

# Committee Report

**REGULAR CALENDAR**

**February 17, 2021**

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**REPORT OF COMMITTEE**

**The Majority of the Committee on Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services to which was referred HB 563,**

**AN ACT establishing a committee to study a living wage and the utilization of public assistance among low wage workers and their families in New Hampshire. Having considered the same, report the same with the following resolution: RESOLVED, that it is INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

**Rep. William Infantine**

**FOR THE MAJORITY OF THE COMMITTEE**

**MAJORITY  
COMMITTEE REPORT**

Committee:	<b>Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services</b>
Bill Number:	<b>HB 563</b>
Title:	<b>establishing a committee to study a living wage and the utilization of public assistance among low wage workers and their families in New Hampshire.</b>
Date:	<b>February 17, 2021</b>
Consent Calendar:	<b>REGULAR</b>
Recommendation:	<b>INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE</b>

**STATEMENT OF INTENT**

The majority of the committee felt that the information being requested in the study committee was already available from annual reports being produced by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). MIT produces a report for each county in each state outlining what they calculate as a living wage, poverty wage, and the minimum wage. They calculate the expenses for the major living items such as food, rent, and transportation to name a few. Their study further calculates the required income by number of adults, number of adults working, and number of children in the household. This is a very complex and complete report and something the NH Department of Labor or Department of Employment Securities would not be able to duplicate in a short period of time especially by town as the sponsors would like. Given the time constraints of the two departments during the Covid-19 pandemic, the majority believes that the information looking to be compiled in the study committee is already available.

Vote 11-9.

Rep. William Infantine  
FOR THE MAJORITY

Original: House Clerk  
Cc: Committee Bill File

## REGULAR CALENDAR

Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services

**HB 563**, establishing a committee to study a living wage and the utilization of public assistance among low wage workers and their families in New Hampshire. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. William Infantine for the **Majority** of Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services. The majority of the committee felt that the information being requested in the study committee was already available from annual reports being produced by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). MIT produces a report for each county in each state outlining what they calculate as a living wage, poverty wage, and the minimum wage. They calculate the expenses for the major living items such as food, rent, and transportation to name a few. Their study further calculates the required income by number of adults, number of adults working, and number of children in the household. This is a very complex and complete report and something the NH Department of Labor or Department of Employment Securities would not be able to duplicate in a short period of time especially by town as the sponsors would like. Given the time constraints of the two departments during the Covid-19 pandemic, the majority believes that the information looking to be compiled in the study committee is already available. **Vote 11-9.**

Original: House Clerk

Cc: Committee Bill File

**REGULAR CALENDAR**

**February 17, 2021**

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**REPORT OF COMMITTEE**

**The Minority of the Committee on Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services to which was referred HB 563,**

**AN ACT establishing a committee to study a living wage and the utilization of public assistance among low wage workers and their families in New Hampshire. Having considered the same, and being unable to agree with the Majority, report with the recommendation that the bill OUGHT TO PASS.**

**Rep. Donald Bouchard**

**FOR THE MINORITY OF THE COMMITTEE**

**MINORITY  
COMMITTEE REPORT**

Committee:	<b>Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services</b>
Bill Number:	<b>HB 563</b>
Title:	<b>establishing a committee to study a living wage and the utilization of public assistance among low wage workers and their families in New Hampshire.</b>
Date:	<b>February 17, 2021</b>
Consent Calendar:	<b>REGULAR</b>
Recommendation:	<b>OUGHT TO PASS</b>

**STATEMENT OF INTENT**

The minority of the committee opposes the Inexpedient to Legislate recommendation. This bill will set up a study committee to study the disparities within the State of New Hampshire and the level of living wages necessary to satisfy workers' and families' basic needs. In the interest of transparency, this bill will also study the effect of how much it costs NH taxpayers to provide basic needs when businesses pay their workers far less than a living wage. This bill will satisfy that essential question, "How many of these workers are dependent on safety-net programs to supplement their income so they can meet their basic needs?" We as taxpayers need to know how much corporate welfare is costing us.

