

HB 421 - AS INTRODUCED

2023 SESSION

23-0286

04/08

HOUSE BILL **421**

AN ACT requiring feminine hygiene products to be provided to prisoners who menstruate in state and county correctional facilities.

SPONSORS: Rep. Read, Rock. 10; Rep. A. Murray, Hills. 20; Rep. Cam. Kenney, Straf. 10; Rep. Popovici-Muller, Rock. 17; Sen. Perkins Kwoka, Dist 21; Sen. Altschiller, Dist 24

COMMITTEE: Criminal Justice and Public Safety

ANALYSIS

This bill requires the feminine hygiene products be provided at no cost to all people who menstruate in the custody of the state or the county.

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Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

Rep. Read, Rock. 10
Rep. Rhodes, Ches. 17
Rep. N. Murphy, Hills. 12
Rep. Bouldin, Hills. 25
Rep. Newell, Ches. 4
February 9, 2023
2023-0450h
08/07

Amendment to HB 421

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

2

3 AN ACT requiring menstrual hygiene products to be provided to prisoners who menstruate in
4 state and county correctional facilities.
5

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

7

8 1 New Subdivision; County Departments of Correction; Care and Custody of Prisoners Who
9 Menstruate. Amend RSA 30-B by inserting after section 26 the following new subdivision:

10 Care and Custody of Prisoners Who Menstruate

11 30-B:27 Provision of Menstrual Hygiene Products. The superintendent of each county
12 correctional facility shall provide menstrual hygiene products to all people who menstruate in the
13 custody of the county in adequate amounts as necessary and at no cost to such person. The
14 incarcerated person shall be provided a choice of standard issue menstrual hygiene products to
15 include, and in such a manner that meets any immediate needs, at a minimum, pads, tampons, and
16 pantyliners of varying strengths necessary for their menstrual needs. The number and type of
17 menstrual hygiene products kept in an incarcerated person's cell shall not be excessive so as not to
18 create safety or security issues and shall only be used for the intended purpose. In this section,
19 "menstrual hygiene products" shall mean any product designed to address menstruation. Upon
20 intake, undergarments shall be provided in new condition. Any items provided by the county to
21 incarcerated persons that are impacted by menstruation shall be provided in an adequate number,
22 unstained, and sanitized before being provided to another incarcerated person.

23 2 New Section; Care and Custody of Female Convicts; Provision of Menstrual Hygiene Products.
24 Amend RSA 622 by inserting after section 37 the following new section:

25 622:37-a Provision of Menstrual Hygiene Products. The commissioner shall provide menstrual
26 hygiene products to all people who menstruate in the custody of the state in adequate amounts as
27 necessary and at no cost to such person. The incarcerated person shall be provided a choice of
28 standard issue menstrual hygiene products to include, and in such a manner that meets any
29 immediate needs, at a minimum, pads, tampons and pantyliners of varying strengths necessary for
30 their menstrual needs. The number and type of menstrual hygiene products kept in an incarcerated

Amendment to HB 421

- Page 2 -

1 person's cell shall not be excessive so as not to create safety or security issues and shall only be used
2 for the intended purpose. In this section, "menstrual hygiene products" shall mean any product
3 designed to address menstruation. Upon intake, undergarments shall be provided in new condition.
4 Any items provided by the state to incarcerated persons that are impacted by menstruation shall be
5 provided in an adequate number, unstained, and sanitized before being provided to another
6 incarcerated person.

7 3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

CONSENT CALENDAR

February 24, 2023

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

**The Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety
to which was referred HB 421,**

**AN ACT requiring feminine hygiene products to be
provided to prisoners who menstruate in state and
county correctional facilities. Having considered the
same, report the same with the following amendment,
and the recommendation that the bill OUGHT TO PASS
WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Jennifer Rhodes

FOR THE COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee:	Criminal Justice and Public Safety
Bill Number:	HB 421
Title:	requiring feminine hygiene products to be provided to prisoners who menstruate in state and county correctional facilities.
Date:	February 24, 2023
Consent Calendar:	CONSENT
Recommendation:	OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT 2023-0450h

