

Bill as
Introduced

HB 681-FN-A - AS INTRODUCED

2015 SESSION

15-0837
05/08

HOUSE BILL

681-FN-A

AN ACT

increasing the marriage license fee.

SPONSORS:

Rep. Cushing, Rock 21; Rep. Mangipudi, Hills 35; Rep. Pantelakos, Rock 25;
Rep. Harvey, Hills 29; Rep. Simpson, Rock 18; Sen. Soucy, Dist 18

COMMITTEE:

Ways and Means

ANALYSIS

This bill increases the marriage license fee.

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Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.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

AN ACT increasing the marriage license fee.

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

- 1 1 Marriage License Fee. Amend RSA 457:29 to read as follows:
- 2 457:29 Marriage License Fee. The fee for the marriage license shall be [~~\$45~~] **\$50** to be paid by
- 3 the parties entering into the marriage. The clerk shall forward [~~\$38~~] **\$43** from each fee to the
- 4 department of health and human services for the purposes of RSA 173-B:15. The clerk shall retain
- 5 the remaining \$7 as the fee for making the records of notice, issuing the certificate of marriage, and
- 6 forwarding the [~~\$38~~] **\$43** portion of the marriage license fee.
- 7 2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect July 1, 2015.
- 8

HB 681-FN-A FISCAL NOTE

AN ACT increasing the marriage license fee.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Department of Health and Human Services and Department of State state this bill, as introduced, will increase state expenditures and restricted revenue by \$45,545 in FY 2016 and each year thereafter. There will be no impact on county and local expenditures or revenue.

METHODOLOGY:

The Department of Health and Human Services states this bill increases the marriage license fee from \$45 to \$50 and the amount forwarded to the Fund For Domestic Violence Grant Program from \$38 to \$43. The Department reports the five year average number of marriage licenses issued annually is 9,109. The Department estimates this bill will increase state restricted revenue by \$45,545 ($9,109 * (\$43 - \$38)$). The Department states expenditures will correspondingly increase by \$45,545 because all moneys deposited into the Fund must be used exclusively for the domestic violence program pursuant to RSA 173-B:15.

The Department of State states it deposits the marriage license fees it collects into the Fund. Therefore, this bill will have no fiscal impact on the Department.

Amendments



Amendment to HB 681-FN-A

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

2

3 AN ACT making an appropriation to the department of health and human services for the
4 purpose of funding the domestic violence grant program.
5

6 Amend the bill by replacing all after the enacting clause with the following:

7

8 1 Department of Health and Human Services; Domestic Violence Grant Program; Appropriation.
9 There is hereby appropriated to the department of health and human services the sum of \$160,000
10 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016, and the sum of \$160,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30,
11 2017, for the purpose of funding the domestic violence grant program under RSA 173-B:16. The
12 appropriation shall be deposited in the fund for the domestic violence grant program established in
13 RSA 173-B:15. The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said sums out of any money in the
14 treasury not otherwise appropriated.

15 2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect July 1, 2015.



2015-1389s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill makes an appropriation to the department of health and human services for the purpose of funding the domestic violence grant program under RSA 173-B:15.

Committee Minutes

**AMENDED
SENATE CALENDAR NOTICE
WAYS AND MEANS**

Printed: 03/31/2015 at 4:47 pm

Senator David Boutin Chairman
Senator Lou D'Allesandro V Chairman
Senator Andy Sanborn
Senator Chuck Morse
Senator Dan Feltes

For Use by Senate Clerk's Office ONLY	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bill Status
<input type="checkbox"/>	Docket
<input type="checkbox"/>	Calendar
Proof: <input type="checkbox"/>	Calendar <input type="checkbox"/> Bill Status

Date: March 31, 2015

HEARINGS

Tuesday

4/7/2015

WAYS AND MEANS

SH 103

9:30 AM

(Name of Committee)

(Place)

(Time)

EXECUTIVE SESSION MAY FOLLOW

Comments: Please note that the previously scheduled hearing on HB187 at 9:30 has been cancelled. It will be rescheduled at a later date. HB180 will now be heard at 9:30.

