

Bill as  
Introduced

HB 1508 - AS INTRODUCED

2016 SESSION

16-2646  
08/10

HOUSE BILL **1508**

AN ACT allowing public libraries to run certain privacy software.

SPONSORS: Rep. Ammon, Hills. 40; Rep. Goulette, Hills. 23; Rep. S. Sweeney, Hills. 23; Rep. Schleien, Hills. 37; Rep. Kurk, Hills. 2; Rep. Aldrich, Belk. 2; Rep. Ferreira, Hills. 28

COMMITTEE: Municipal and County Government

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ANALYSIS

This bill allows public libraries to run certain privacy software.

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Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.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

AN ACT allowing public libraries to run certain privacy software.

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

1       1 Findings. The general court is mindful that public libraries, through the American Library  
2 Association, have upheld and protected patron privacy as one of their core values since 1939, and  
3 mindful that, in a library (physical or virtual), the right to privacy is the right to open inquiry  
4 without having the subject of one's interest examined or scrutinized by others.

5       - 2 New Section; Cryptographic Privacy Software. Amend RSA 202-A by inserting after section  
6 25 the following new section:

7       202-A:26 Cryptographic Privacy Software. Public libraries may allow the installation and use  
8 of cryptographic privacy platforms on public library computers for library patrons use.  
9 Cryptographic privacy software shall include Tor or other privacy software that encrypts user's  
10 information to protect it from surveillance or collection. Public libraries may also support  
11 infrastructure for cryptographic software that helps to promote a free and open Internet, such as  
12 running Tor relays. Public libraries shall not give records relative to use of cryptographic privacy  
13 software to a government agency without first providing written notice to the person in question.

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

HB 1508 - AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

10Mar2016... 0625h

2016 SESSION

16-2646  
08/10

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AN ACT allowing public libraries to run certain privacy software.

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# Committee Minutes

**SENATE CALENDAR NOTICE**  
**Public and Municipal Affairs**

Sen Regina Birdsell, Chair  
Sen David Boutin, Vice Chair  
Sen Nancy Stiles, Member  
Sen Bette Lasky, Member  
Sen Molly Kelly, Member

Date: April 13, 2016

**HEARINGS**

Wednesday	04/20/2016	
(Day)	(Date)	
Public and Municipal Affairs	LOB 102	9:00 a.m.
(Name of Committee)	(Place)	(Time)

**EXECUTIVE SESSION MAY FOLLOW**

9:00 a.m.	<b>HB 1455</b>	(New Title) relative to the application of the municipal budget law to village districts wholly within a town.
9:15 a.m.	<b>HB 1395</b>	relative to municipal electronic records.
9:30 a.m.	<b>HB 1508</b>	allowing public libraries to run certain privacy software.
9:45 a.m.	<b>HB 1293</b>	relative to the procedure for charter amendments.
10:00 a.m.	<b>HB 1141</b>	defining "agritourism."

**Sponsors:**

**HB 1455**

Rep. Bickford

**HB 1395**

Rep. C. McGuire

Sen. Reagan

**HB 1508**

Rep. Ammon

Rep. Kurk

Rep. Goulette

Rep. Aldrich

Rep. S. Sweeney

Rep. Ferreira

Rep. Schleien

**HB 1293**

Rep. Cheney

Rep. Ammon

Rep. Gray

Rep. L. Ober

Rep. Souza

Rep. V. Fraser

Rep. B. Griffin

**HB 1141**

Rep. Haefner

Rep. Sad

Jennifer Horgan 271-3092

Regina Birdsell  
Chairman

**Senate Public and Municipal Affairs Committee**  
*Jennifer Horgan 271-3092*

**HB 1508**, allowing public libraries to run certain privacy software.

**Hearing Date:** April 20, 2016

**Time Opened:** 9:45 a.m.  
a.m.

**Time Closed:** 9:53

**Members of the Committee Present:** Senators Birdsell, Boutin, Stiles, Lasky and Kelly

**Members of the Committee Absent:** None

**Bill Analysis:** This bill allows public libraries to run certain privacy software.

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**Sponsors:**

Rep. Ammon  
Rep. Schleien  
Rep. Ferreira

Rep. Goulette  
Rep. Kurk

Rep. S. Sweeney  
Rep. Aldrich

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**Who supports the bill:** Representative Ammon; Representative Cheney; Representative McGuire

**Who opposes the bill:** No one

**Summary of testimony presented in support:**

**Representative Ammon**

- This bill allows/clarifies that libraries are allowed to run privacy software in order to protect their patrons' privacy
- The American Library Association has held the freedom of open inquiry when people are learning things as a core value since 1939
- Expressed how easy it is to track people's search history
- Senator Stiles asked with the passage of this, a person could go into the library every Monday afternoon and the subject of what they are researching would not be tracked.
  - Correct; there was an event that happened last year in Lebanon with the Tilton Library. They were running privacy software and the Department of Homeland Security raised concerns. The Library held some public meetings, where there was a public outcry and the Board of Trustees reinstated the privacy



software. This is a reaction to that.