STATEMENT OF INTENT

The committee after hearing initial testimony on the need for this bill, formed a subcommittee to perform an in-depth study of the issue. The subcommittee determined that while the current practice at institutions under the control of the Commissioner of Corrections were providing adequate feminine hygiene products, and new unsoiled undergarments to female inmates, the same could not be said of all of the county institutions. The subcommittee heard from advocates that some female inmates were given used, blood stained underwear, and due to not being given an adequate supply or properly sized hygiene products, were sometimes forced to use toilet paper and other ineffective and unsanitary methods to deal with their menstruation. This bill as amended, will require all county and state correctional facilities to provide menstruation hygiene products to all female inmates that menstruate, at no cost to the inmate. Additionally, it requires that the facility must provide a new set of clothing at intake. It also will allow for inmates to have an adequate supply of appropriately sized hygiene products in their cell. The Commissioner of Corrections and county officials were consulted and were confident this legislation, when enacted, will be an effective and positive change. It was determined that this will not be an unfunded mandate, as this problem is caused more by procedural failures than a lack of funding. The committee is thankful to the Representative for bringing this legislation forward.

Vote 20-0.

Rep. Jennifer Rhodes
FOR THE COMMITTEE

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

CONSENT CALENDAR

Criminal Justice and Public Safety

HB 421, requiring feminine hygiene products to be provided to prisoners who menstruate in state and county correctional facilities. **OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.**

Rep. Jennifer Rhodes for Criminal Justice and Public Safety. The committee after hearing initial testimony on the need for this bill, formed a subcommittee to perform an in-depth study of the issue. The subcommittee determined that while the current practice at institutions under the control of the Commissioner of Corrections were providing adequate feminine hygiene products, and new unsoiled undergarments to female inmates, the same could not be said of all of the county institutions. The subcommittee heard from advocates that some female inmates were given used, blood stained underwear, and due to not being given an adequate supply or properly sized hygiene products, were sometimes forced to use toilet paper and other ineffective and unsanitary methods to deal with their menstruation. This bill as amended, will require all county and state correctional facilities to provide menstruation hygiene products to all female inmates that menstruate, at no cost to the inmate. Additionally, it requires that the facility must provide a new set of clothing at intake. It also will allow for inmates to have an adequate supply of appropriately sized hygiene products in their cell. The Commissioner of Corrections and county officials were consulted and were confident this legislation, when enacted, will be an effective and positive change. It was determined that this will not be an unfunded mandate, as this problem is caused more by procedural failures than a lack of funding. The committee is thankful to the Representative for bringing this legislation forward.

Vote 20-0.

Original: House Clerk

Cc: Committee Bill File

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

PUBLIC HEARING ON HB 421

BILL TITLE: (Second New Title) relative to providing menstrual hygiene products at no cost to individuals who biologically menstruate in state and county correctional facilities.

DATE: January 20, 2023

LOB ROOM: 202-204 **Time Public Hearing Called to Order:** 11:30 a.m.

Time Adjourned: 12:31 p.m.

Committee Members: Reps. Roy, Rhodes, A. Murray, Pratt, Sytek, Proulx, Janvrin, D. Mannion, Reid, Stone, Tenczar, Harriott-Gathright, Meuse, Bouldin, Bradley, N. Murphy, R. Newman, Newell, Selig and Wheeler

Bill Sponsors:

Rep. Read

Rep. A. Murray

Rep. Kenney

Rep. Popovici-Muller

Sen. Perkins Kwoka

Sen. Altschiller

TESTIMONY

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

Rep Ellen Read introduces her bill

- Bill would codify what is already a constitutional requirement. When we incarcerate an individual it becomes the responsibility of the government to care for their basic health and hygiene, including menstrual products. When women who are incarcerated aren't provided with these products they are forced to use unhygienic materials such as paper or socks to attempt to manage their periods. This can lead to health issues, or shame that keeps them from participating in already limited social or recreational activities. There is no fiscal note for this bill because for the most part prisons are providing these products but perhaps not with the urgency or accessibility they should be. Bills with similar language have already been passed in 15 other states. This bill would allow more avenues for legal action for inmates who are not having their needs met.
- Chairman Roy asks Rep Read to speak to the possible health implications of not being able to access these products. Rep Read shares that infections of various types can easily occur if they do not receive any or the wrong products. Toxic shock syndrome can also occur. Follow up from the Chair asking if there is a specific institution where this is an issue that prompted this bill, Rep Read shares that Carroll County jail has had at least once instance where this was an issue, the state correctional facilities seem to handle this issue more adequately.
- Rep Meuse asks if the bill language adequately addresses that women may need different products and that the products they require should be provided, Rep Read is happy to make language changes to clarify.

