

# Bill as Introduced

HB 555 - AS INTRODUCED

2021 SESSION

21-0761

11/05

HOUSE BILL            **555**

AN ACT                relative to prisoners' voting rights.

SPONSORS:            Rep. Andrew Bouldin, Hills. 12; Rep. Kenney, Straf. 6; Rep. Nutting-Wong, Hills. 32; Rep. Bouchard, Hills. 11; Rep. Amanda Bouldin, Hills. 12

COMMITTEE:          Election Law

---

ANALYSIS

This bill amends the absentee voter application form and absentee voting affidavits to make clear that certain persons confined to penal institutions may vote by absentee ballot.

-----

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Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.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

AN ACT relative to prisoners' voting rights.

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

1 . 1 Voters and Checklists; Voters Confined in Penal Institutions. Amend RSA 654:2-a, III to read  
2 as follows:

3 III. In completing a voter registration form, as specified in RSA 654:7, *or an absentee*  
4 *ballot application, as specified in RSA 657:4, I*, a person confined in a penal institution shall list  
5 the address of his or her domicile in the address section, and the address of the penal institution in  
6 the mailing address section.

7 2 Absentee Voting; Forms. Amend RSA 657:4, I to read as follows:

8 I. Prior to any state election, the secretary of state shall prepare the appropriate application  
9 forms for absentee ballots worded in substantially the following form. The secretary of state shall  
10 insert the names of all parties qualified as set forth in RSA 652:11 in the list of parties on the  
11 application form. The secretary of state shall prepare the application forms in such quantity as he or  
12 she deems necessary:

13 Absence (Excluding Absence Due to Residence Outside the United States), Religious Observance,  
14 and Disability:

15 I hereby declare that (check one):

16  I am a duly qualified voter who is currently registered to vote in this town/ward.

17  I am absent from the town/city where I am domiciled and will be until after the next  
18 election, or I am unable to register in person due to a disability, and request that the forms  
19 necessary for absentee voter registration be sent to me with the absentee ballot.

20 I will be entitled to vote by absentee ballot because (check one):

21  I plan to be absent on the day of the election from the city, town, or unincorporated place  
22 where I am domiciled.

23  *I am confined in a penal institution for a misdemeanor or while awaiting trial.*

24  I am requesting a ballot for the presidential primary election and I may be absent on the  
25 day of the election from the city, town, or unincorporated place where I am domiciled, but the date of  
26 the election has not been announced. I understand that I may only make such a request 14 days  
27 after the filing period for candidates has closed, and that if I will not be absent on the date of the  
28 election I am not eligible to vote by absentee ballot.

29  I cannot appear in public on election day because of observance of a religious commitment.

30  I am unable to vote in person due to a disability.

HB 555 - AS INTRODUCED

- Page 2 -

1 \_\_\_\_\_ I cannot appear at any time during polling hours at my polling place because of an  
2 employment obligation. For the purposes of this application, the term "employment shall include the  
3 care of children and infirm adults, with or without compensation.

4 For use only on the Monday immediately prior to the election: I cannot appear at my polling  
5 place on election day because the National Weather Service has issued a winter storm warning,  
6 blizzard warning, or ice storm warning for election day applicable to my city, town, or  
7 unincorporated place and either (check one):

8 \_\_\_\_\_ I am elderly or infirm or I have a physical disability, and would otherwise vote in person  
9 but I have concerns for my safety traveling in the storm.

10 \_\_\_\_\_ I anticipate that school, child care, or adult care will be canceled, and would otherwise  
11 vote in person but will need to care for children or infirm adults.

12 Any person who votes or attempts to vote using an absentee ballot who is not entitled to vote by  
13 absentee ballot shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. RSA 657:24.

14 I am requesting an official absentee ballot for the following election (check one):

15 \_\_\_\_\_ Presidential Primary to be held on \_\_\_\_\_  
16 (MM/DD/YYYY)

17 (The date may appear as blank when the date is not known.)

18 \_\_\_\_\_ State Primary to be held on \_\_\_\_\_  
19 (MM/DD/YYYY)

20 \_\_\_\_\_ General Election

21 For primary elections, I am a member of or I am now declaring my affiliation with the (check  
22 one):

23 \_\_\_\_\_ Republican Party

24 \_\_\_\_\_ Democratic Party

25 \_\_\_\_\_ (name of any party determined by the secretary of state to have achieved official status  
26 under RSA 652:11)

27 and am requesting a ballot for that party's primary.