9:30 AM	HB180	(NT) relative to the definition of "price or consideration" under the real estate transfer tax and relative to the exception for transfers by devise under such tax.
9:45 AM	HB550-FN	relative to administration of the tobacco tax.
10:00 AM	HB681-FN-A	increasing the marriage license fees.

Sponsors:

HB180

Rep. Naida Kaen

HB550-FN

Rep. Russell Ober

Sen. Lou D'Allesandro

Sen. David Boutin

HB681-FN-A

Rep. Robert Cushing

Rep. Latha Mangipudi

Rep. Laura Pantelakos

Rep. Suzanne Harvey

Rep. Alexis Simpson

Sen. Donna Soucy

Sonja Caldwell 271-2117

Sen. David Boutin

Chairman

Ways and Means Committee

Sonja Caldwell, Legislative Aide

HB681- increasing the marriage license fee.

Hearing date: April 7, 2015

Members present: Sen. Boutin, Sen. Morse Sen. Sanborn, Sen. Feltes

Members absent: Sen. D'Allesandro

Sponsor(s): Rep. Cushing, Rock 21; Rep. Mangipudi, Hills 35; Rep. Pantelakos, Rock 25; Rep. Harvey, Hills 29; Rep. Simpson, Rock 18; Sen. Soucy, Dist 18

What the bill does: This bill increases the marriage license fee.

Who supports the bill: Rep. Renny Cushing, Lyn Schollett (NHCADSV), Michael Renkert, Asst. Chief Nick Willard (Manchester Police Dept.), Chief Sullivan (Alexandria Police Dept.)

Who opposes the bill: Rep. Edith Hogan, Rep. Jeanine Notter

Summary of testimony received:

Rep Cushing - in NH we've demonstrated our concern for victims of domestic violence. Policy should be supported by actions that support victims of domestic violence. The bill increases the marriage license fee by \$5 and also increases the portion of the fee that goes to support the domestic violence fund by \$5. This would mark the first increase since 1993. 50% of homicides in NH are related to domestic violence. People have been turned away from shelters for lack of funding.

Sen. Sanborn - asked what is appropriated in the budget for domestic violence.

Rep. Cushing said that historically there had been a match with general funds to the amount collected by the marriage license fee but it was eliminated few years ago.

Sen. Sanborn - asked if he would support amending the bill to not increase the marriage license fee because he doesn't support raising taxes. He is fine with designating more of the existing fee to the domestic violence fund.

Rep Cushing - responded by saying the legislature needs to step up. This is a renewable and sustainable source of funding for the domestic violence fund. He noted that this is a fee not a tax and added that if raising the marriage fee by \$5 is going to prevent some people from getting married then that's probably a good thing in the long run.

Sen. Boutin - said there is \$300,000 in the House budget from the marriage license fee. He also said the marriage license fee doesn't replace general fund money; it's in addition to it.

Michael Renkert - this should be a top priority. He lost his daughter to a domestic violence homicide in 2011. She was shot by her husband in front of her daughters. This is a preventable problem that must be addressed proactively. He thinks it's shameful that NH is only looking to spend \$60,000 in state funds to support this. He spent more than

\$50,000 in legal fees to obtain guardianship of his grandchildren. He noted that it takes a lot of courage for a victim to leave and if they do and then get turned away from a shelter because of insufficient funding, it will be much worse for that victim if they have to return to their abuser.

Nick Willard - Assistant Chief Manchester PD - supports the bill. He was a homicide cop for years. The relationship between Manchester police department and domestic violence centers is a partnership. They can give cell phones to victims to speak directly to advocates at the crisis centers. These groups need to be funded. His officers spend less time on the call if they can rely on advocates to help the victims. They have 2 officers respond to domestic violence calls.

Chief Sullivan - Alexandria - he is a working chief with only 2 members of his department. As a result, they have manpower issues. Since they have to respond to domestic violence calls alone, they really need the advocates to be able to manage the victim. He couldn't fill that void if crisis centers weren't there to assist victims.