Rep Daniel Popovic, co-sponsor

- This bill clarifies where the obligation lies and makes it easier for inmates to gain access to resources and will decrease legal risks for the state. Language of “adequate products” allows for as few or many products as needed, as well as avoiding products that are not safe for a prison and could be manipulated into weapons or other contraband.

Reilly Roedel, high school senior from Hollis NH

- In support of bill
- Member of an organization that seeks to eradicate period poverty. Advocates for human dignity and that periods are not a luxury and shouldn't be treated as such. The health impacts need to be taken seriously.
- Chairman Roy requests her testimony become part of the permanent record.

Kristie Torbick, National Council of Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Women & Girls

- Supports the bill, and comes to share testimony from women formerly incarcerated in NH county jails
- Belknap County Jail provided used underwear stained with blood to inmates. Carroll County Jail provided no tampons and used underwear stained with urine and blood. Women's prison sheets were also stained with urine and blood. Lending and borrowing personal items is an offense. Cheshire County Jail has unreliable tampon distribution, and distributes used underwear, bras, and socks. Grafton County Jail also issued stained underwear. Merrimack County Jail distributes limited amount of tampons and inmates have to pay if more are needed. Three pairs of underwear per inmate, laundry services offered twice a week. Washing clothes in the sink and not wearing underwear are both offenses.
- Rep Selig asks if it's possible this will just lead to underwear with extra lining being handed out
- Rep Meuse asks if simply the access to purchase more products is the loophole correctional facilities are using to avoid providing adequate products, Torbick said it can be
- Rep Newell asks if the number of distributed tampons isn't based on an individual's personal health needs then what is it based on? Torbick is unsure
- Rep Murphy suggests adding “adequate amounts and types” to the bill language
- Rep Proulx says after hearing testimony that perhaps we need to expand on the bill to include underwear and sheets
- Rep Sue Newman asks if the purchase price for products is reasonable, Kim says no it is all overpriced.
- Vice Chair Rhodes asks if visitors are allowed to bring these products to inmates, Kim says no

Rep Jess Edwards

- Concerned about lack of fiscal note. Article 28-A says we shall not issue unfounded mandates as a legislature. Believes the state must fund this as he is on the Finance

committee and has seen the impacts of similar policies regarding menstrual products in schools.

- Chairman Roy says the bill will be sent to fiscal to address financial concerns if passed as a mandate
- Rep Selig asks if it is the opinion of Rep Edwards that period products are not medically necessary. Rep Edwards assures that he does he is just concerned how we will pay for it, shares that as a commander in the military he always did his best as to ensure the women he commanded had the materials they needed even in hostile situations
- Chairman Roy asks Rep Edwards to make clear his role in the State House, Rep Edwards shares he is chair of Finance III which funds health & human services and has worked a lifetime in healthcare across the field, though never as a provider
- Rep Bouldin asks if this is a 28-A issue if the constitutional obligation to provide menstrual products already exists, Rep Edwards says he is not an attorney and unsure but the scope of the bill is large and could include LBA audit