Rep. Donald Bouchard  
FOR THE MINORITY

Original: House Clerk  
Cc: Committee Bill File

## REGULAR CALENDAR

Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services

**HB 563**, establishing a committee to study a living wage and the utilization of public assistance among low wage workers and their families in New Hampshire. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Donald Bouchard for the **Minority** of Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services.

The minority of the committee opposes the Inexpedient to Legislate recommendation. This bill will set up a study committee to study the disparities within the State of New Hampshire and the level of living wages necessary to satisfy workers' and families' basic needs. In the interest of transparency, this bill will also study the effect of how much it costs NH taxpayers to provide basic needs when businesses pay their workers far less than a living wage. This bill will satisfy that essential question, "How many of these workers are dependent on safety-net programs to supplement their income so they can meet their basic needs?" We as taxpayers need to know how much corporate welfare is costing us.

Original: House Clerk

Cc: Committee Bill File

# Voting Sheets







2021 SESSION

Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services

Bill #: 563 Motion: ITL AM #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exec Session Date: 2/11/21

<u>Members</u>	<u>YEAS</u>	<u>Nays</u>	<u>NV</u>
Infantine, William J. Chairman	11		
Seaworth, Brian Vice Chairman	1		
<del>Avellani, Lino M.</del> <u>Melvin</u>	9		
Callum, John M.	2		
Mackie, Jonathan D. Clerk	3		
Nunez, Hershel	4		
Warden, Mark	5		
Turcotte, Leonard P.	6		
<del>Prout, Andrew J.</del> <u>Torosian</u>	10		
Boyd, Stephen E.	7		
Hough, Gregg	8		
Sullivan, Brian M.		1	
Soucy, Timothy A.		2	
Baroody, Benjamin C.		3	
Cahill, Michael D.		4	
DiSilvestro, Linda A.		5	
Schmidt, Janice E.		6	
Toomey, Dan		7	
Bouchard, Donald J.		8	
Adjutant, Joshua		9	
<b>TOTAL VOTE:</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>9</b>	

# Public Hearing

## HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LABOR, INDUSTRIAL AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES

### PUBLIC HEARING ON

**BILL TITLE:** HB 563 establishing a committee to study a living wage and the utilization of public assistance among low wage workers and their families in New Hampshire.

**DATE:** 1/28/21

**ROOM:** **Time Public Hearing Called to Order: 2:00**

**Time Adjourned: 2:47**

(members high-lighted in red were absent)

**Committee Members:** Reps. Infantine, Seaworth, Mackie, Avellani, Callum, **Nunez**, Warden, Turcotte, Prout, Boyd, Hough, Sullivan, Soucy, Barody, Cahill, DiSilvestro, J. Schmidt, Toomey, Bouchard and Adjutant

**Bill Sponsors:** Rep. Caplan, Rep. Schultz, Rep. Bartlett, Rep. Van Houten, Rep. Chretien, Rep. Horrigan

### TESTIMONY

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

Sponsor Rep. Caplan introduced the bill. He testified that this is to study how the state subsidizes underpaid workers. He said there is a great disparity around the state in cost of living and wages. Even when the state's economy was strong before Covid there was still income inequality. Low wage workers often spend so much on housing that they don't have enough money to pay for necessities. Minimum wage is not a living wage.

Q Infantine- Did you ask DOL if they could do this?

A No

\*Kathy Staub testified in favor of the bill.

Rev. Dr. Gail Kinney from the NH Conference of the United Church of Christ Economic Justice Team testified in support of the bill. This would be an immense help for all committees that deal with issues relating to health, welfare, poverty and other like issues. It is a moral imperative to discover the causes of the need to subsidize underpaid workers

Q Infantine- Who are these corporations whose underpaid workers we are subsidizing?

