,

Rep. Claudia A. Chase, Clerk



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ELECTION LAW

PUBLIC HEARING ON HB 1360

BILL TITLE: permitting persons 17 years of age to register to vote.

DATE: 1/19/10

LOB ROOM: 308

Time Public Hearing Called to Order: 11:15 AM.

Time Adjourned: 11:22 AM.

(please circle if present)

Committee Members: Reps. Clemons, Pierce, Splaingard, Chase, Perry, Levesque, Bartlett, Caron, Hodges, Horrigan, Komar, Drisko, Jasper, Maybeck, Hoelzel, Bates, Comerford, Doherty, Scala and Garcia

Bill Sponsors: Rep. Gargasz, Hills 5

TESTIMONY

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

HB 1360: permitting persons 17 years of age to register to vote.

Rep. Carolyn Gargasz, supports bill:

Youth advisory committee is behind this bill. This bill will allow 17 year olds to register to vote. The younger a person is when he or she gets involved in the voting process the more likely they are to become life-long voters. This is intended to increase voter participation. It would also be an educational opportunity.

Voting Sheets

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ELECTION LAW

EXECUTIVE SESSION on HB 1360

BILL TITLE: permitting persons 17 years of age to register to vote.

DATE: February 16, 2010

LOB ROOM: 308

Amendments:

Sponsor: Rep. OLS Document #:

Sponsor: Rep. OLS Document #:

Sponsor: Rep. OLS Document #:

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

Moved by Rep. Jasper

Seconded by Rep. Scala

Vote: 13-4 (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: NO

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

Statement of Intent: Refer to Committee Report

Respectfully submitted,

Rep. Claudia Chase, Clerk

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ELECTION LAW

EXECUTIVE SESSION on HB 1360

BILL TITLE: permitting persons 17 years of age to register to vote.

DATE: 2/16/2010

LOB ROOM: 308

Amendments:

Sponsor: Rep.

OLS Document #:

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OLS Document #:

Sponsor: Rep.

OLS Document #:

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

Moved by Rep. *Jasper*

Seconded by Rep. *Scala*

Vote: *13/4* (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:

no

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

Statement of Intent: Refer to Committee Report

Respectfully submitted,

Rep. Claudia Chase, Clerk

ELECTION LAW

Bill #: HB 1360 Title: permitting persons 17 years of age to register

PH Date: 1 / 19 / 2010 ^{to vote} Exec Session Date: 2 / 16 / 2010

Motion: ITL Amendment #: _____

MEMBER	YEAS	NAYS
Clemons, Jane A, Chairman	X	
Pierce, David M, V Chairman	X	
Splaine, James R		X
Chase, Claudia A, Clerk	X	
Perry, Robert J	X	
Levesque, Melanie A	X	
Bartlett, Michael J		X
Caron, June M	X	
Hodges, Kevin D		X
Horrigan, Timothy		X
Komi, Richard N		
Drisko, Richard B	X	
Jasper, Shawn N	X	
Maybeck, Margie L		
Hoelzel, Kathleen M	X	
Garcia, Marilinda J	X	
Bates, David	X	
Comerford, Timothy P	X	
Doherty, Shaun S		
Scala, Dino A	X	
TOTAL VOTE:	13	4

Committee Report

REGULAR CALENDAR

February 17, 2010

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

**The Majority of the Committee on ELECTION LAW to
which was referred HB1360,**

**AN ACT permitting persons 17 years of age to register
to vote. Having considered the same, report the same
with the following Resolution: RESOLVED, That it is
INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Shawn N Jasper

FOR THE MAJORITY OF THE COMMITTEE

**MAJORITY
COMMITTEE REPORT**

Committee: **ELECTION LAW**
Bill Number: **HB1360**
Title: **permitting persons 17 years of age to register to vote.**
Date: **February 17, 2010**
Consent Calendar: **NO**
Recommendation: **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE**

STATEMENT OF INTENT

Last year we asked the State Supreme Court whether 17 year olds could vote. The answer was no. This bill would expand a 17 year olds right to register to vote prior to turning 18. While the goal of involving young people in the political process is a good one, this bill has the potential to create confusion and ill will. Currently 17 year olds can register to vote if they will be turning 18 by the date of the next election, this right extends to the right to absentee registration. If we allow 17 year olds to register, but not to vote at the next election, we wonder what we are really doing. There is little doubt that there will be those 17 year olds who will show up at an election, prior to their 18th birthday, believing that when they registered they became eligible to vote. If this were to happen, particularly during a busy presidential election, it could cause unnecessary problems for election workers and delays for voters; moreover being turned away would no doubt be embarrassing to a 17 year old and may well discourage them from voting in the near future. We believe that a better alternative is to educate 17 year olds about the early registration opportunities that now exist for them.