Jane Graham and Commissioner Helen Hanks, Department of Corrections

- DoC supports this legislation. 136 incarcerated women between the NH Women's Correctional Facility and Shea Farm Transitional Housing Unit
- 15 products are handed out initially but inmates are able to request more. 2 types of pads, 2 types of tampons, and panty shields are available. DoC is able to purchase if inmates want other specific products.
- Chairman Roy asks about the policy regarding underwear. At the prison, inmates are issued 3 pairs of new underwear, Commissioner Hanks is not sure about county jails. Laundry service is twice a week. Sheets that are stained and unable to be cleaned would get disposed of. Products are not limited in distribution, just in how many an inmate can have at one time. Signing this legislation would not impact the DoC budget.
- Rep Newell asks if there is accountability for people who don't abide by the policy, Commissioner Hanks says that it doesn't happen at the DoC and because this isn't a part of the law they can't go from county to county checking their standards
- Rep Rhodes asks if toxic shock syndrome could be considered dangerous in the facility and should the language be amended to "products of their choosing", Commissioner Hanks says yes it is dangerous but there is a medical team on hand to assist in those situations
- Rep Bouldin asks for an explanation between state and county facilities and which are under Hanks' control as commissioner. County jail is for one year or less misdemeanor crimes or pretrial holding before court, DoC facility is for felonies one year or more. County jails are not under the purview of the DoC.
- Rep Newman asks if underwear is tracked and returned to each inmate or randomly washed and returned, commissioner says yes they are tracked. Each item is labeled and returned in a bag to each inmate.

- Rep Sytek states that we should be hearing from the county jails and the DoC does not seem at fault here
- Rep Selig asks if “diva cups” or period underwear are allowed, Commissioner says pads and tampons are preferred and diva cups are not allowed. When holding quarterly check in with residents no one has requested them or complained about the policy as it stands
- Rep Meuse asks if this law isn’t passed could a future commissioner roll back the current policies, Commissioner says in theory but the policy has existed for years before her and will continue to exist after her as it is part of a national standard
- Rep Bouldin asks if any transferred inmates from county jails have complained of not having their menstrual needs met, Commissioner says no

Subcommittee assigned to further study this bill: Rep Rhodes will chair and be joined by Reps Newell, Bouldin, Selig, and Murphy

Committee recessed until 1:30

Respectfully submitted,

Rep. Alissandra Murray, Clerk

House Remote Testify

Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee Testify List for Bill HB421 on 2023-01-20

Support: 94 Oppose: 0 Neutral: 0 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>
Perkins Kwoka, Senator Rebecca	Portsmouth, NH rebecca.perkinskwoka@leg.state.nh.us	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	No	1/13/2023 10:50 AM
Smith, Hayden	Hanover, NH hasmith1520@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/14/2023 2:23 AM
Morrison, Carol	W. Lebanon, NH carol.r.morrison917@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/14/2023 10:42 AM
bory, lee	nashua, NH leebory@Juno.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/14/2023 11:56 AM
Morse, Elizabeth	Plainfield, NH betsybmorse@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/14/2023 12:00 PM
Desmarais, Doreen	Northwood, NH doreend@netzero.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/14/2023 12:22 PM
Keegan, John	Boscawen, NH peoresnada@tds.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/14/2023 12:32 PM
Istel, Claudia	Acworth, NH cistel79@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/15/2023 12:11 AM
Casino, Joanne	Concord, NH joannecasino@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/15/2023 9:29 AM
Holstein, Susanne	Bedford, NH srholstein@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/15/2023 1:59 PM
Perencevich, Ruth	Concord, NH rperence@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/15/2023 9:35 PM
Lincoln, Mary	Manchester, NH mary.lincoln52@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/16/2023 6:33 AM
Podlipny, Ann	chester, NH apodlipny57@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/16/2023 7:00 AM