Lyn Schollett -

- The NH Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence is a statewide network of 14 community based crisis centers.
- In 2013 the Coalition's 14 member programs served 15,000 victims of abuse in NH.
- The marriage license fee is one critical piece of the funding for domestic violence programs. The Domestic Violence Prevention Program (DVPP) had a reliable funding source until recent cuts.
- The DVPP provides funding for 24 hour hotlines and many other services. \$38 of every \$45 marriage license fee goes toward domestic violence services.
- The increase proposed in this bill will increase DVPP revenue by \$45,000 per year.
- The other funding source for the DVPP is the general fund portion. For 20 years there was a general funds match to the amount raised by the marriage license fee. In the FY2012-13 budget, the general fund appropriation was reduced from \$300,000 to \$4,000 per year.
- In the FY2014-15 budget, \$60,000 was restored; however this still leaves the crisis centers with a reduction of \$500,000.
- The results of the cuts have been significant. They were forced to reduce advocates who provide direct services to victims. Victims need legal services, substance abuse services, medical care, etc. Crisis centers have stopped providing some services such as assistance with childcare.
- 1,131 victims of domestic violence were turned away from shelters last year due to insufficient funding.
- Most states allocate several million dollars toward domestic violence funding. NH provides one of the lowest amounts of funding support for domestic violence services.

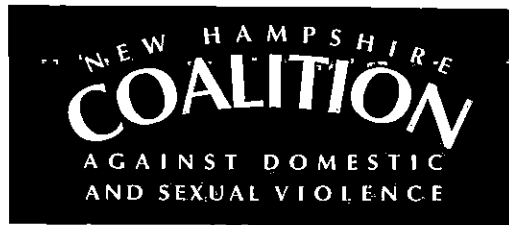
Sen. Feltes - asked how much it would take to fully fund the program.

Ms. Schollett - said they are just hoping to restore the \$500,000 that was cut.

Speakers

Testimony

P.O. Box 353
Concord, NH 03302-0353
Phone: (603)-224-8893
fax: (603)-228-6096
www.nhcadv.org
www.reachoutnh.com



Statewide Toll Free Hotlines

Domestic Violence:
1-866-644-3574
Sexual Assault:
1-800-277-5570

**Testimony of Lyn Schollett, JD, Executive Director of the New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence
In SUPPORT of HB681, relative to increasing the marriage license fees**

MEMBERS:

*RESPONSE to Sexual
& Domestic Violence*
Berlin
Colebrook
Lancaster

Turning Points Network
Claremont
Newport

*Crisis Center of Central
New Hampshire*
Concord

Starting Point
Conway
Ossipee

*Sexual Harassment and Rape
Prevention Program (SHARPP)*
University of New Hampshire
Durham

*Monadnock Center for
Violence Prevention*
Keene
Jaffrey
Peterborough

*New Beginnings Without
Violence and Abuse*
Laconia

WISE
Lebanon

The Support Center at Burch House
Littleton

YWCA Crisis Service
Manchester

*Bridges: Domestic & Sexual
Violence Support*
Nashua
Milford

Voices Against Violence
Plymouth

A Safe Place
Portsmouth
Rochester
Salem

Sexual Assault Support Services
Portsmouth
Rochester

Good afternoon Mr. Chairman and Members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee:

For the record my name is Lyn Schollett and I am the Executive Director of the New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence. The Coalition is a statewide network of 14 independent member programs that provide services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, and stalking. In 2013 the Coalition's 14 member programs served 15,007 victims of abuse in the State of New Hampshire.

Today I am here to ask that you vote Ought to Pass on House Bill 681, which would modestly increase the marriage license fee by \$5. This bill passed the House Ways and Means Committee with of vote of 20-1 and passed the full House with a vote of 223-146.

The marriage license fee is one piece of the funding source for domestic violence programs in New Hampshire that provide services that can mean the difference between life and death. This 2 part funding source is called the Domestic Violence Prevention Program (DVPP). This program was created by the New Hampshire Legislature in 1981 and only began facing cuts in recent years. The DVPP provides funding for 12 emergency shelters, services for children who have been exposed to violence, 24-hour hotlines, and for domestic violence advocates to accompany victims to courts and hospitals.