28 Please print:

29 Applicant's Name:

30 \_\_\_\_\_

31 (Last) (First) (Middle) (Sr., Jr., II., III)

32 Applicant's Voting Domicile (home address):

33 \_\_\_\_\_

34 (Street Number) (Street Name) (Apt/Unit) (City/Town) (Ward) (Zip Code)

35 Mail the ballot to me at this address (if different than the home address):

36 \_\_\_\_\_

37 (Street Number) (Street Name) (Apt/Unit) (City/Town) (Ward) (Zip Code)

1 Applicant's Phone Number : \_\_\_\_\_

2 Applicant's Email Address : \_\_\_\_\_

3 Applicant's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

4 Date Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

5 (MM/DD/YYYY)

6 I attest that I assisted the applicant in executing this form because he or she has a disability.

7 Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Print Name \_\_\_\_\_

8 If your absentee ballot application or affidavit envelope has the printed name and signature of a  
9 person who assisted you with voting, your signature will not be compared to your signature on the  
10 absentee ballot affidavit to verify your identity. Otherwise, if your signatures do not appear to be  
11 made by the same person, your absentee ballot may not be counted.

12 The applicant must sign this form to receive an absentee ballot. Any person who witnesses and  
13 assists a voter with a disability in executing this form shall print and sign his or her name in the  
14 space provided on the application form. The moderator will not compare the voter's signature on the  
15 application with the signature on the absentee ballot affidavit when a person assisting the voter has  
16 signed the statement on the absentee ballot application or affidavit envelope that assistance was  
17 provided.

18 3 Absentee Voting; Absentee Ballots and Related Materials; Absence, Religious Observance, and  
19 Disability. Amend RSA 657:7, II(a) to read as follows:

20 (a) Absence from City or Town. A person voting by absentee ballot because of absence  
21 from the city or town in which he or she is entitled to vote shall fill out and sign the following  
22 certificate:

23 I do hereby certify under the penalties for voting fraud set forth below that I am a voter in the  
24 city or town of \_\_\_\_\_, New Hampshire, in ward \_\_\_\_\_; that I will be unable to appear  
25 at any time during polling hours at my polling place because I will be working on election day, or I  
26 am voting on the Monday immediately prior to the election, the National Weather Service has issued  
27 a winter storm warning, blizzard warning, or ice storm warning, and I am elderly or infirm, have a  
28 physical disability, or have to care for children or infirm adults, **or I am confined to a penal**  
29 **institution for a misdemeanor or while awaiting trial**, or I will be otherwise absent on election  
30 day from said city or town and will be unable to vote in person; that I have carefully read (or had  
31 read to me because I am blind) the instructions forwarded to me with the ballot herein enclosed, and  
32 that I personally marked the ballot within and sealed it in this envelope (or had assistance in  
33 marking the ballot and sealing it in this envelope because I am blind). For the purposes of this  
34 certification, the term "working" shall include the care of children and infirm adults, with or without  
35 compensation.

36 (Signature) \_\_\_\_\_

**HB 555 - AS INTRODUCED**

**- Page 4 -**

1        In accordance with RSA 659:34, the penalty for knowingly or purposefully providing false  
2 information when registering to vote or voting is a class A misdemeanor with a maximum sentence  
3 of imprisonment not to exceed one year and a fine not to exceed \$2,000. Fraudulently registering to  
4 vote or voting is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed \$5,000.

5        4 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

CHAPTER 96  
HB 555 - FINAL VERSION

2021 SESSION

21-0761  
11/05

HOUSE BILL            **555**

AN ACT                relative to prisoners' voting rights.

SPONSORS:            Rep. Andrew Bouldin, Hills. 12; Rep. Kenney, Straf. 6; Rep. Nutting-Wong, Hills.  
32; Rep. Bouchard, Hills. 11; Rep. Amanda Bouldin, Hills. 12

COMMITTEE:          Election Law

---

ANALYSIS

This bill amends the absentee voter application form and absentee voting affidavits to make clear that certain persons confined to penal institutions may vote by absentee ballot.

---

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.

CHAPTER 96  
HB 555 - FINAL VERSION

21-0761  
11/05

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

*In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty One*

AN ACT relative to prisoners' voting rights.

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

1 96:1 Voters and Checklists; Voters Confined in Penal Institutions. Amend RSA 654:2-a, III to  
2 read as follows:

3 III. In completing a voter registration form, as specified in RSA 654:7, *or an absentee*  
4 *ballot application, as specified in RSA 657:4, I*, a person confined in a penal institution shall list  
5 the address of his or her domicile in the address section, and the address of the penal institution in  
6 the mailing address section.

7 96:2 Absentee Voting; Forms. Amend RSA 657:4, I to read as follows:

8 I. Prior to any state election, the secretary of state shall prepare the appropriate application  
9 forms for absentee ballots worded in substantially the following form. The secretary of state shall  
10 insert the names of all parties qualified as set forth in RSA 652:11 in the list of parties on the  
11 application form. The secretary of state shall prepare the application forms in such quantity as he or  
12 she deems necessary:

13 Absence (Excluding Absence Due to Residence Outside the United States), Religious Observance,  
14 and Disability:

15 I hereby declare that (check one):

16  I am a duly qualified voter who is currently registered to vote in this town/ward.

17  I am absent from the town/city where I am domiciled and will be until after the next  
18 election, or I am unable to register in person due to a disability, and request that the forms  
19 necessary for absentee voter registration be sent to me with the absentee ballot.