Hackmann, Kent	Andover, NH hackmann@uidaho.edu	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/16/2023 11:51 AM
Benham, Linda	Greenland, NH benhamblab@outlook.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/16/2023 12:04 PM
Anastasia, Patricia	Londonderry, NH patti.anastasia@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/16/2023 1:59 PM
Ropp, Elizabeth	Manchester, NH arunareiki@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/16/2023 3:40 PM
Spielman, Kathy Sue	Durham, NH jspielman@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/16/2023 3:42 PM
Torpey, Jeanne	Concord, NH jtorp51@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/16/2023 3:48 PM
Geary, Fiona	Atkinson, NH fionamaegeary@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/16/2023 4:46 PM
Richman, Susan	Durham, NH susan7richman@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/16/2023 7:37 PM
Hansen, Lorraine	ROLLINSFORD, NH lhansennh@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/16/2023 8:38 PM
Rasmussen, Kyle	Brookline, NH kyle_rasmussen@icloud.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/16/2023 9:02 PM
Rasmussen, Elissa	Brookline, NH elissa@evanshatz.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/16/2023 9:08 PM
Racusin, Sharon	Hanover, NH sdracusin@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/16/2023 9:32 PM
Sellarole, Jana	Walpole, NH jgsellarole@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/17/2023 8:43 AM
Newton, Jay	Gilford, NH jjnewt@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/17/2023 9:35 AM
Newton, Carolyn	Gilford, NH lynnnewton7@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/17/2023 10:18 AM
Kaw-uh, Bryce	Manchester, NH bryce.kawuh@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/17/2023 11:12 AM
QUISUMBING-KING, Cora	Dover, NH coraq@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/17/2023 12:09 PM
Cote, Lois	Manchester, NH lcote06@outlook.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/17/2023 12:56 PM

Hatcher, Phil	Dover, NH phil.hatcher@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/17/2023 1:25 PM
Benevides, Eric	Gilford, NH ericbenevides@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/17/2023 2:00 PM
Trought, Elizabeth A	Dorchester, NH batrought@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/17/2023 2:22 PM
LeClerc, Dan	Amherst, NH djl91862@gmail.com	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	No	1/17/2023 3:08 PM
Till, Mary	Concord, NH maryforderry@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/17/2023 3:33 PM
Moore, Susan	Franconia, NH susan.moore.franconia@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/17/2023 3:38 PM
Short, Raymond	Hooksett, NH rayshort910@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/17/2023 3:48 PM
King, Jordan	Milford, NH Jordan.king@outlook.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/17/2023 7:00 PM
Applewhite, Jordan	Sugar Hill, NH jordan.applewhite@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/17/2023 7:05 PM
Cabrera, Rho	Manchester, NH rho@nhyoutmovement.org	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/17/2023 7:07 PM
PEGUERO, JAMILA	Manchester, NH jamila.peguero@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/17/2023 7:22 PM
Huggins, Dallas	Nottingham, NH dallas.a.huggins@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/17/2023 8:13 PM
THOMPSON, LAURA	CHESTER, NH nicnmom@hotmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/17/2023 8:29 PM
Van Camp, Jonathan	MANCHESTER, NH jvancamp515@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/17/2023 9:17 PM
O'Neill, Jaime	MANCHESTER, NH oneillje07@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/17/2023 9:23 PM
Eltringham, Daniel	Dover, NH daneltringham@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/17/2023 9:44 PM
Demers, Haley	Portsmouth, NH hmdemers@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/17/2023 9:45 PM
Boudreau, Chandra	Exeter, NH cboudreau42@aol.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/17/2023 9:47 PM

Spencer, Rob	Concord, NH rfspencer@aol.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/17/2023 10:45 PM
Spencer, Louise	Concord, NH lpskentsstreet@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/17/2023 10:45 PM
Jones, Madeline	Manchester, NH Madeline.Elizabeth.jones@gmail.9	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/17/2023 11:13 PM
Morton, Jennifer	Amherst, NH jenn@mortonfornh.com	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	No	1/18/2023 12:04 AM
Fogarty, Maggie	Dover, NH mfogarty@afsc.org	A Lobbyist	American Friends Service Committee - NH Program	Support	No	No	1/18/2023 12:20 AM
Spier, Carry	Nashua, NH carry.spier@leg.state.nh.us	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	No	1/18/2023 6:32 AM
Koch, Laurie	Concord, NH kochlj@aol.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/18/2023 9:26 AM
Frost, Sherry	Dover, NH sherryfrost626@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/18/2023 9:46 AM
Murray, Grace	Amherst, NH graceelysemurray@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/18/2023 9:49 AM
Cilley Foisy, Michelle	Temple, NH michelle.cilley@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/18/2023 10:02 AM
Parshall, Lucius	Marlborough, NH lucius.parshall@leg.state.nh.us	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	No	1/18/2023 10:06 AM
M Clark, Denise	Milford, NH denise.m.clark03055@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/18/2023 10:34 AM
Hamer, Heidi	Manchester, NH heidi.hamer@leg.state.nh.us	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	No	1/18/2023 11:23 AM
Hamer, Gary	Manchester, NH grhamer@aol.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/18/2023 11:25 AM
Lister, Charlotte	Chester, NH lister@gsinet.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/18/2023 11:51 AM
Richardson, Daniel	Nashua, NH daniel6_22@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/18/2023 12:51 PM
Hallock, Linda	Cornish, NH LINDASH@MAIL.COM	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/18/2023 1:48 PM
Sajeev, Narayan	Nashua, NH narayansajeev1@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/18/2023 3:52 PM