The DVPP is comprised of two pieces – the first piece is a dedicated fund that directs \$38 of every \$45 marriage license fee to domestic violence programs in New Hampshire. This dedicated fund was established in 1981. This bill would increase the marriage license fee to \$50 and appropriate the additional \$5 to domestic violence programs. The Department of Health and Human Services projects that this will increase revenue to the DVPP by \$45,545 per year.

The second part of the DVPP is a general fund appropriation that for 20 years awarded a matching amount of general funds to this program. For instance, if the projected income for marriage license revenue was \$320,000 in a Fiscal Year, \$320,000 was also appropriated to the DVPP in general fund dollars. This general fund

match was created under Governor Merrill and was sustained in every State Budget from 1994 until the FY12/FY13 budget, when the general fund appropriation was reduced from over \$300,000 to approximately \$4,000 per year. In the FY14/FY15 budget cycle, approximately \$60,000 in general funds per year was restored to this line item. Unfortunately this has still left crisis centers with a reduction of almost \$500,000 over the biennium. As a result of these cuts to our programs, nearly every program in the state has been forced to eliminate advocates who provide direct services to men, women, and children who are victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking. This comes at a time when victims of crime arrive on shelter doorsteps facing so many more barriers due to recent cuts in mental health programs, legal advocacy programs, financial assistance, and substance abuse treatment. Advocates across the state are now accommodating more complex issues with woefully depleted resources.

Furthermore, our programs have been forced to reduce coverage in rural areas, close satellite offices, and reduce important support services such as: support groups, hospital accompaniment, court accompaniment, assistance with childcare, food and travel, providing school-based prevention programs, as well as outreach and awareness efforts.

Perhaps most alarming is the fact that last year 1,131 adult victims of domestic violence were turned away from our shelters because those shelters were already at capacity due to the lack of funding. Sadly, a significant proportion of those 1,131 victims were not alone when they sought shelter. That figure does not include the children who accompanied these victims, children who are oftentimes victims themselves.

Half the homicides in New Hampshire and 92% of our murder-suicides every year are the result of domestic violence. It is impossible to know if not receiving timely and complete assistance means that one of those 1,131 victims who did not receive shelter was seriously injured or even killed as a result of not getting critical services. That may sound dramatic, but it's the reality that victims face every day. This funding can mean the difference between life and death for these victims and their children.

Last year, the New Hampshire Legislature established the crime of domestic violence by passing Joshua's Law—unanimously in the Senate, and on a staggering 325-3 roll call vote in the House. According to a survey conducted by the UNH Survey Center, that measure was supported by 74% of New Hampshire residents polled. In that same report, it was determined 58% of Granite Staters believe that the current funding level for domestic violence centers is insufficient.

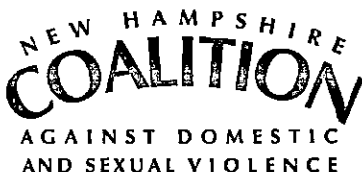
According to data collection by the National Network to End Domestic Violence, the vast majority of states provide domestic violence funding in the multi-million dollar range. New Hampshire receives one of the lowest amounts of state funding—by a large margin—and by that I mean millions of dollars less—of many states in the continental U.S. It is our hope that the Committee will consider this small increase to the marriage license fee in order to increase these vital community services.

New Hampshire needs a stable funding source to adequately address the needs of victims of violence. With the recent cuts to the general fund appropriation, it has become clear that the only way to ensure this stable source of funding is by modestly increasing the marriage license fee.

Thank you for your time, and I would be happy to answer any questions.

Lyn Schollett
Executive Director
New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence

Please refer to the attached sheet "Domestic Violence Prevention Program (DVPP)" for a detailed history of our funding in the NH State Budget.



Domestic Violence Prevention Program (DVPP)

What is the DVPP?