A Walmart, McDonald's

Q Adjutant- Would you believe Walmart costs the government 6.2 billion in benefits and the top 2 members of the Walton family are each worth 54 billion?

A Yes

Rep. Schultz testified in favor of the bill. I think this is a great bill. The currently available information is only available by county. It needs to be by town to be useful.

Q Rep. Infantine- Is this really something that can be done by 3 representatives and 3 senators.

A There is probably information out there that just needs to be put together, but if not at least it would be an important start that could be continued.

\*Viola Katusiime of the Granite State Organizing Project (A voice for justice in the Granite State) testified in support

of the bill. (the audio was difficult to understand, but the written testimony is clear and concise)

\*Maggie Fogarty NH Program Director of American Friends Service Committee submitted written testimony in support of the bill.

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\*Glenn Brackett, president of the NH AFL-CIO submitted written testimony in support of the bill

# House Remote Testify

## Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services Committee Testify List for Bill HB563 on 2021-01-28

Support: 59 Oppose: 2 Neutral: 0 Total to Testify: 4

[Export to Excel](#)

<u>Name</u>	<u>City, State</u> <u>Email Address</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Testifying</u>	<u>Non-Germane</u>	<u>Signed Up</u>
Kinney, Rev. Dr. Gail	gailhrdi@aol.com	A Member of the Public	NH Conference, United Church of Christ Economic Justice Team	Support	Yes (0m)	No	1/27/2021 1:46 PM
Caplan, Tony	anthonycaplan1@gmail.com	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	Yes (0m)	No	1/21/2021 6:46 PM
Staub, Kathy	kstaub@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	Yes (0m)	No	1/28/2021 12:12 PM
Katusiime, Viola	violakat@granitestateorganizing.org	A Lobbyist	Granite State Organizing Project	Support	Yes (0m)	No	1/28/2021 1:10 PM
Kindeke, Grace	gkindeke@afsc.org	A Lobbyist	American Friends Service Committee	Support	No	No	1/28/2021 2:01 PM
Knoy, Sarah	sjknoy@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/28/2021 2:01 PM
Pinto, Josie	josie@nhyouthmovement.org	A Lobbyist	New Hampshire Youth Movement	Support	No	No	1/22/2021 3:30 PM
Schnell, Robin	r.hary.schnell@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/22/2021 1:06 PM
Perkins, Cindy	cynthia.l.perkins@nhes.nh.gov	State Agency Staff	Myself	Support	No	No	1/22/2021 2:20 PM
Lathrop, Yannet	ylathrop@nelp.org	A Member of the Public	National Employment Law Project	Support	No	No	1/22/2021 5:04 PM
Maynard, Richard	maynardrick@outlook.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/22/2021 7:34 PM
Fordey, Nicole	nikkif610@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/23/2021 1:44 PM
Kremer, Ben	bckremer1@sbcglobal.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/25/2021 12:22 PM
Jones-Ball, Rebecca	kestrelcrossings@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/25/2021 2:11 PM
Boyle, Mary	mary.n.boyle@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/25/2021 3:44 PM
Pyer, Larissa	larissa.pyer@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/26/2021 4:55 AM
Oxenham, Evan	evan.oxenham@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/25/2021 4:13 PM
Mott-Smith, Wiltrud	wmottsm@worldpath.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/25/2021 7:48 PM
Oxenham, Lee	leeoxenham@comcast.net	An Elected Official	Sullivan Co., District 1	Support	No	No	1/25/2021 6:26 PM