Lane, Connie	Concord, NH connie.lane@leg.state.nh.us	An Elected Official	Myself and my constituents	Support	No	No	1/18/2023 6:27 PM
Koch, Helmut	Gilmanton, NH helmut.koch.2001@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/18/2023 8:10 PM
Masters, Katie	Littleton, NH katiemasters@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/18/2023 8:38 PM
FRIEDRICH, ED	Loudon, NH erfriedrich@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/19/2023 8:00 AM
Roesener, James	Concord, NH james.roesener@leg.state.nh.us	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	No	1/19/2023 8:40 AM
MacGregor, Leslie	Grantham, NH lsmacgregor@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/19/2023 8:50 AM
st.martin, tom	andia, NH nomad@adaptivetechnology.biz	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/19/2023 9:29 AM
McManus, Erin	Concord, NH ecmcmanus@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/19/2023 9:58 AM
Choate, Kerri	Rollinsford, NH klf.choate@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/19/2023 10:01 AM
Kremer, Ben	Newmarket, NH bckremer1@sbcglobal.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/19/2023 10:23 AM
Brackett, JB	Manchester, NH jb.brackett7@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/19/2023 10:26 AM
Reed, Courtney	Concord, NH courtney@aclu-nh.org	A Lobbyist	The ACLU of New Hampshire	Support	No	Yes	1/19/2023 11:18 AM
Altschiller, Senator Debra	SD24, NH kevin.condict@leg.state.nh.us	An Elected Official	SD24	Support	No	No	1/19/2023 1:07 PM
Connelly, Teagan	Plymouth, NH teagansheax@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/19/2023 5:06 PM
Gage, Elizabeth	Cornish, NH lizgagenh@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/19/2023 5:29 PM
Gero, Lacey	New Haven, CT lacey@diaperbanknetwork.org	A Lobbyist	Alliance for Period Supplies	Support	No	No	1/19/2023 6:17 PM
Mott-Smith, Wiltrud	Loudon, NH wmottsm@worldpath.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/19/2023 7:02 PM
Davidson, Geri	Nashua, NH geridavidson15@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/19/2023 7:58 PM

Kindeke, Grace	Manchester, NH gkindeke@afsc.org	A Lobbyist	American Friends Service Committee	Support	No	No	1/20/2023 8:34 AM
Monteil, Renée	Keene, NH reneemonteil@gmail.com	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	No	1/20/2023 10:34 AM
LaMontagne, Jessica	Dover, NH finnlamontagne@gmail.com	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	No	1/20/2023 1:25 PM
Reardon, Donna	Concord, NH bugs42953@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/20/2023 8:17 PM
Davidson, Geri	Nashua, NH geridavidson15@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/6/2023 5:40 PM
Perkins Kwoka, Senator Rebecca	Portsmouth, NH rebecca.perkinskwoke@leg.state.nh.us	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	No	2/7/2023 9:01 AM
Milligan, Meredith	Concord, NH meredith.n.milligan@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/9/2023 8:04 AM
Altschiller, Senator Debra	SD24, NH kevin.conduct@leg.state.nh.us	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	No	2/9/2023 1:05 PM
Boudman, Roberta	Wolfeboro, NH boudwoman2@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/9/2023 11:06 PM

HB 421

My name is Reilly Roedel and I am a high school senior from Hollis, NH. I am here today to testify on behalf of HB 421, which would require that period products are provided in state and county correctional facilities to prisoners who menstruate.