The Domestic Violence Prevention Program (DVPP) can be found on page 842 of HB1 and is comprised of two pieces: 1) a dedicated fund created in 1981 that directs \$38 of every \$45 marriage license fee to domestic violence prevention services and 2) a general fund appropriation that once matched the revenue from marriage licenses. For instance, if the projected income for marriage license revenue was \$320,000 in a Fiscal Year, \$320,000 was also appropriated to DVPP in general fund dollars. This general fund "match" was sustained in every budget from 1994 until the FY 2012-2013 budget cycle, when the general fund appropriation was nearly eliminated.

The NH Department of Health and Human Services has contracted with the New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual violence to manage the DVPP since inception. The Coalition distributes these funds to 13 domestic violence prevention programs that serve approximately 15,000 victims per year. This funding is used for core services such as: emergency shelters, services for children who have been exposed to violence, 24-hour hotlines, and for domestic violence advocates to accompany victims to courts and hospitals. Each center routinely reports to DHHS about how these funds are used.

Recent History of the DVPP

In the FY12-FY13 budget cycle, the general fund appropriation was reduced to under \$3,000 per Fiscal Year. This represented approximately \$640,000 in general fund cuts over the biennium.

In the FY14-FY15 budget cycle, approximately \$62,500 in general fund dollars was appropriated in FY 14 and FY15. This represented a restoration of approximately \$120,000 in general fund dollars for domestic violence services over the biennium.

In the Governor's current budget proposal, there are \$64,773 in general fund dollars appropriated in FY 16 and \$164,773 in general fund dollars in FY17. This still represents an overall reduction of \$410,450 in general fund dollars over the biennium since the funding cuts that were made during the FY12-FY13 budget cycle.

Effects of Funding Cuts to Domestic Violence Victims in NH

As a result of funding cuts, nearly every program in the state has been forced to eliminate advocates who provide direct services to men, women, and children who are victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking. Each advocate serves approximately 300 people per year. This comes at a time when victims of crime arrive on shelter doorsteps facing so many more barriers due to recent cuts in mental health programs, legal advocacy programs, financial assistance, and substance abuse treatment. Advocates across the state are now accommodating more complex issues with woefully depleted resources.

Programs have been forced to reduce coverage in rural areas, close satellite offices, and reduce important support services such as: support groups, hospital accompaniment, court accompaniment, comprehensive case management, assistance with childcare, food and travel, providing school-based prevention programs, as well as outreach and awareness efforts.

In a recent 12-month period, 1,131 adult victims of domestic violence were turned away from domestic violence shelters because those shelters were already at capacity due to the lack of funding. That figure does not include the children who accompanied these victims, children who are often times victims themselves.

Committee Report

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
SENATE
REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

Date: May 5, 2015

THE COMMITTEE ON Ways and Means

to which was referred House Bill 681-FN-A

AN ACT increasing the marriage license fees.

Having considered the same, the committee recommends that the Bill:

OUGHT TO PASS

BY A VOTE OF: 3-2

Senator David R. Boutin
For the Committee

Sonja Caldwell 271-2117

New Hampshire General Court - Bill Status System

Docket of HB681

Docket Abbreviations

Bill Title: (3rd New Title) establishing a fine for persons convicted of domestic violence and increasing the marriage license fee.

Official Docket of HB681:

Date	Body	Description
1/8/2015	H	Introduced and Referred to Ways and Means; HJ 12 , PG. 235
2/11/2015	H	Public Hearing: 2/20/2015 11:30 AM LOB 202=RECESSED=
2/20/2015	H	Continued Public Hearing: 3/2/2015 9:30 AM LOB 202
2/25/2015	H	Executive Session: 3/3/2015 10:00 AM LOB 202
3/6/2015	H	Committee Report: Ought to Pass for Mar 11 (Vote 20-1; RC); HC19 , PG. 411-412
3/11/2015	H	Floor Amendment #2015-0826h (Rep Sanborn): AF RC 170-199 ; HJ 24 , PG. 817-820
3/11/2015	H	Ought to Pass : MA RC 223-146 ; HJ 24 , PG. 820-822
3/19/2015	S	Introduced and Referred to Ways and Means; SJ 10
3/31/2015	S	Hearing: 4/7/15, Room 103, SH, 10:00 a.m.; SC16
5/5/2015	S	Committee Report: Ought to Pass, 5/14/15; SC21
5/14/2015	S	Special Order HB 681-FN-A to the end of the calendar, Without Objection, MA; SJ 14
5/14/2015	S	Sen. Sanborn Floor Amendment # 2015-1702s , NT, RC 24Y-0N , AA; SJ 14
5/14/2015	S	Sen. Carson Floor Amendment # 2015-1760s , NT, AA, VV; SJ 14
5/14/2015	S	Sen. Bradley Floor Amendment # 2015-1763s , NT, AA, VV; SJ 14
5/14/2015	S	Sen. Bradley Moved to Divide the Question Sections 1 and 3 and 2 and 3; SJ 14
5/14/2015	S	The Chair ruled the Question Divisible
5/14/2015	S	Sections 1 and 3, RC 20Y-4N , MA
5/14/2015	S	Sections 2 and 3, RC 21Y-3N , MA
5/14/2015	S	Ought to Pass with Amendments 1702s, NT, 1760s, NT, and 1763s, NT, MA, VV; OT3rdg; SJ 14
6/3/2015	H	House Non-Concurs with Senate Amendments #1702s, #1760s, and #1763s and Requests Committee of Conference (Rep Major): MA VV
6/3/2015	H	Speaker Appoints: Reps Lachance, Abrami, Almy, Gallagher
6/4/2015	S	Sen. Boutin Accedes to House Request for Committee of Conference, MA, VV; SJ 17
6/4/2015	S	President Appoints: Senators Boutin, Carson, and Feltes
6/9/2015	H	Conference Committee Meeting: 6/16/2015 11:00 AM LOB 202
6/18/2015	S	Conference Committee Report # 2015-2225c ; Senate Amendment + New Amendment, Filed
6/24/2015	S	Conference Committee Report 2225c; Adopted, VV; SJ 19
6/24/2015	H	Conference Committee Report 2225c: Adopted, RC 203-144

7/2/2015	S	Enrolled (In recess 6/24/2015); SJ 19
7/2/2015	H	Enrolled (In recess of 6/24/2015)
7/15/2015	H	Signed by the Governor on 7/13/2015; Chapter 244; Effective Date.. 7/1/2015

NH House

NH Senate

Other Referrals

COMMITTEE REPORT FILE INVENTORY

HB681 ORIGINAL REFERRAL

_____ RE-REFERRAL

-
1. THIS INVENTORY IS TO BE SIGNED AND DATED BY THE COMMITTEE AIDE AND PLACED INSIDE THE FOLDER AS THE FIRST ITEM IN THE COMMITTEE FILE.
 2. PLACE ALL DOCUMENTS IN THE FOLDER FOLLOWING THE INVENTORY IN THE ORDER LISTED.
 3. THE DOCUMENTS WHICH HAVE AN "X" BESIDE THEM ARE CONFIRMED AS BEING IN THE FOLDER.
 4. THE COMPLETED FILE IS THEN DELIVERED TO THE CALENDAR CLERK.

- DOCKET (Submit only the latest docket found in Bill Status)
- COMMITTEE REPORT
- CALENDAR NOTICE
- HEARING REPORT
- PREPARED TESTIMONY AND OTHER SUBMISSIONS HANDED IN AT THE PUBLIC HEARING

SIGN-UP SHEET(S)

ALL AMENDMENTS (passed or not) CONSIDERED BY COMMITTEE:

- AMENDMENT # 1389 _____ - AMENDMENT # _____
_____ - AMENDMENT # _____ _____ - AMENDMENT # _____

ALL AVAILABLE VERSIONS OF THE BILL:

AS INTRODUCED _____ AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE
_____ FINAL VERSION _____ AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

_____ OTHER (Anything else deemed important but not listed above, such as amended fiscal notes):

DATE DELIVERED TO SENATE CLERK

7-27-15

BY:

SLC

COMMITTEE AIDE