20 I will be entitled to vote by absentee ballot because (check one):

21  I plan to be absent on the day of the election from the city, town, or unincorporated place  
22 where I am domiciled.

23  *I am confined in a penal institution for a misdemeanor or while awaiting trial.*

24  I am requesting a ballot for the presidential primary election and I may be absent on the  
25 day of the election from the city, town, or unincorporated place where I am domiciled, but the date of  
26 the election has not been announced. I understand that I may only make such a request 14 days  
27 after the filing period for candidates has closed, and that if I will not be absent on the date of the  
28 election I am not eligible to vote by absentee ballot.

29  I cannot appear in public on election day because of observance of a religious commitment.

30  I am unable to vote in person due to a disability.



CHAPTER 96  
HB 555 - FINAL VERSION

- Page 2 -

1 \_\_\_\_\_ I cannot appear at any time during polling hours at my polling place because of an  
2 employment obligation. For the purposes of this application, the term "employment" shall include  
3 the care of children and infirm adults, with or without compensation.

4 For use only on the Monday immediately prior to the election: I cannot appear at my polling  
5 place on election day because the National Weather Service has issued a winter storm warning,  
6 blizzard warning, or ice storm warning for election day applicable to my city, town, or  
7 unincorporated place and either (check one):

8 \_\_\_\_\_ I am elderly or infirm or I have a physical disability, and would otherwise vote in person  
9 but I have concerns for my safety traveling in the storm.

10 \_\_\_\_\_ I anticipate that school, child care, or adult care will be canceled, and would otherwise  
11 vote in person but will need to care for children or infirm adults.

12 Any person who votes or attempts to vote using an absentee ballot who is not entitled to vote by  
13 absentee ballot shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. RSA 657:24.

14 I am requesting an official absentee ballot for the following election (check one):

15 \_\_\_\_\_ Presidential Primary to be held on \_\_\_\_\_

16 (MM/DD/YYYY)

17 (The date may appear as blank when the date is not known.)

18 \_\_\_\_\_ State Primary to be held on \_\_\_\_\_

19 (MM/DD/YYYY)

20 \_\_\_\_\_ General Election

21 For primary elections, I am a member of or I am now declaring my affiliation with the (check  
22 one):

23 \_\_\_\_\_ Republican Party

24 \_\_\_\_\_ Democratic Party

25 \_\_\_\_\_ (name of any party determined by the secretary of state to have achieved official status  
26 under RSA 652:11)

27 and am requesting a ballot for that party's primary.

28 Please print:

29 Applicant's Name:

30 \_\_\_\_\_

31 (Last) (First) (Middle) (Sr., Jr., II., III)

32 Applicant's Voting Domicile (home address):

33 \_\_\_\_\_

34 (Street Number) (Street Name) (Apt/Unit) (City/Town) (Ward) (Zip Code)

35 Mail the ballot to me at this address (if different than the home address):

36 \_\_\_\_\_

37 (Street Number) (Street Name) (Apt/Unit) (City/Town) (Ward) (Zip Code)

CHAPTER 96  
HB 555 - FINAL VERSION  
- Page 3 -

1 Applicant's Phone Number : \_\_\_\_\_

2 Applicant's Email Address : \_\_\_\_\_

3 Applicant's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

4 Date Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

5 (MM/DD/YYYY)

6 I attest that I assisted the applicant in executing this form because he or she has a disability.

7 Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Print Name \_\_\_\_\_

8 If your absentee ballot application or affidavit envelope has the printed name and signature of a  
9 person who assisted you with voting, your signature will not be compared to your signature on the  
10 absentee ballot affidavit to verify your identity. Otherwise, if your signatures do not appear to be  
11 made by the same person, your absentee ballot may not be counted.

12 The applicant must sign this form to receive an absentee ballot. Any person who witnesses and  
13 assists a voter with a disability in executing this form shall print and sign his or her name in the  
14 space provided on the application form. The moderator will not compare the voter's signature on the  
15 application with the signature on the absentee ballot affidavit when a person assisting the voter has  
16 signed the statement on the absentee ballot application or affidavit envelope that assistance was  
17 provided.

