

CONSENT CALENDAR

January 12, 2022

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

**The Committee on Education to which was referred HB
1218-FN,**

**AN ACT relative to the merger of Granite State college
with the university of New Hampshire. Having
considered the same, report the same with the
recommendation that the bill OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. David Luneau

FOR THE COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee:	Education
Bill Number:	HB 1218-FN
Title:	relative to the merger of Granite State college with the university of New Hampshire.
Date:	January 12, 2022
Consent Calendar:	CONSENT
Recommendation:	OUGHT TO PASS

STATEMENT OF INTENT

Building on the complementary missions of Granite State College and UNH-Manchester, this bill combines institutional strengths to establish a single, merged college located in the Manchester-Concord corridor. The merged entity will retain the name Granite State College (GSC) and will comprise a new college within UNH. The new GSC will continue to serve its existing student body comprised of both traditional and non-traditional undergraduates and graduate students while applying increased focus on the growing opportunity to provide affordable programs of all types to adult and working professional students. Leadership of the combined entities will be consolidated under the President of UNH. The previous president of GSC is now Chancellor of the Community College System of New Hampshire. By leveraging the strengths and resources of UNH, GSC will enhance system reputation, visibility and market reach. This bill provides statutory language enabling this merger. The trustees of the University System New Hampshire, the Public Higher Education Study Committee, and the House Education Committee all unanimously support this legislation.

Vote 19-0.

Rep. David Luneau
FOR THE COMMITTEE

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

CONSENT CALENDAR

Education

HB 1218-FN, relative to the merger of Granite State college with the university of New Hampshire.
OUGHT TO PASS.

Rep. David Luneau for Education. Building on the complementary missions of Granite State College and UNH-Manchester, this bill combines institutional strengths to establish a single, merged college located in the Manchester-Concord corridor. The merged entity will retain the name Granite State College (GSC) and will comprise a new college within UNH. The new GSC will continue to serve its existing student body comprised of both traditional and non-traditional undergraduates and graduate students while applying increased focus on the growing opportunity to provide affordable programs of all types to adult and working professional students. Leadership of the combined entities will be consolidated under the President of UNH. The previous president of GSC is now Chancellor of the Community College System of New Hampshire. By leveraging the strengths and resources of UNH, GSC will enhance system reputation, visibility and market reach. This bill provides statutory language enabling this merger. The trustees of the University System New Hampshire, the Public Higher Education Study Committee, and the House Education Committee all unanimously support this legislation. **Vote 19-0.**

Original: House Clerk

Cc: Committee Bill File

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

EXECUTIVE SESSION on HB 1218-FN

BILL TITLE: relative to the merger of Granite State college with the university of New Hampshire.

DATE: January 11, 2022

LOB ROOM: 205-207

MOTIONS: OUGHT TO PASS

Moved by Rep. Luneau

Seconded by Rep. Cordelli

Vote: 17-0

Respectfully submitted,

Rep Melissa Litchfield, Clerk



2022 SESSION

Education

Bill #: HB 1218-FW

Motion: OTP

AM #: _____

Exec Session Date: 11 Jan 2022

<u>Members</u>	<u>YEAS</u>	<u>Nays</u>	<u>NV</u>
Ladd, Rick M. Chairman	17		
< Cordelli, Glenn Vice Chairman	1		
Hall, Muriel C. Clerk	15		
Boehm, Ralph G.	2		
Lekas, Alicia D.	3		
Moffett, Michael	4		
Hobson, Deborah L.	—		
Ford, Oliver J.	5		
Soti, Julius F.	—		
Nelson, Bill G.	6		
Litchfield, Melissa A.	7		
Myler, Mel <i>Mary Beth Walz</i>	16		
< Luneau, David J. <i>Ranking</i>	8		
Cornell, Patricia	9		
Tanner, Linda L.	10		
Ellison, Arthur S. <i>Linda Massawilla</i>	11		
Mullen, Sue M.	12		
Woodcock, Stephen L.	13		
Porter, Marjorie A.	14		
TOTAL VOTE:			

17-0 for OTP

Mike Decelle

- Addressed space issues and infrastructure

Rep. Porter

- Asked about application procedures

Mike Decelle

- Explained that application would be to UNH

Rep. Woodcock

- Asked about open access and price points

Mike Decelle

- Explained GSC admission process would be the same

Rep. Moffett

- Asked about the lack of layoffs

Cathy Provencher

- Responded that personnel would be reassigned

Rep. Moffett

- Asked about sports participation

Mike Decelle

- Explained that most GSC students are older part-timers but that there may be new athletic opportunities for GSC students