When menstruators do not have adequate access to period products, they are forced to use products longer than intended or attempt to make products using materials that are available to them. In addition to being unsanitary, this poses several physical health risks, including toxic shock syndrome, infections, sepsis all of which can ultimately lead to infertility. Lack of access to period products have been linked to mental health issues as well. Period poverty is associated with increased rates of anxiety and depression.

Period poverty is the limited or inadequate access to menstrual products that can affect people who menstruate in any walk of life. Ensuring that it does not affect more vulnerable segments of our population who cannot necessarily advocate for themselves is part of our civic duty.

Kimberly Haven, a reproductive justice advocate, reports that during her time in jail, she witnessed women declining visits with their families and with their attorneys because they did not have access to adequate menstrual products while on their periods.

Ultimately, this conversation comes down to one of human dignity. Each one of us deserves to be able to manage bodily functions adequately, including those who are in prison. For nearly half of the population, this includes proper access to menstrual products. No one should be forced to risk toxic shock syndrome, sepsis, infection, or infertility to manage a natural bodily function.

Periods are not a luxury, and the products that are necessary to manage them are not luxury items. They should be provided along with all other necessary hygiene items, such as toilet paper, to those in state or county custody that require them.

I would like to thank Representatives Read, Murray, Kenney, and Muller and Senators Kwoka and Altschiller for sponsoring this bill. New Hampshire has been at the forefront of menstrual equity legislation for a few years now. As many of you may know, in 2019, New Hampshire was the third state to require period products in public middle and high schools by law. I encourage all of you to support this essential piece of legislation and continue to serve and protect the dignity of those who menstruate.



January 19, 2023

The Honorable Terry Roy
Chair of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety
The General Court of New Hampshire
107 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301

Re: HB 421– SUPPORT

Dear Representative Roy,

The Alliance for Period Supplies is proud to support HB 421 (Representative Ellen Read), which would increase access to menstrual products in correctional facilities.

The Alliance for Period Supplies is a nonprofit organization comprised of over 120 independent community-based organizations across 37 states and Washington, D.C. that collect, warehouse, and distribute period products to those in need.

The provision of menstrual supplies is vital for ensuring the rights, health and full participation in rehabilitative programming of all incarcerated people.

States have a legal and moral obligation to protect jail and prison populations from abuse and exploitation. A menstruating person without access to necessary products is extremely vulnerable. Writer and activist Chandra Bozelko described in *The New York Times* how correctional officers in the Connecticut prison where she was incarcerated would withhold period supplies to manipulate women. “You start to hate your body,” Ms. Bozelko wrote. This is an issue of growing concern as the female proportion of jail and prison populations grows nationally.

Poor access to menstrual products can damage health, through emotional duress, physical infection and disease. With approximately 80% of the female incarcerated population under the age of 50 nationally, the need for these basic material necessities is great. Additionally, populations at high risk of entering the carceral system also face increased risk of gynecological conditions associated with irregular and heavy menses. For example, polycystic ovary syndrome is more common among Black women and women who grew up in poverty. These disparities highlight the need for access to period supplies and to gynecological care in prisons.



In the community, one in three low-income women reports missing school, work or another opportunity because she did not have the products she needed to manage her period. This can also serve as a barrier to the pro-social activities that are encouraged in correctional facilities. We urge the legislature to consider how this simple measure might affect release dates and even recidivism by ensuring that all incarcerated people have access to vital programming.

HB 421 is a critical step toward removing barriers to equity for all incarcerated people who menstruate. The Alliance for Period Supplies asks for your signature on this important legislation that would support the rehabilitation and well-being of people incarcerated in New Hampshire.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Gaines

Director, Alliance for Period Supplies

Doreen Desmarais

I support providing feminine hygiene products to prisoners who menstruate.

Jay Newton

We definitely need to provide feminine hygiene product to those who menstruate. It's a bodily function, you have toilets and toilet paper, right? We all know that in most cases it's not the ultra-privileged that commit crimes (well, they do too, but most often do not go to jail). Give these women a break! What else can you do to make these people feel valued for the first time in their lives?

Bryce Kaw-uh

Dan LeClerc

Feminine hygiene products need to be provided to menstruating prisoners in state and county correctional facilities because it would be unsanitary and unsafe to everyone in the facility.