Gould, Rep.Linda	lgouldr@myfairpoint.net	An Elected Official	Myself	Oppose	No	No	1/25/2021 6:36 PM
Holt, David	davholt@aol.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/25/2021 8:58 PM
Stadtman, Judith	judy.stadtman@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/26/2021 6:11 AM
Weisbrot, Jason	hideouspenguinboy@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/26/2021 12:03 PM
Cote, Emma	emmacote@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/26/2021 2:41 PM
Brackett, Glenn	communications@nhaficio.org	A Lobbyist	The working people of the NH AFL-CIO	Support	No	No	1/26/2021 2:58 PM
Vail, Suzanne	Suzanne.vail@leg.state.nh.us	An Elected Official	Hillsborough County 30	Support	No	No	1/26/2021 7:15 PM
Caplan, Eve	Eve.caplan@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/26/2021 8:41 PM
Parshall, Lucius Parshall	lucius.parshall@leg.state.nh.us	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	No	1/27/2021 1:26 PM
Anderson, Keryn	kerynlanderson@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/27/2021 6:13 PM
Tiernan, Cullen	ctiernan@seiu1984.org	A Member of the Public	SEA / SEIU 1984	Support	No	No	1/27/2021 4:04 PM
Feder, Marsha	marshafeder@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/27/2021 6:38 PM
Chretien, Suzanne	suzannechretien3@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/27/2021 5:40 PM
Spencer, Louise	kentstusa@aol.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/27/2021 7:27 PM
Torpey, Jeanne	jtorp51@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/27/2021 8:02 PM
Garen, June	jzanesgaren@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/27/2021 8:07 PM
Hinebauch, Mel	melhinebauch@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/27/2021 8:31 PM
Richman, Susan	susan7richman@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/27/2021 8:49 PM
Willing, Maura	Maura.Willing@Comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/27/2021 9:35 PM
Spielman, Kathy	jspielman@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/28/2021 6:07 AM
Spielman, James	jspielman@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/28/2021 6:08 AM
Rathbun, Eric	ericsrathbun@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/27/2021 9:57 PM
Istel, Claudia	claudia@sover.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/27/2021 11:16 PM
Ellermann, Maureen	ellermannf@aol.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/28/2021 8:05 AM
Newton, Jay	Jjnewt@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/28/2021 8:18 AM
Platt, Elizabeth-Anne	lizanneplatt09@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/28/2021 8:22 AM
Groetzinger, Tonda		A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	1/28/2021 8:30 AM

	groetzinger6@aol.com							
Rettew, Annie	abrettew@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/28/2021 8:32 AM	
Corell, Elizabeth	Elizabeth.j.corell@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/28/2021 8:34 AM	
Fogarty, Maggie	mfogarty@afsc.org	A Lobbyist	American Friends Service Committee - NH	Support	No	No	1/28/2021 8:42 AM	
Anderson, Eric	ericanderson@global.t-bird.edu	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/28/2021 9:13 AM	
Lindpaintner, Lyn	Lynlin@bluewin.ch	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/28/2021 9:37 AM	
Foley, Mary Ellen	mefrsm@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/28/2021 9:52 AM	
Keating, Bob	rhkkeating@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/28/2021 9:57 AM	
Yen, Lidia	lyen@afsc.org	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/28/2021 9:59 AM	
Elhuni, Asma	asmaelhuni@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/28/2021 11:05 AM	
Frost, Sherry	sherry.frost@leg.state.nh.us	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	No	1/28/2021 11:25 AM	
Riley, Alyssa	alyssariley9@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/28/2021 11:25 AM	
Cornwell, Brendan	brendancornwell@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/28/2021 11:32 AM	
Petit, mason	mpetit@seiu1984.org	A Lobbyist	SEA/SEIU1984	Support	No	No	1/28/2021 11:39 AM	
Perencevich, Ruth	rperence@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/28/2021 11:45 AM	
Grossi, Anne	adgrossi7982@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/28/2021 11:56 AM	



# Testimony



**American Friends  
Service Committee**

January 28, 2021

House Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services Committee  
Legislative Office Building, Room 307  
Concord, NH 03301

**Statement in support of HB 563, establishing a committee to study a living wage and the utilization of public assistance among low wage workers and their families in New Hampshire.**

Dear Chairman Infantine and Members of the Committee,

As Director of the American Friends Service Committee's New Hampshire Program, I am writing to express my support for HB 563 and to ask that you find it "ought to pass."