Rep. Lekas

- asked about various and conflicting cost for on-line courses

Mike Decelle

- Explained that this issue is being worked on

Rep. Nelson

- Asked about UNH professors accepting GSC people

Mike Decelle

- Explained that common accreditation will be a leveling influence

Rep. Ford

- Asked about General Education transfers

Mike Decelle

- Explained that near -universal General Education transfer is the goal

Respectfully submitted,

Rep Melissa Litchfield

House Remote Testify

Education Committee Testify List for Bill HB1218 on 2022-01-11

Support: 4 Oppose: 0 Neutral: 1 Total to Testify: 0

[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>
Reagan, Senator John	Deerfield, NH kathryn.cummings@leg.state.nh.us	An Elected Official	Senate District 17	Support	No	No	1/5/2022 2:38 PM
Ward, Senator Ruth	Stoddard, NH ruth.ward@leg.state.nh.us	An Elected Official	Senate District 8	Support	No	No	1/6/2022 12:08 PM
Murphy, Mackenzie	Merrimack, NH Mackenzie.Murphy18@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/10/2022 10:10 PM
Richardson, Daniel	ashua, NH daniel6_22@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/11/2022 8:57 AM
Scire, Deborah	Concord, NH scire@nhcuc.org	A Member of the Public	Myself	Neutral	No	No	1/11/2022 9:26 AM

Archived: Friday, January 21, 2022 10:03:18 AM

From: Daniel Richardson

Sent: Thursday, January 6, 2022 3:04:52 PM

To: ~House Education Committee

Cc: Rick Ladd; Tom Lanzara; Deborah Hobson; Karen Umberger; Michael Moffett; Glenn Cordelli; James Gray; John Reagan; Ruth Ward

Subject: In Support of HB 1218-FN AN ACT relative to the merger of Granite State college with the university of New,Hampshire.

Importance: Normal

Ref: January 11th 2022 Meeting -

House Education Committee -

I write in support of HB1218. The objectives of merging NH public colleges have been well-publicized in NH. The cost savings of administration consolidation have been advocated by Governor Sununu over the past couple years. It has been wise to incrementally approach this objective. Now, the merging of Granite State into the university system will not only be a cost benefit but also gain needed access to an enriched offering of courses to students in various locations. The remote learning has become an accepted mode of gaining credits which can easily be transferred within a unified university system. This is a major benefit to students far from centers of learning also.

Daniel Richardson, Nashua

Testimony to House Education Committee, Rep Rick Ladd – 1/11/2022
Introducing: HB1218

Existential Threats Facing Higher Education

1. Shrinking enrollment (NH, New England, and Nation)
 - a. K-12 demographic (2003 = 208,000 : 2021 = 169,000 – loss of 39,000)
2. USNH and CCSNH > capital costs (new, renovation, maintenance projects)
3. Operational Expenses verse revenue (margin is extremely tight)
 - a. Over-built campuses
 - b. Labor / benefits
4. Unique student needs

Successes

1. USNH and CCSNH: both systems have adjusted well to COVID
2. Maintained unique missions
3. Nimble and adapting to changing workforce needs and skills
4. System chancellors work cooperatively: joint efficiencies, purchasing, curriculum agreements/ accreditation process

Findings: Study Group for Post-Secondary Education (March 19, 2021 Proposed Merger)

1. Governance
2. Affordability
3. Accessibility
4. Vision for Post-Secondary Education in NH's (strategic planning)
5. Institutional Mission and Vision/ heard from NECHE – NE Commission Higher Ed.
6. Legislature's Role
7. Merger Implementation and Impact
8. Recommendations:
 - a. "...go slow to get it right....to achieve desired results..."
 - b. Work with the Public Higher Education Study Committee

HB1218 (Merger of Granite State College with UNH)

1. Unanimous Recommendation to move forward with HB1218:
 - a. USNH – Trustees
 - b. Public Higher Education Study Committee
2. What does this bill accomplish?
 - a. Builds upon complementary missions of GSC and UNH Manchester that combines strengths to establish a SINGLE, MERGED college within UNH
 - b. Creates a single USBH online learning organization
 - c. Marketing potential across the United States and World (Opportunity for revenue growth)
 - d. Leadership consolidated under President James W. Dean, Jr
 - i. Deans report directly to Provost, UNH (Wayne Jones)
 - e. Students currently in GSC and UNH-M be able to complete degree programs as planned
 - f. Will leverage strengths and resources of both campuses in support of UNH, Keene and PSU
 - g. Expense savings from facilities lease and space utilization
 - h. Enhance shared undergraduate pathways within CCSNH and USNH

Grow market for online learning. upfront investment will be necessary.