18 96:3 Absentee Voting; Absentee Ballots and Related Materials; Absence, Religious Observance,  
19 and Disability. Amend RSA 657:7, II(a) to read as follows:

20 (a) Absence from City or Town. A person voting by absentee ballot because of absence  
21 from the city or town in which he or she is entitled to vote shall fill out and sign the following  
22 certificate:

23 I do hereby certify under the penalties for voting fraud set forth below that I am a voter in the  
24 city or town of \_\_\_\_\_, New Hampshire, in ward \_\_\_\_\_; that I will be unable to appear  
25 at any time during polling hours at my polling place because I will be working on election day, or I  
26 am voting on the Monday immediately prior to the election, the National Weather Service has issued  
27 a winter storm warning, blizzard warning, or ice storm warning, and I am elderly or infirm, have a  
28 physical disability, or have to care for children or infirm adults, *or I am confined to a penal*  
29 *institution for a misdemeanor or while awaiting trial*, or I will be otherwise absent on election  
30 day from said city or town and will be unable to vote in person; that I have carefully read (or had  
31 read to me because I am blind) the instructions forwarded to me with the ballot herein enclosed, and  
32 that I personally marked the ballot within and sealed it in this envelope (or had assistance in  
33 marking the ballot and sealing it in this envelope because I am blind). For the purposes of this  
34 certification, the term "working" shall include the care of children and infirm adults, with or without  
35 compensation.

36 (Signature) \_\_\_\_\_

**CHAPTER 96**  
**HB 555 - FINAL VERSION**

**- Page 4 -**

1       In accordance with RSA 659:34, the penalty for knowingly or purposefully providing false  
2 information when registering to vote or voting is a class A misdemeanor with a maximum sentence  
3 of imprisonment not to exceed one year and a fine not to exceed \$2,000. Fraudulently registering to  
4 vote or voting is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed \$5,000.

96:4 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

Approved: July 01, 2021

Effective Date: August 30, 2021

# Committee Minutes

# SENATE CALENDAR NOTICE

## Election Law and Municipal Affairs

Sen James Gray, Chair  
Sen Regina Birdsell, Vice Chair  
Sen Ruth Ward, Member  
Sen Donna Soucy, Member  
Sen Rebecca Perkins Kwoka, Member

Date: May 4, 2021

### HEARINGS

Monday

05/10/2021

---

Election Law and Municipal Affairs

REMOTE

9:00 a.m.

---

9:00 a.m.	HB 555	relative to prisoners' voting rights.
9:15 a.m.	HB 391	increasing the threshold for reporting by political committees.
9:30 a.m.	HB 326	requiring town and city clerks to make electronic lists of persons who have requested, been mailed, or returned absentee ballots available to candidates upon request.
9:45 a.m.	HB 292	relative to the absentee ballot application process.

Committee members will receive secure Zoom invitations via email.

Members of the public may attend using the following links:

1. Link to Zoom Webinar: <https://www.zoom.us/j/91867580410>
2. To listen via telephone: Dial (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location): 1-301-715-8592, or 1-312-626-6799 or 1-929-205-6099, or 1-253-215-8782, or 1-346-248-7799, or 1-669-900-6833
3. Or iPhone one-tap: US: 16465588656, 91867580410# or 13017158592, 91867580410#
4. Webinar ID: 918 6758 0410
5. To view/listen to this hearing on YouTube, use this link:  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjBZdtrjRnQdmg-2MPMiWrA>
6. To sign in to speak, register your position on a bill and/or submit testimony, use this link:  
<http://gencourt.state.nh.us/remotecommittee/senate.aspx>

The following email will be monitored throughout the meeting by someone who can assist with and alert the committee to any technical issues: [remotesenate@leg.state.nh.us](mailto:remotesenate@leg.state.nh.us) or call (603-271-6931).

**EXECUTIVE SESSION MAY FOLLOW**

**Sponsors:**

**HB 555**

Rep. Andrew Bouldin  
Rep. Amanda Bouldin

Rep. Kenney

Rep. Nutting-Wong

Rep. Bouchard

**HB 391**

Rep. Edwards

**HB 326**

Rep. Berry

Rep. T. Smith

Rep. O'Hara

**HB 292**

Rep. Hill

Rep. Pearl

Rep. Silber

Rep. Gunski

Rep. Rice

Rep. Rouillard

Tricia Melillo 271-3077

James P. Gray  
Chairman

# Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee

*Tricia Melillo 271-3077*

HB 555, relative to prisoners' voting rights.

**Hearing Date:** May 10, 2021

**Members of the Committee Present:** Senators Gray, Birdsell, Ward, Soucy and Perkins Kwoka

**Members of the Committee Absent :** None

**Bill Analysis:** This bill amends the absentee voter application form and absentee voting affidavits to make clear that certain persons confined to penal institutions may vote by absentee ballot.