The American Friends Service Committee is a 104-year-old Quaker organization. Throughout almost our entire history, going back to 1922 when we provided humanitarian assistance to unemployed coal miners in West Virginia and Pennsylvania, we have assisted working people who have sought to better their lives and working conditions. From the textile mills of North Carolina to the orange groves of Florida to the grape fields of California, to the maquiladora factories along the Mexican border, and in countless commercial kitchens and construction sites, the AFSC has stood with people who have sought employment, living wages, and dignity on the job.

We strongly support the study proposed by this bill because we believe it will inform policy makers about the urgent unmet needs of New Hampshire's hard working families who struggle to achieve basic economic security on low wages.

The ability of working people to attain a decent standard of living is threatened in our country and in our state. According to the NH Housing Finance Authority, the statewide median rent of a two-bedroom apartment in New Hampshire was [\\$1,413](#) in 2020, a 4.9% increase from 2019. That means it takes an income of more than \$56,500 a year to afford a typical apartment. That's 3.8 times what a worker makes at the current federal minimum wage and 1.8 times what a worker earning \$15 an hour would be able to afford.

In addition, we must acknowledge the extent to which the COVID-19 pandemic has laid bare the tremendous vulnerability of U.S. workers – especially low-wage workers who are disproportionately women and people of color. Much has been said of the heroism of essential workers, but weak labor laws and disregard of employers for workers' well-being has put a terrible burden on those forced to work for low-wages, without adequate protective gear, without paid sick leave, and with no protections for speaking up to demand better treatment.

A study of current wages, the gap between current wages and what can be termed a “living wage,” and the cost to municipalities and state agencies when low wage workers must rely on publicly-funded assistance programs would bring to light the urgent need for better wage policies going forward.

Please vote to support HB 563 to draw attention to these important questions.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Maggie Fogarty', with a stylized, cursive script.

Maggie Fogarty, NH Program Director  
American Friends Service Committee  
4 Park Street, Suite 304, Concord NH 03301  
(603) 224-2407  
mfogarty@afsc.org

# Granite State Organizing Project

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A voice for justice in the Granite State

House Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services Committee

Testimony in Support of HB 563: Establishing a committee to study a living wage and the utilization of public assistance among low wage workers and their families in New Hampshire.

Thursday, January 28, 2021

Good afternoon Chairman Infantine and members of the House Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services Committee. My name is Viola Katusiime, representing the Granite State Organizing Project. The Granite State Organizing Project (GSOP) is a grassroots, non-partisan institution bringing faith, labor, and community groups to work towards a more just world.

I am writing to express our support for HB 563: Establishing a committee to study a living wage and the utilization of public assistance among low wage workers and their families in New Hampshire.

Through our work in community organizing, we have heard several stories from full-time workers who depend on public assistance to care for their families.

What we hear time and again are working families who have to turn to public assistance because they cannot support themselves through work since they are paid very low wages.

We have to ask ourselves why? These workers are already doing their part and contributing to the local economy and their families' well-being. Why is it that someone working 35-40 hours a week still needs a helping hand in form of housing assistance, food stamps, etc.?

I believe most of us know the answer. Some industries and large corporations have chosen to pass on their obligation of paying workers a decent wage needed to make ends meet to taxpayers. And we can't ignore the fact that wages for low-wage workers have stagnated over the years while living costs continue to rise. While neighboring New England states have passed laws to raise the minimum wage, New Hampshire's minimum wage defaults to the federal rate of \$7.25 an hour- the lowest in the region. For most low-wage workers who are heads of households, \$7.25 an hour, \$8 an hour or even \$12 an hour wouldn't afford you basic necessities.

According to the Economic Policy Institute family budget calculator<sup>1</sup>, one working adult with a child in Carrol county needs \$59,009 annually or \$4,917 a month to attain a modest standard of living.