House Education Committee

January 11, 2022

HB 1218, relative to the merger of Granite State college with the university of New Hampshire

Testimony of Catherine Provencher, Chief Administrative Officer, USNH
Mike Decelle, Dean, UNH Manchester and Granite State College

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today about the future of the University System.

As members of this committee are aware, the University System has been diligently working to address the many headwinds facing higher education in the Northeast to continue meeting our mission of providing access to affordable, high-quality public higher education for the citizens of New Hampshire. We believe HB 1218 is an important piece of that work and want to share our thanks to Representative Ladd, the members of the Public Higher Education Study Committee and other sponsors of the legislation for their help in developing this careful change to our governing statute.

Currently, Granite State College, a component of the University System, and UNH Manchester, a college of UNH, successfully pursue very similar missions focused largely on professional studies and non-traditional students. Because of these similarities, however, the colleges often compete for students while duplicating resources on instruction, administration, and facilities. Most simply this legislation will allow us to address this duplication through the establishment of a single college of professional studies that we believe will better serve our students while reducing costs across the university system.

We want to emphasize three important points:

- 1) We intended to preserve the name as well as the important identity of Granite State College. As such, enrollment to GSC will remain open access and tuition rates will remain lower than the other programs in the system. We recognize the importance of these principles to our students and partners, including the Community College System and the business community.

- 2) While this bill most directly impacts GSC and UNH, the combined technological infrastructure of these two institutions will be a tremendous asset to Keene State College and Plymouth State University, creating an IT framework that will allow all our campuses to bring their programs online more effectively and broaden our reach.
- 3) We do not anticipate any forced layoffs as a part of this merger.

This proposal was developed by a cross-section of the USNH community, including most notably Granite State College's former president and the current leadership team, GSC alumni trustees and a student trustee, as well as the presidents and leadership teams of UNH, Plymouth State University and Keene State College, and ultimately supported by a unanimous vote of the USNH Board of Trustees. Further, as mentioned earlier, the bill has been recommended and cosponsored by all the members of the joint Public Higher Education Study Committee following a series of meetings last fall.

HB 1218 will allow the university system to better serve our students, and in turn the state, by providing affordable, accessible, aligned, and integrated higher education to any student seeking a degree or credential. It is an important step in a necessary evolution of the university system that we are confident will aid us in strengthening our institutions and preserving their benefits for future generations.

Contact: Cathy Provencher, Chief Administrative Officer, USNH
catherine.provencher@usnh.edu | 603-494-0638

Mike Decelle, Dean, UNH Manchester and Granite State College
mike.decelle@unh.edu | 603-641-4107

HB 1218-FN - AS INTRODUCED

2022 SESSION

22-2153
04/11

HOUSE BILL **1218-FN**

AN ACT relative to the merger of Granite State college with the university of New Hampshire.

SPONSORS: Rep. Ladd, Graf. 4; Rep. Hobson, Rock. 35; Rep. Shaw, Hills. 16; Rep. Umberger, Carr. 2; Rep. Moffett, Merr. 9; Rep. Cordelli, Carr. 4; Rep. Mullen, Hills. 7; Sen. Gray, Dist 6; Sen. D'Allesandro, Dist 20; Sen. Reagan, Dist 17; Sen. Ward, Dist 8; Sen. Kahn, Dist 10

COMMITTEE: Education

ANALYSIS

This bill merges Granite state college into the university of New Hampshire.

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.

HB 1218-FN - AS INTRODUCED

22-2153
04/11

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Two

AN ACT relative to the merger of Granite State college with the university of New Hampshire.

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

1 1 Department of Education; Higher Education Commission. Amend RSA 21-N:8-a, II(a)(1) to
2 read as follows:

3 (1) The president of the university of New Hampshire, the president of Keene state
4 college[,] **and** the president of Plymouth state university[~~—and the president of Granite State~~
5 ~~college~~].

Commented [TC1]: Removes a reference to the president of GSC.

6 2 State College and University System; Components of the University System. Amend RSA
7 187-A:2 to read as follows:

8 187-A:2 Components of the University System. The university system of New Hampshire shall
9 consist of the university of New Hampshire (including the New Hampshire college of agriculture and
10 the mechanic arts and its other colleges, schools and divisions), the Plymouth state university, **and**
11 the Keene state college[~~—and the Granite state college~~].