Vote 13-4

Rep. Shawn N Jasper
FOR THE MAJORITY

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

REGULAR CALENDAR

ELECTION LAW

HB1360, permitting persons 17 years of age to register to vote. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.** Rep. Shawn N Jasper for the **Majority** of ELECTION LAW. Last year we asked the State Supreme Court whether 17 year olds could vote. The answer was no. This bill would expand a 17 year olds right to register to vote prior to turning 18. While the goal of involving young people in the political process is a good one, this bill has the potential to create confusion and ill will. Currently 17 year olds can register to vote if they will be turning 18 by the date of the next election, this right extends to the right to absentee registration. If we allow 17 year olds to register, but not to vote at the next election, we wonder what we are really doing. There is little doubt that there will be those 17 year olds who will show up at an election, prior to their 18th birthday, believing that when they registered they became eligible to vote. If this were to happen, particularly during a busy presidential election, it could cause unnecessary problems for election workers and delays for voters; moreover being turned away would no doubt be embarrassing to a 17 year old and may well discourage them from voting in the near future. We believe that a better alternative is to educate 17 year olds about the early registration opportunities that now exist for them. **Vote 13-4.**

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: EL.
BILL NUMBER: HB 1360
TITLE: _____
DATE: 2/16/2010 CONSENT CALENDAR: YES NO

- OUGHT TO PASS
- OUGHT TO PASS W/ AMENDMENT
- INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE
- RE-REFER

Amendment No.

HB 1360

Shawn N. Jasper for the majority; ITL

Last year we asked the State Supreme Court whether 17 year olds could vote. The answer was no. This bill would expand a 17 year olds right to register to vote prior to turning 18. While the goal of involving young people in the political process is a good one, this bill has the potential to create confusion and ill will. Currently 17 year olds can register to

vote if they will be turning 18 by the date of the next election, this right extends to the right to absentee registration. If we allow 17 year olds to register, but not to vote at the next election, we wonder what we are really doing. There is little doubt that there will be those 17 year olds who will show up at an election, prior to their 18th birthday, believing that when they registered they became eligible to vote. If this were to happen, particularly during a busy presidential election, it could cause unnecessary problems for election workers and delays for voters; moreover being turned away would no doubt be embarrassing to a 17 year old and may well discourage them from voting in the near future. We believe that a better alternative is to educate 17 year olds about the early registration opportunities that now exist for them.

- Copy to Committee Bill File
- Use Another Report for Minority Report

Rev. 07/30/99

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Rep. Shawn Jasper
For the Committee
John C. ...

REGULAR CALENDAR

February 17, 2010

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

**The Minority of the Committee on ELECTION LAW to
which was referred HB1360,**

**AN ACT permitting persons 17 years of age to register
to vote. Having considered the same, and being unable
to agree with the Majority, report with the
recommendation that the bill OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. James R Splaine

FOR THE MINORITY OF THE COMMITTEE

**MINORITY
COMMITTEE REPORT**

Committee: **ELECTION LAW**
Bill Number: **HB1360**
Title: **permitting persons 17 years of age to register to
vote.**
Date: **February 17, 2010**
Consent Calendar: **NO**
Recommendation: **OUGHT TO PASS**

STATEMENT OF INTENT

The concept and content of this bill has value. Young people can join the military at age 17, and be sent to the front lines of war at 18. In our democracy, we should welcome our young citizens to register to vote at 17 and be ready to go to the polls at age 18 so they can take part in choosing those leaders who will decide their futures.

Rep. James R Splaine
FOR THE MINORITY

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

REGULAR CALENDAR

ELECTION LAW

HB1360, permitting persons 17 years of age to register to vote. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. James R Splaine for the **Minority** of **ELECTION LAW**. The concept and content of this bill has value. Young people can join the military at age 17, and be sent to the front lines of war at 18. In our democracy, we should welcome our young citizens to register to vote at 17 and be ready to go to the polls at age 18 so they can take part in choosing those leaders who will decide their futures.

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File


 **DRAFT**

Election Law

HB 1360 ~~Minority~~

The concept and content of this bill has value. Young people can join the military at age 17, and be sent to the front lines of war at 18. In our democracy, we should welcome our young citizens to register to vote at 17 and be ready to go to the polls at age 18 so they can take part in choosing those leaders who will decide their futures.

Rep. Splaine


Rep. Clemons, Chair

MINORITY REPORT

COMMITTEE: HOUSE ELECTION LAW

BILL NUMBER: HD 1360

TITLE: 17 YEAR OLD REGISTRATION

DATE: FEB 16, 2010 CONSENT CALENDAR: YES NO

- OUGHT TO PASS
- OUGHT TO PASS W/ AMENDMENT
- INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE
- INTERIM STUDY (Available only 2nd year of biennium)

Amendment No. _____

STATEMENT OF INTENT:

THE CONCEPT AND CONTENT OF THIS BILL
HAS VALUE. YOUNG PEOPLE CAN JOIN THE
MILITARY AT AGE 17, AND BE SENT TO
THE FRONT LINES OF WAR AT 18. IN OUR
DEMOCRACY, WE SHOULD WELCOME OUR YOUNG
CITIZENS TO REGISTER TO VOTE AT ~~17~~ AND
BE READY TO GO TO THE POLLS AT AGE
18 SO THEY CAN TAKE PART IN CHOOSING
THOSE ^{Leaders} LEADERS WHO WILL DECIDE THEIR
FUTURES.

COMMITTEE VOTE: 13/4

• Copy to Committee Bill File

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Rep. James R. Spivey
For the Minority

JIM SPRAINE
Rep. Jim Spaine