- Senator Lasky asked about achieving the balance between the right to privacy and security, and asked if a dire situation were to arise, would there be a way to recover these search histories.
  - There is forensic work that can be done by investigators but, this allows for the libraries to lean more towards privacy. Most of this software is free and the bill is enabling so, it is up to each community to decide whether or not to use this. It comes down to what kind of country you want to live in. Sometimes this software is being used by battered woman but, if you go to the extreme worst case scenario, like Sen Bernardino, you are throwing out all of the positive uses for it
- Senator Lasky asked if he knows if the technology exists to recover the search histories.
  - If the need is great enough, there is usually a way.

**Summary of testimony presented in opposition:**

None

**Fiscal Note:** N/A

**Future Action:** Pending

jch

Date Hearing Report completed: April 22, 2016

# Speakers





# Committee Report

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

SENATE

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE  
FOR THE CONSENT CALENDAR

Wednesday, May 4, 2016

THE COMMITTEE ON Public and Municipal Affairs

to which was referred **HB 1508**

AN ACT

allowing public libraries to run certain privacy  
software.

Having considered the same, the committee recommends that the Bill

BE REFERRED TO INTERIM STUDY

BY A VOTE OF: 5-0

CONSENT CALENDAR VOTE: 5-0

Senator Regina Birdsell  
For the Committee

This bill would allow public libraries to run certain privacy software. The Committee heard no testimony from librarians regarding a need for this legislation and concerns were also brought forward regarding how this would affect criminal investigations. For those reasons, the Committee supports moving this bill to further study.

Jennifer Horgan 271-3092

FOR THE CONSENT CALENDAR

**PUBLIC AND MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS**

**HB 1508**, allowing public libraries to run certain privacy software.

Refer to Interim Study, Vote 5-0.

Senator Regina Birdsall for the committee.

This bill would allow public libraries to run certain privacy software. The Committee heard no testimony from librarians regarding a need for this legislation and concerns were also brought forward regarding how this would affect criminal investigations. For those reasons, the Committee supports moving this bill to further study.

## New Hampshire General Court - Bill Status System

**Docket of HB1508**

Docket Abbreviations

**Bill Title:** allowing public libraries to run certain privacy software.**Official Docket of HB1508:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Body</b>	<b>Description</b>
2/11/2016	H	<b>Introduced</b> 01/06/2016 and referred to Municipal and County Government <b>HJ 4</b> P. 17
2/9/2016	H	Public Hearing: 02/16/2016 10:50 AM LOB 301
2/9/2016	H	Executive Session: 02/18/2016 09:30 AM LOB 301
2/23/2016	H	Majority Committee Report: Ought to Pass with Amendment <b>#2016-0625h</b> for 03/09/2016 (Vote 9-6; RC) <b>HC 14</b> P. 67
2/23/2016	H	Minority Committee Report: Inexpedient to Legislate <b>HC 14</b> P. 67
3/10/2016	H	Amendment <b>#2016-0625h</b> : AA VV 03/10/2016 <b>HJ 25</b> P. 22
3/10/2016	H	<b>Ought to Pass with Amendment</b> 0625h: MA DV 268-62 03/10/2016 <b>HJ 25</b> P. 22
3/22/2016	S	Introduced 03/17/2016 and Referred to Public and Municipal Affairs; <b>SJ 10</b>
4/13/2016	S	Hearing: 04/20/2016, Room 102, LOB, 09:30 am; <b>SC 15</b>
5/4/2016	S	Committee Report: Referred to Interim Study, 05/12/2016; Vote 5-0; CC; <b>SC 18</b>
5/12/2016	S	Refer to Interim Study, MA, VV; 05/12/2016; <b>SJ 17</b>

NH House

NH Senate



# Other Referrals

# COMMITTEE REPORT FILE INVENTORY

HB 508 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 # \_\_\_\_\_ - 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):

PLEASE INCLUDE THE COMMITTEE OF CONFERENCE REPORT HERE IF IT IS SIGNED BY ALL.

DATE DELIVERED TO SENATE CLERK

8/30/16

By:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
COMMITTEE AIDE