Commented [TC2]: Reduces the "component institutions" of USNH to three: UNH, PSU, KSC.

12 3 State College and University System; University of New Hampshire Colleges and Schools.
13 Amend RSA 187-A:4 to read as follows:

14 187-A:4 Colleges and Schools. The university shall include a college of engineering and physical
15 sciences, a college of liberal arts, a college of life sciences and agriculture, a school of business and
16 economics, a school of health studies, a college at Manchester, a graduate school, **Granite state**
17 **college**, and may include a school of social work and such other colleges, schools, departments and
18 divisions as are consistent with such organization.

Commented [TC3]: Establishes GSC as a permanent, named college of UNH.

19 4 State College and University System; Other Colleges Within System. Amend the section
20 heading in RSA 187-A:11 to read as follows:

21 187-A:11 Keene State College[,] **and** Plymouth State University[~~—and Granite State College~~].

Commented [TC4]: Removes a reference to GSC as a "component institution."

22 5 State College and University System; Other Colleges Within System. Amend RSA 187-A:11,
23 II-a to read as follows:

24 II-a. Granite state college is established [~~and made a body corporate and politic and~~] **as** a
25 division of the university [~~system~~] of New Hampshire and is authorized to award associate,
26 baccalaureate, and masters degrees.

Commented [TC5]: Repeals GSC's status as an independent division of USNH but temporarily preserves authority to award degrees.

27 6 State College and University System; Trustees of University System. Amend RSA 187-A:13, I
28 to read as follows:

29 I. [~~Eight~~] **Seven** ex-officio members: the governor of the state, the chancellor of the
30 university system, the commissioner of agriculture, markets, and food, the commissioner of

Commented [TC6]: Removes the president of GSC from the USNH BOT.

HB 1218-FN - AS INTRODUCED
- Page 3 -

1 education, the president of the university of New Hampshire, the president of Plymouth state
2 university, **and** the president of Keene state college~~[-the president of the Granite state college].~~

3 7 State College and University System; Authority of the Trustees. Amend the introductory
4 paragraph in RSA 187-A:16 and RSA 187-A:16, I to read as follows:

5 The trustees shall have the management and control of all the property and affairs of the
6 university system of New Hampshire, the university of New Hampshire (including the New
7 Hampshire college of agriculture and the mechanic arts), and all its divisions and departments, the
8 Keene state college, **and** the Plymouth state university~~[-and the Granite state college].~~ They shall
9 not change the name of the Plymouth state university[,] **or** the Keene state college~~[-or the Granite
10 state college]~~ nor shall they cease operating these colleges without legislative authority. It is the
11 intent of the general court that the trustees, when exercising their responsibilities under this
12 chapter, recognize and foster the unique character and educational mission of each institution of the
13 system. To this end, the institutions are to be permitted to operate with the highest measure of
14 autonomy and self-governance, subject to the supervision of the board of trustees. In addition to this
15 general authority, the trustees are authorized to:

16 I. Appoint and fix the compensation of a president of the university of New Hampshire, a
17 president of Keene state college~~[-and a president of Plymouth state university[-and a president of
18 the Granite state college].~~ who shall be the chief academic and administrative officers of their
19 respective institutions. The chief executive officer of each institution shall have the authority for and
20 be responsible for the general administration and supervision of all aspects of the institutional,
21 research and service programs of that institution.

22 8 State College and University System; Public Higher Education Study Committee. Amend
23 RSA 187-A:28-a to read as follows:

24 187-A:28-a Public Higher Education Study Committee. Educational opportunity in New
25 Hampshire must involve all the components of education. The general court acknowledges that
26 education does not start or end at any particular point. There is hereby established a permanent
27 public higher education study committee for the state of New Hampshire. The study committee
28 shall be composed of 8 members and shall examine the goals, purposes, organization, and financing
29 of public higher education in New Hampshire, and shall evaluate and make recommendations on the
30 university of New Hampshire, Plymouth state university, Keene state college, ~~[the Granite state
31 college.]~~ and the community college system of New Hampshire.

32 9 Motor Vehicles; Multi-use Decal Plates. Amend RSA 261-B:9, XII to read as follows:

33 XII. The university system of New Hampshire. ~~[Granite state college.]~~ Keene state college[,]
34 and Plymouth state university are each authorized to issue decals, provided that all proceeds shall
35 remain with the issuing institution and be used only for student scholarships.

36 10 Repeal. RSA 187-A:11, II-a, relative to Granite state college, is repealed.

37 11 Effective Date.

Commented [TC7]: Removes references to GSC property, operations, and the position of president of GSC.