With HB 563, we can determine how many working people in our workforce are utilizing public assistance. We can determine New Hampshire's basic needs budget and a living wage that workers need to sustain themselves working fulltime; we can determine how to repurpose funds currently being spent to support working families and ease the burden on these programs. Through the study committee's findings, New Hampshire can get on a path to help working families and businesses that are doing their fair share.

I would like to urge committee members to support HB 563 and vote Out to Pass. Thank you.

Viola Katusiime  
Concord, NH 03301

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[1] Economic Policy Institute. Family Budget Calculator. <https://www.epi.org/resources/budget/>

# Granite State Organizing Project

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A voice for justice in the Granite State

**Archived:** Thursday, April 15, 2021 2:59:56 PM  
**From:** Perkins, Cynthia  
**Sent:** Friday, January 22, 2021 2:35:35 PM  
**To:** ~House Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services  
**Subject:** HB 563 opinion  
**Importance:** Normal

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I have calculated that a family of 2 parents and a young child, where one parent is caregiving and the other is working full time at \$9 per hour, is eligible for public support worth more money than the working parent grosses. Legislation regarding wages and benefits would be greatly informed by a study like this.

Kind regards,

Cindy Perkins  
(603) 740-1027

NH Employment Security is a proud member of America's Workforce Network and NH WORKS

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TDD/TTY ACCESS: RELAY NH 1-800-735-2964

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**Archived:** Thursday, April 15, 2021 2:59:57 PM  
**From:** Kathryn Staub  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 28, 2021 1:52:32 PM  
**To:** ~House Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services; Repinfantine@gmail.com  
**Subject:** HB 563  
**Importance:** Normal

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Dear Committee Members,  
I am in favor of HB 563 which would establish a committee to determine the level of living wages in various parts of the State of New Hampshire.

In the interest of transparency, I also think it is important for taxpayers to understand how much we spend in corporate welfare to provide basic human needs when companies pay their workers far less than a living wage.

More important than that, I think it is useful for the state to understand what Granite Staters are spending to live.

Our New Hampshire Constitution states that the state government derives its power from the consent of the governed. The Legislature makes policy decisions and appropriates resources to benefit our state's economy. These decisions should not be limited to ensuring profits for the few, but also seek to improve the quality of life of the many.

Our Constitution also says that our "government is instituted for the general good" and that the people of New Hampshire have "the right to seek and obtain happiness". Given that, I think it is the responsibility of our elected government to be aware of what it takes for New Hampshire's residents to live a healthy, stable, and happy life.

I believe that the information gathered under this proposal would help the government of the state of New Hampshire make better policy decisions regarding things like minimum wages. But it would also help to inform decisions about where the state needs to invest its resources. Where is housing too expensive? Where do we need more support for childcare? We do this with roads. We should also be making smart investments in quality of life infrastructure for our people.

When Granite Staters have stability, it will release their potential to build stronger communities and a more vibrant economy.

New Hampshire is a state where deaths currently exceed births for a net loss in "natural population growth". We rely on people moving from other states to maintain our population of working age people. We need to treat our people as the tremendous asset that they are and support them in ways that will help them thrive. The information we will gather with this proposal will help us do that.

Thank you,

Kathy Staub  
374 Laurel St.  
Manchester

[https://www.unionleader.com/news/business/whats\\_working/nh-population-growth-continues-despite-more-deaths-than-births/article\\_427dc214-425a-53c6-9ad6-8ddccd090b67.html](https://www.unionleader.com/news/business/whats_working/nh-population-growth-continues-despite-more-deaths-than-births/article_427dc214-425a-53c6-9ad6-8ddccd090b67.html)

The NH Fiscal Policy Institute used information from the US Census and the MIT Living Wage Calculator to compile some information. It shows that NH families face an uphill battle when it comes to paying their expenses.