Lucius Parshall

Daniel Richardson

Wiltrud Mott-Smith

Providing for feminine needs is just basic hygiene and human decency!

Renée Monteil

Dear Honorable Members of the Criminal Justice Committee, My name is Renee Monteil. I represent Cheshire 15, encompassing Keene, Surry, Westmoreland, Chesterfield, and Hinsdale. I am writing today in support of HB 421 requiring feminine hygiene products to be provided to prisoners who menstruate in state and county correctional facilities.

I am a birth doula and a reproductive health educator with a full understanding of the physiology and anatomy of the reproductive system including fertility and menstruation. I have run menstrual product drives for our local shelter because I am very much aware of what can happen to women's health if they do not have the adequate care and proper items for menstruation. There are serious health risks as people start to use whatever may be handy or start to fashion something to absorb the bleeding. Whether it's dirty cloth or even toilet paper, such risks include, yet are not limited to, toxic shock syndrome, multiple infections, infertility, and even hysterectomy.

There is a widespread lack of access to menstrual products in correctional facilities and or not a given. Menstrual products are often limited and restricted. Incarcerated individuals report receiving limited amount of products regardless of actual need. Also such products are of poor quality rendering them almost unusable and one would not procure these products outside of being incarcerated.

Menstrual products are categorically a medical necessity and should never be considered a luxury item. Incarcerated people need to have a quantity that meets their needs as well as products that meet industry standards. This is not just an issue of dignity but one of real medical concern. Myself and the vast majority of my constituents support this bill. I would like to thank the sponsors of this bill and I urge you to pass it. Respectfully, Renee Monteil
NH State Representative

Jessica LaMontagne

This seems like the minimum needed to allow for decency and dignity of our female inmates.

Donna Reardon

Please support this bill. Women in state and correctional facilities need feminine hygiene products to be provided to meet their health and emotional needs in order to become productive and successful.



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE HOUSE CLERK

2023 SESSION

1/10/2023 9:55:43 AM
Roll Call Committee Registers
Report

Criminal Justice and Public Safety

Bill #: 421 Motion: OTB AM #: _____ Exec Session Date: 2/24/23

Members	YEAS	Nays	NV
Roy, Terry Chairman	20		
Rhodes, Jennifer M. Vice Chairman	1		
Pratt, Kevin M.	2		
Sytek, John	3		
Proulx, Mark L.	4		
Janvrin, Jason A.	5		
Mannion, Dennis	6		
Reid, Karen A	7		
Stone, Jonathan F.	8		
Tenczar, Jeffrey	9		
Harriott-Gathright, Linda C.	10		
Meuse, David	11		
Bouldin, Amanda C.	12		
Bradley, Amy Clerk	13		
Murphy, Nancy A.	14		
Newman, Ray E.	15		
Murray, Alissandra	16		
Newell, Jodi K	17		
Selig, Loren	18		
Wheeler, Jonah O	19		
TOTAL VOTE:	20	0	



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE HOUSE CLERK

2023 SESSION

1/10/2023 9:55:43 AM
Roll Call Committee Registers
Report

Criminal Justice and Public Safety

Bill #: 421 Motion: adoption AM #: 0450N Exec Session Date: 2/24/23

<u>Members</u>	<u>YEAS</u>	<u>Nays</u>	<u>NV</u>
Roy, Terry Chairman	20		
Rhodes, Jennifer M. Vice Chairman	1		
Pratt, Kevin M.	2		
Sytek, John Lynn	3		
Proulx, Mark L.	4		
Janvrin, Jason A.	5		
Mannion, Dennis	6		
Reid, Karen A	7		
Stone, Jonathan F.	8		
Tenczar, Jeffrey	9		
Harriott-Gathright, Linda C.	10		
Meuse, David	11		
Bouldin, Amanda C.	12		
Bradley, Amy Clerk	13		
Murphy, Nancy A.	14		
Newman, Ray E.	15		
Murray, Alissandra	16		
Newell, Jodi K	17		
Selig, Lorea- Brennan	18		
Wheeler, Jonah O	19		
TOTAL VOTE:	20	0	