Commented [TC8]: Removes a reference to GSC.

Commented [TC9]: Removes a reference to GSC (note: GSC has never issued decals so this isn't an issue)

Commented [TC10]: Repeals GSC's independent authority to award degrees effective July 1, 2023 (see section 11, effective dates 1).

1
2

- I. Section 10 of this act shall take effect July 1, 2023.
- II. The remainder of this act shall take effect upon its passage.

HB 1218-FN - AS INTRODUCED

2022 SESSION

22-2153

04/11

HOUSE BILL ***1218-FN***

AN ACT relative to the merger of Granite State college with the university of New Hampshire.

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10 the mechanic arts and its other colleges, schools and divisions), the Plymouth state university, **and**
11 the Keene state college[, ~~and the Granite state college~~].

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15 sciences, a college of liberal arts, a college of life sciences and agriculture, a school of business and
16 economics, a school of health studies, a college at Manchester, a graduate school, **Granite state**
17 **college**, and may include a school of social work and such other colleges, schools, departments and
18 divisions as are consistent with such organization.

19 4 State College and University System; Other Colleges Within System. Amend the section
20 heading in RSA 187-A:11 to read as follows:

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25 division of the university [system] of New Hampshire and is authorized to award associate,
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27 6 State College and University System; Trustees of University System. Amend RSA 187-A:13, I
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HB 1218-FN - AS INTRODUCED

- Page 2 -

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7 Hampshire college of agriculture and the mechanic arts), and all its divisions and departments, the
8 Keene state college, **and** the Plymouth state university~~], and the Granite state college].~~ They shall
9 not change the name of the Plymouth state university~~], or the Keene state college], or the Granite~~
10 ~~state college]~~ nor shall they cease operating these colleges without legislative authority. It is the
11 intent of the general court that the trustees, when exercising their responsibilities under this
12 chapter, recognize and foster the unique character and educational mission of each institution of the
13 system. To this end, the institutions are to be permitted to operate with the highest measure of
14 autonomy and self-governance, subject to the supervision of the board of trustees. In addition to this
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18 ~~the Granite state college],~~ who shall be the chief academic and administrative officers of their
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27 public higher education study committee for the state of New Hampshire. The study committee
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30 university of New Hampshire, Plymouth state university, Keene state college, ~~the Granite state~~
31 ~~college],~~ and the community college system of New Hampshire.

32 9 Motor Vehicles; Multi-use Decal Plates. Amend RSA 261-B:9, XII to read as follows:

33 XII. The university system of New Hampshire. ~~Granite state college],~~ Keene state college~~],~~
34 and Plymouth state university are each authorized to issue decals, provided that all proceeds shall
35 remain with the issuing institution and be used only for student scholarships.

36 10 Repeal. RSA 187-A:11, II-a, relative to Granite state college, is repealed.

37 11 Effective Date.

HB 1218-FN - AS INTRODUCED

- Page 3 -

- 1 I. Section 10 of this act shall take effect July 1, 2023.
- 2 II. The remainder of this act shall take effect upon its passage.

**HB 1218-FN- FISCAL NOTE
AS INTRODUCED**

AN ACT relative to the merger of Granite State college with the university of New Hampshire.

FISCAL IMPACT: State County Local None

STATE:	Estimated Increase / (Decrease)			
	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
Appropriation	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Revenue	\$0	\$0	Indeterminable	Indeterminable
Expenditures	Indeterminable	Indeterminable	Indeterminable	Indeterminable
Funding Source:	<input type="checkbox"/> General <input type="checkbox"/> Education <input type="checkbox"/> Highway <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other - University System of New Hampshire			

METHODOLOGY:

This bill establishes Granite State College (GSC) as a division within the University of New Hampshire (UNH) and would amend other relevant statutes to reflect attendant administrative and governance changes. The repeal of RSA 187-A:11, II-a, specifically, which establishes GSC as “a body corporate and politic,” would be effective July 1, 2023, with the remainder of the act effective upon passage. The fiscal impact on University System of New Hampshire (System) operations is indeterminable as a number of workstreams are being addressed concurrently (e.g., online delivery, accreditation, facilities, programming, etc.). The System states increases to its operating expense to migrate and align GSC and UNH systems are expected in the short term, and savings and added revenue are expected in the long term with the consolidation of duplicative resources and programs and growth in online offerings once fully integrated. Some level of “full integration” is expected by FY 2024, when GSC will no longer offer degrees on its own.

AGENCIES CONTACTED:

University System of New Hampshire