<https://nhfpi.org/resource/new-hampshires-workforce-wages-and-economic-opportunity/>


Several State do this. Here is an example from Minnesota

<https://mn.gov/deed/data/data-tools/col/>

Here is an example from Vermont

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/assets/Legislative-Reports/2019-Basic-Needs-Budget-and-Livable-Wage-report-FINAL-1-15-2019.pdf>



**Archived:** Thursday, April 15, 2021 2:59:57 PM  
**From:** [Viola Katusiime](#)  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 28, 2021 2:06:19 PM  
**To:** ~House Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services  
**Subject:** HB 563 Testimony  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Attachments:**  
[GSOP testimony in support of HB 563.docx](#) 

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Good afternoon Chairman Infantine and members of the House Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services Committee,

Please see attached my testimony in support of HB 563.

Best,

Viola Katusiime

Granite State Organizing Project

Email: [Violakat@granitestateorganizing.org](mailto:Violakat@granitestateorganizing.org)


Office: 603-668-8250

~~~~~

Join GSOP as an individual member!

More information [here](#).

~~~~~

**Archived:** Thursday, April 15, 2021 2:59:57 PM  
**From:** [Margaret Fogarty](#)  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 28, 2021 3:34:07 PM  
**To:** ~House Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services  
**Subject:** AFSC supports HB 563  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Attachments:**  
[AFSC supports HB 563.pdf](#) 

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Please find attached my testimony in support of HB 563.

I signed in to support this bill yesterday, but I did not hear my name read when Chairman Infantine read the roster of sign-ins at the end of today's hearing. I would like to be on record in support of this bill.

Thank you.

*Maggie Fogarty, NH Program Director  
American Friends Service Committee  
4 Park Street, #304  
Concord, NH 03301  
(603)224-2407  
[www.afsc.org/newhampshire](http://www.afsc.org/newhampshire)*

*Pronouns: She, her, hers*

**Archived:** Thursday, April 15, 2021 2:57:48 PM  
**From:** [Communications@nhaficio.org](mailto:Communications@nhaficio.org)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 27, 2021 6:23:11 PM  
**To:** ~House Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services  
**Subject:** NH AFL-CIO position on SB563  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Attachments:**  
[HB563\(2021\)AFLposition.docx](#) 

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## **The Position of the New Hampshire AFL-CIO on HB 563 (2021)**

**TO:** Chairman William Infantine and Members of the House Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services Committee

**FROM:** Pres. Glenn Brackett, The New Hampshire AFL-CIO

**January 27th, 2021**

New Hampshire's labor unions have a unique insight into the nature of the state's economy. The affiliated unions of the New Hampshire AFL-CIO represent workers in every corner of the state and every sector of our economy. We negotiate contracts for wages, benefits, and working conditions in every conceivable set of economic circumstances that workers and businesses confront. With the benefit of this perspective, **we strongly urge the House Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services Committee to vote ought-to-pass on House Bill 563 - establishing a committee to study a living wage and the utilization of public assistance among low wage workers and their families in New Hampshire.**

The position of the AFL-CIO nationally and in New Hampshire has long been clear: Our lowest-wage neighbors - many of whom are now finally recognized as essential, something we've long

known - deserve a raise. Both of New Hampshire's US senators have voted in support of \$15 minimum wage legislation and Pres. Biden has made such a raise a significant part of his "Build Back Better" plan.

We hope that the creation of the committee envisioned in this legislation will provide the necessary research and clarify the issue to such a degree that it will finally convince all of the stakeholders involved that we need to increase New Hampshire's wages from the bottom up.

**Please feel free to contact the New Hampshire AFL-CIO at [communications@nhafcio.org](mailto:communications@nhafcio.org) with any questions.**

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**Archived:** Thursday, April 15, 2021 2:57:48 PM  
**From:** Jean  
**Sent:** Monday, February 15, 2021 10:09:00 AM  
**To:** ~House Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services  
**Subject:** HB563, HB107, HB501  
**Importance:** Normal

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Dear Representatives:

I am asking you to support the above bills to support a living wage of \$22.50 an hour, a minimum wage for adjunct faculty at colleges and universities, and a commission to study the relationship between minimum wage rates and the rate of public assistance among low-wage workers.