---

**Sponsors:**

Rep. Andrew Bouldin  
Rep. Bouchard

Rep. Kenney  
Rep. Amanda Bouldin

Rep. Nutting-Wong

---

**Who supports the bill:** 131 people signed in support of HB 555 - If you would like to see the sign in sheet please contact the Committee Aide Tricia Melillo at [tricia.melillo@leg.state.nh.us](mailto:tricia.melillo@leg.state.nh.us)

**Who opposes the bill:** Patrice Myers, Joseph Bagshaw, Maureen Brentrup

**Summary of testimony presented in support:**

**Representative Andrew Boulding**

- This bill does not create any new rights or expand the right to vote.
- Current law states that a person behind bars can vote by absentee ballot.
- RSAs 654:5 and 607-A:2 address the only time a person's right to vote is taken away, which is when they are actively serving time for a felony conviction.
- A person behind bars awaiting trial or serving time for a misdemeanor is still legally eligible to vote in New Hampshire.
- The issue is that those prisoners may have to purger themselves in order to fill out the absentee ballot application and affidavit.
- Section 2 of the application list reasons you can request an absentee ballot and you must select one.
- There is no option on the application or the affidavit that applies to someone in jail, domiciled in a city or town other than where they are a resident.
- In order to vote this person needs to risk further jail time by providing false information which carries a maximum sentence of one year in jail and a \$2,000 fine.
- This disenfranchises those voters.

- HB 555 will correct this issue by adding a check box to the application form and language to the sworn statement in the affidavit for individuals who are incarcerated pre-trial or serving time for a misdemeanor.
- He spoke with Deputy Secretary of State Scanlan last year and he agreed that this was an issue and they are open to adding this language.
- Senator Gray asked if they could just slightly modify the statement that is already on the form to include these individuals.
  - Rep. Boulding replied that as long as the language on the form made it clear that they were able to vote absentee he agrees that would be a good compromise.
- Senator Gray commented that they have never had a problem with those that are incarcerated for a misdemeanor that he knows of but they will ask the Deputy Secretary of State. He asked if the restriction on voting for those convicted of a felony was enforced even if the individual is on parole.
  - Rep. Boulding commented that his understanding of the law is that the only people prohibited from voting are those that are incarcerated for a felony. He believes that if you out on parole under the supervision of a parole officer you are able to cast a ballot.

**Henry Klementowicz – ACLU NH**

- The ACLU of NH supports HB 555 for many of the same reasons that Rep. Bouldin testified on.
- In his view this is a housekeeping bill.
- It has long been the law in New Hampshire that only people actively serving a felony sentence of incarceration or people that are convicted of bribery or other election related offenses are disqualified from voting.
- The number of people incarcerated pending trial or incarcerated for a misdemeanor conviction is not small.
- He sees this bill as amending the form to conform with what has already been the law.
- He has no problem with Senator Gray's proposal of working the language into what is already there but he does believe that the language in this bill is pretty clear.

**David Scanlan – Deputy Secretary of State**

- He is in agreement with all of the previous testimony.
- There is an administrative concern with the bill.
- The space on the form is limited and every time they add language it becomes more difficult to read or to sign.
- He asked the committee to see if they could consolidate some of the language on the affidavit form so that it is clear.
- Senator Gray asked if a person convicted of a felony had to complete their sentence including any parole before they could resume voting.
  - Mr. Scanlan replied that as long as they are not incarcerated they can vote. They cannot run for office until they complete the obligations of their sentence.

**Summary of testimony presented in opposition: None**

TJM  
Date Hearing Report completed: May 14, 2021



# Speakers

# Senate Remote Testify

Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee Testify List for Bill HB555 on 2021  
Support: 131 Oppose: 3 Neutral: 0 Total to Testify: 2

<u>Name</u>	<u>Email Address</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Testifying</u>
Bouldin, Andrew	Not Given	Not Given	An Elected Official	Hillsborough District 12	Support	Yes
Myers, Patrice	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	Yes
King, Marcia	mchking@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
King, Charles	mchking@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Bowles, Margaret	mcb2885@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Kinney, Rev. Dr. Gail	gailhrdi@aol.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Rettew, Annie	abrettew@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Evans, Anne	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Waterman, Raymond	prwaterman@aol.com	16034243692	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Waterman, Patricia	prwaterman@aol.com	16033450644	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Bixby, Peter	peter.bixby@leg.state.nh.us	16037495659	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No
Phillips, Margery	Margeryphillips@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Dontonville, Roger	rdontonville@gmail.com	603.632.7719	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No
Clark, Denise	denise.m.clark03055@gmail.com	603.213.1692	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Spencer, Louise	lpskentstreet@gmail.com	603.491.1795	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Spencer, Rob	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Northrop, Faith	f.northrop@comcast.net	603.536.2191	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Krassowski, Judy	info@judykrassowski.com	603.315.9440	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Beihl, Brian	brian@opendemocracy.me	603-620-8300	A Lobbyist	Open Democracy Action	Support	No
Dontonville, Anne	Adontonville@gmail.com	603.632.7719	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Zavgren, John	john@zavgren.com	603.371.0513	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Jakubowski, Dennis	dendeb146@gmail.com	603.496.5749	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Jakubowski, Deborah	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Coon, Kate	kate2coon@gmail.com	339.793.0686	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Hayes, Randy	rcompose@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Dewey, Karen	pkdewey@comcast.net	603.504.2813	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Vincent, Laura	lvlauravincents@gmail.com	603.783.4849	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Dolkart, Kenneth	kenneth.dolkart@gmail.com	603.566.4882	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Mennella, Alexandra	am88@fastmail.com	646.610.9858	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Richards, Matthew	mricha711@gmail.com	603.854.3953	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Larson, Ruth	ruthlarson@msn.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Desmarais, Doreen	doreend@netzero.net	603.608.6211	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Colle, Beth	bethcollea@aol.com	781.724.2254	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Barretto, Tim	timbarretto@comcast.net	603.749.0037	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Phillips, Betsey	bphill36@gmail.com	603.869.0127	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Cevasco, Karin	Karin.Cevasco@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Willoughby, Susan	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Lindpaintner, Lyn	lynlin@bluewin.ch	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Meuse, David	David.Meuse@leg.state.nh.us	603-957-8436	An Elected Official	Rockingham 29	Support	No
Jernstedt, Margaret	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Bartlett, Rep Christy	christydbartlett@gmail.com	603.717.8151	An Elected Official	Merrimack 19	Support	No
Knox, Elizabeth	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Jachim, Nancy	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Bushueff, Catherine	agawamdesigns@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Fieseher, James	mypersonalmd@comcast.net	603.969.6259	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Ford, Sue	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Bergevin, Leslie	Not Given	(603)491-030	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No

PICARD, TERESA	terrympicard@yahoo.com	16037421985	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	:
Smith, Sara	sara.rose.ssmith@gmail.com	603.485.4231	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	:
Edry, Derek	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	:
Platt, Elizabeth-Anne	lizanneplatt09@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	:
Pinneo, Sarah	Not Given	603.643.2175	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	:
West, Christie	christiemwest@gmail.com	603.320.6261	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	:
Gordon, Laurie	lmgord23@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	:
Greenwood, Nancy	nancgreenwood@yahoo.com	603.226.2471	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	:
Briggs, Ron	Rongb1950@gmail.com	603.226.2471	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	:
Gordon, Margaret	Megordon98@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	:
Hatch, Sally	SALLYHATCH@COMCAST.COM	16037247448	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	:
Bagshaw, Joseph	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	:
Ellermann, Maureen	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	:
Hinkel, Robert	r.hinkel@gmail.com	413.478.8701	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	:
perez, maria	mariael163@gmail.com	603.801.7867	An Elected Official	District 23	Support	No	:
Wells, Lee	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	:
Bundy, Linda	n_bundy@mcttelecom.com	603 588 2254	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	:
insolia, janet	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	:
Holtz, Anthony	awave28@live.com	412.737.9812	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	:
Verschueren, James	jd.verschueren@gmail.com	603.978.0398	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	:
Burns, Scott	scottburns.2020@gmail.com	16032037727	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	:
Van Etten, William	williamvanetten@mac.com	617.921.3358	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	:
Hinkel, Robbie	r.hinkel@gmail.com	413.239.7050	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	:
Pimentel, Rod	Rodpimentel@leg.state.nh.us	Not Given	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	:
Weston, Joyce	jweston14@roadrunner.com	Not Given	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	:
Baber, Kristine	kimbaber@gmail.com	603.781.7743	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	:
Ecklund, Peter	10southmain@comcast.net	603.930.7248	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	:
King Ecklund, Susan	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	:
Kelley, Mary	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	:
Wazir, Safiya	Not Given	Not Given	An Elected Official	My Constituents	Support	No	:
Tucker, Kathy	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	:
Douville, Linda	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	:
Holt, David	davholt@aol.com	603.781.8649	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	:
Emus, Joanne	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	:
Clafin, Kyri	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	:
Ackerson, Judith	ackerjack45@gmail.com	603.369.0574	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	:
Ackerson, Kenneth	ken.ackerson14@gmail.com	603.273.1593	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	:
Telerski, Laura	Laura.Telerski@Leg.State.NH.US	603.320.3957	An Elected Official	Hillsborough 35	Support	No	:
Yacopucci, William	wdycpp@gmail.com	603.707.2211	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	:
Casino, Joanne	joannecasino@comcast.net	603.746.3491	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	:
Slosberg, Richard	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	:
Torpey, Jeanne	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	:
Atherton, John	JMAtherton.3@gmail.com	412.610.0134	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	:
Robinson, Ellis	ellismmrobinson@gmail.com	239.470.1092	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	:
Brentrup, Maureen	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	:
Richman, Susan	susan7richman@gmail.com	603.343.6314	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	:
Dodge, corinne	corinnedodge@hotmail.com	16034325759	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	:
QUISUMBING-KING, Cora	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	:
Gilman, Julie	Not Given	Not Given	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	:
Brennan, Nancy	burningnan14@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	:
Hamer, Heidi	Not Given	Not Given	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	:
Hamer, Gary	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	:
Hamer, Geoff	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	:
Hurley, John	jrhurjd@aol.com	603.287.8913	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	:
Serrell, James J.	imjjserrell@yahoo.com	603.583.1096	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	:
Mooney, Bridget	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	:

Lukaszewicz, Debby	devoid_2@hotmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	!
Hinebauch, Melissa	melhinebauch@gmail.com	603-224-4866	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	!
Tentarelli, Liz	LWVnewhampshire@gmail.com	603.763.9296	A Member of the Public	League of Women Voters NH	Support	No	!
Caudill Slosberg, Margaret	margarets08@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	!
Damon, Claudia	cordsdamon@gmail.com	603-226-4561	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	!
Thomas, William	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	!
Istel, Claudia	claudia@sover.net	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	!
Grassie, Chuck	chuck.grassie@leg.state.nh.us	16039787417	An Elected Official	Strafford 11	Support	No	!
King, Walter	genedocwk@comcast.net	603.978.9775	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	!
Spence, Richard	rtssds2@gmail.com	603.842.5139	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	!
Staats, Janet	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	!
Embley, Sally	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	!
Aronson, Laura	laura@mlans.net	603.432.1603	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	!
Rich, Cecilia	cecilia.rich@leg.state.nh.us	Not Given	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	!
Osborne, Stephanie	Not Given	238-3141	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	!
Bruce, Susan	susanb.red@mac.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	!
Graham, Nancy	nancygraham806@gmail.com	425.765.6921	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	!
Caplan, Tony	anthonycaplan1@gmail.com	603.428.7042	An Elected Official	Merrimack 6	Support	No	!
Smith, Wayne	waynesmith900@hotmail.com	603.557.6227	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	!
Perry, Bob	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	!
Hackmann, Kent	hackmann@uidaho.edu	16039343225	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	!
Jacome, Jan	janjake22@gmail.com	603.234.3910	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	!
Mower, Robin	melodyofharpists@gmail.com	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	!
Blanchard, Sandra	sandyblanchard3@gmail.com	603.724.3768	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	!
Dresser, Sarah	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	!
Secord, William	wrsecord@live.com	603-286-0331	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	!
Nelson, Deborah	dbaconnelson@gmail.com	603.359.2306	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	!
Zaenglein, Barbara	Not Given	Not Given!	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	!
Zaenglein, Eric	Not Given	Not Given	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	!
Podlipny, Ann	apodlipny57@comcast.net	603.370.1914	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	!
Oscadal, Joanne	joanne.oscadal@gmail.com	603.448.2421	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	!

# Testimony

**Tricia Melillo**

---

**From:** P Mey <topmey4@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 9, 2021 7:47 PM  
**To:** Tricia Melillo  
**Subject:** HB 555

To the Honorable Members of the Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee:

Thank you for the work that you have done in this very difficult year of remote sessions and social distancing.

I am opposed to HB555 on the basis that when one commits a crime, it always has been understood, that one forfeits certain rights, the right to vote among them. Absentee ballot voting for criminals should not even be a consideration.

When a criminal has completed his/her sentence, or is otherwise released, then their rights are reinstated. If certain rights are not forfeited, then the deterrent to commit a crime is watered down.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,  
Patrice Myers

# Voting Sheets

**Senate Election Law  
& Municipal Affairs Committee  
EXECUTIVE SESSION RECORD  
2021 Session**

Bill HB 555

Hearing date: 5-10-2021

Executive Session date: 5/17/21

Motion of: OTP Vote: 4-0

Committee Member	Present	Made by	Second	Yes	No
Sen. Gray, Chair	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Birdsell, Vice Chair	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Ward	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Soucy	X	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Perkins-Kwoka	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Motion of: Reconsider OTP Vote: 5-0

Committee Member	Present	Made by	Second	Yes	No
Sen. Gray, Chair	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Birdsell, Vice Chair	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Ward	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Soucy	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Perkins-Kwoka	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Motion of: Consent Vote: 5-0

Committee Member	Present	Made by	Second	Yes	No
Sen. Gray, Chair	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Birdsell, Vice Chair	X	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Ward	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Soucy	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Perkins-Kwoka	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Reported out by: Sen. Soucy ~~by~~ BLURB

Notes: work on the form



# Committee Report

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

SENATE

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE  
FOR THE CONSENT CALENDAR

Monday, May 17, 2021

THE COMMITTEE ON Election Law and Municipal Affairs

to which was referred **HB 555**

AN ACT

relative to prisoners' voting rights.