We know now who our most essential workers are, and these are the very people who work in public and private service for wages that don't come close to paying for food, clothing, shelter, and health care. Failing to ensure them a living wage is not just an insult; it is tantamount to taxpayers subsidizing employers' failure to prioritize their workers, since it is up to us to make up the difference with social services.

It is a false narrative that raising wages kills jobs. In fact, when more people have more disposable income, economic activity increases, creating both more demand and room for innovation and creation. Please support these bills for workers and for the economy as a whole.

Sincerely,

Jean Lewandowski  
Nashua, Ward 5

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10



## **The Position of the New Hampshire AFL-CIO on HB 563 (2021)**

**TO:** Chairman William Infantine and Members of the House Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services Committee

**FROM:** Pres. Glenn Brackett, The New Hampshire AFL-CIO

**January 27th, 2021**

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The position of the AFL-CIO nationally and in New Hampshire has long been clear: Our lowest-wage neighbors - many of whom are now finally recognized as essential, something we've long known - deserve a raise. Both of New Hampshire's US senators have voted in support of \$15 minimum wage legislation and Pres. Biden has made such a raise a significant part of his "Build Back Better" plan.

We hope that the creation of the committee envisioned in this legislation will provide the necessary research and clarify the issue to such a degree that it will finally convince all of the stakeholders involved that we need to increase New Hampshire's wages from the bottom up.

**Please feel free to contact the New Hampshire AFL-CIO at [communications@nhafcio.org](mailto:communications@nhafcio.org) with any questions.**

###

Bill as  
Introduced

HB 563 - AS INTRODUCED

2021 SESSION

21-0782

04/06

HOUSE BILL **563**

AN ACT establishing a committee to study a living wage and the utilization of public assistance among low wage workers and their families in New Hampshire.

SPONSORS: Rep. Caplan, Merr. 6; Rep. Schultz, Merr. 18; Rep. Bartlett, Merr. 19; Rep. Van Houten, Hills. 45; Rep. Chretien, Hills. 42; Rep. Horrigan, Straf. 6

COMMITTEE: Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services

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ANALYSIS

This bill establishes a committee to study a living wage and the utilization of public assistance among low wage workers and their families in New Hampshire.

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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 Twenty One*

AN ACT                    establishing a committee to study a living wage and the utilization of public assistance among low wage workers and their families in New Hampshire.

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

1            1 Committee Established. There is established a committee to study a living wage and the  
2 utilization of public assistance among low wage workers and their families in New Hampshire.

3            2 Membership and Compensation.

4            I. The members of the committee shall be as follows:

5            (a) Three members of the house of representatives, at least one of whom shall be from  
6 the minority party, appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives.

7            (b) Two members of the senate, at least one of whom shall be from the minority party,  
8 appointed by the president of the senate.

9            II. Members of the committee shall receive mileage at the legislative rate when attending to  
10 the duties of the committee.

11           3 Duties. The committee's study shall include, but not be limited to, determining minimally  
12 sufficient salaries in the various regions of the state based on cost-of living data, studying the growth  
13 and nature of the low-wage sector as defined by the above parameters, and measuring the costs of  
14 state services used by low-wage workers, and the effects of low-wage jobs on the local economy and  
15 communities.

16           4 Chairperson; Quorum. The members of the study committee shall elect a chairperson from  
17 among the members. The first meeting of the committee shall be called by the first-named house  
18 member. The first meeting of the committee shall be held within 45 days of the effective date of this  
19 section. Three members of the committee shall constitute a quorum.

20           5 Report. The committee shall report its findings and any recommendations for proposed  
21 legislation to the speaker of the house of representatives, the president of the senate, the house  
22 clerk, the senate clerk, the governor, and the state library on or before November 1, 2021.

23           6 Effective Date. This act shall take effect upon its passage.