Having considered the same, the committee recommends that the Bill

OUGHT TO PASS

BY A VOTE OF: 5-0

Senator Donna Soucy  
For the Committee

This bill would amend the absentee voter application form and absentee voting affidavits to make clear that certain persons confined to penal institutions may vote by absentee ballot. Voters that find themselves incarcerated awaiting trial or serving a misdemeanor conviction are often disenfranchised because they do not have a clear legal option to apply for an absentee ballot. This legislation clarifies what is currently allowed and does not expand voting rights.

Tricia Melillo 271-3077

## General Court of New Hampshire - Bill Status System

**Docket of HB555**

Docket Abbreviations

**Bill Title:** relative to prisoners' voting rights.*Official Docket of HB555.:*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Body</b>	<b>Description</b>
1/12/2021	H	<b>Introduced</b> (in recess of) 01/06/2021 and referred to Election Law <b>HJ 2</b> P. 53
2/17/2021	H	Public Hearing: 02/17/2021 10:30 am Please click the link below to join the webinar: <a href="https://zoom.us/j/95842759377">https://zoom.us/j/95842759377</a> Executive session on pending legislation may be held throughout the day (time permitting) from the time the committee is initially convened.
3/5/2021	H	Executive Session: 03/05/2021 12:00 pm Please click the link below to join the webinar: <a href="https://zoom.us/j/99327579520">https://zoom.us/j/99327579520</a>
3/3/2021	H	==CONTINUED== Executive Session: 03/10/2021 10:10 am Members of the public may attend using the following link: To join the webinar: <a href="https://zoom.us/j/95087806399">https://zoom.us/j/95087806399</a> (if necessary)
3/29/2021	H	Committee Report: Ought to Pass (Vote 20-0; CC) <b>HC 18</b> P. 9
4/7/2021	H	<b>Ought to Pass:</b> MA VV 04/07/2021 <b>HJ 5</b> P. 12
4/7/2021	H	Reconsider (Rep. Osborne): MF VV 04/07/2021 <b>HJ 5</b> P. 50
4/7/2021	S	Introduced 04/01/2021 and Referred to Election Law and Municipal Affairs; <b>SJ 11</b>
5/4/2021	S	Remote <b>Hearing:</b> 05/10/2021, 09:00 am; Links to join the hearing can be found in the Senate Calendar; <b>SC 23</b>
5/17/2021	S	Committee Report: Ought to Pass, 05/20/2021; Vote 5-0; CC; <b>SC 24A</b>
5/20/2021	S	<b>Ought to Pass:</b> MA, VV; OT3rdg; 05/20/2021; <b>SJ 16</b>
6/25/2021	S	Enrolled Adopted, VV, (In recess 06/24/2021); <b>SJ 20</b>
6/25/2021	H	Enrolled (in recess of) 06/24/2021
7/6/2021	H	Signed by Governor Sununu 07/01/2021; Chapter 96; Eff: 08/30/2021

NH House

NH Senate

# Other Referrals

**Senate Inventory Checklist for Archives**

Bill Number: HB 555

Senate Committee: ELMA

Please include all documents in the order listed below and indicate the documents which have been included with an "X" beside

Final docket found on Bill Status

**Bill Hearing Documents: {Legislative Aides}**

Bill version as it came to the committee

All Calendar Notices

Hearing Sign-up sheet(s)

Prepared testimony, presentations, & other submissions handed in at the public hearing

Hearing Report

Revised/Amended Fiscal Notes provided by the Senate Clerk's Office

**Committee Action Documents: {Legislative Aides}**

All amendments considered in committee (including those not adopted):

\_\_\_ - amendment # \_\_\_\_\_      \_\_\_ - amendment # \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ - amendment # \_\_\_\_\_      \_\_\_ - amendment # \_\_\_\_\_

Executive Session Sheet

Committee Report

**Floor Action Documents: {Clerk's Office}**

All floor amendments considered by the body during session (only if they are offered to the senate):

\_\_\_ - amendment # \_\_\_\_\_      \_\_\_ - amendment # \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ - amendment # \_\_\_\_\_      \_\_\_ - amendment # \_\_\_\_\_

**Post Floor Action: (if applicable) {Clerk's Office}**

\_\_\_ Committee of Conference Report (if signed off by all members. Include any new language proposed by the committee of conference):

\_\_\_ Enrolled Bill Amendment(s)

\_\_\_ Governor's Veto Message

**All available versions of the bill: {Clerk's Office}**

as amended by the senate      \_\_\_ as amended by the house

final version

Completed Committee Report File Delivered to the Senate Clerk's Office By:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Committee Aide

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Senate Clerk's Office 