

# CONSENT CALENDAR

May 9, 2023

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

### REPORT OF COMMITTEE

**The Committee on Environment and Agriculture to which was referred SB 162,**

**AN ACT relative to exemptions from rabies vaccinations for dogs, cats, and ferrets. Having considered the same, report the same with the recommendation that the bill OUGHT TO PASS.**

**Rep. Sherry Dutzy**

**FOR THE COMMITTEE**

## **COMMITTEE REPORT**

Committee:	<b>Environment and Agriculture</b>
Bill Number:	<b>SB 162</b>
Title:	<b>relative to exemptions from rabies vaccinations for dogs, cats, and ferrets.</b>
Date:	<b>May 9, 2023</b>
Consent Calendar:	<b>CONSENT</b>
Recommendation:	<b>OUGHT TO PASS</b>

### **STATEMENT OF INTENT**

Some animals have a severe reaction to the rabies vaccine, possibly even causing death. For those cases, this bill simplifies the process for exempting dogs, cats, and ferrets from receiving the rabies vaccination. Currently, owners of such animals must annually complete a form signed by their veterinarian, a second veterinarian who is an Internal Medicine Diplomate, and the State Veterinarian. It is a time-consuming and costly process. After the first exemption is received through the current process, this bill allows for subsequent exemptions only to be certified by a veterinarian.

Vote 18-1.

Rep. Sherry Dutzy  
FOR THE COMMITTEE

Original: House Clerk  
Cc: Committee Bill File

## CONSENT CALENDAR

Environment and Agriculture

**SB 162**, relative to exemptions from rabies vaccinations for dogs, cats, and ferrets. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Sherry Dutzy for Environment and Agriculture. Some animals have a severe reaction to the rabies vaccine, possibly even causing death. For those cases, this bill simplifies the process for exempting dogs, cats, and ferrets from receiving the rabies vaccination. Currently, owners of such animals must annually complete a form signed by their veterinarian, a second veterinarian who is an Internal Medicine Diplomate, and the State Veterinarian. It is a time-consuming and costly process. After the first exemption is received through the current process, this bill allows for subsequent exemptions only to be certified by a veterinarian. **Vote 18-1.**

Original: House Clerk

Cc: Committee Bill File



# House Remote Testify

## Environment and Agriculture Committee Testify List for Bill SB162 on 2023-04-25

Support: 4 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>
Howland, Curtis	Manchester, NH howland@priss.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	4/23/2023 4:24 PM
SAWTELLE, ERICK	LEE, NH esawtelles@aol.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	4/23/2023 7:16 PM
Gardner, James	Keene, NH yourgardner@protonmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	4/24/2023 1:37 AM
Richardson, Daniel	Nashua, NH daniel6_22@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	4/24/2023 9:34 PM

Charles G. Douglas, III

April 25, 2023

**Re: Testimony of Chuck Douglas in Support of SB 162**

Dear Members of the House Environment and Agriculture Committee:

This bill is a housekeeping measure to protect the public without placing an undue burden on citizens who cannot afford a second veterinarian to sign off each and every year for a dog, cat or ferret to be exempt from a rabies vaccination.

Some pets have a body chemistry or immune system that causes a health risk to them from the rabies vaccination serum.

In fact, my little four-pound Yorkie went into anaphylaxis shock when she was given her first rabies shot and almost died. Each year, even though she is never allowed outside, the process for an exemption begins. We need a signature of exemption from the dog's vet, a second signature from a vet who is an Internal Medicine Diplomate (very few in New Hampshire) and then the State Veterinarian in the Commissioner of Agriculture Office must also sign.

This is a very time-consuming process and must be done each year. The difficulty is not justified and thus, in working for a less burdensome system, Senator Pearl and Agriculture Commissioner Shawn Jasper agreed to the revision of the law set forth in SB 162.

Rather than requiring the three signatures annually, SB 162 provides that the initial exemption will still require all three but thereafter just the treating vet must annually certify that the pet still qualifies for the adverse medical condition that will be triggered by the vaccination.

The bill leaves unchanged the requirement that the pet's owner must keep the animal indoors at all times and on a leash if outside.

This bill still protects the safety of the public without unduly burdening the veterinary profession or the pets' owners.

Sincerely,



Charles G. Douglas, III  
41-A Birdie Circle  
Pembroke, NH 03275

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND AGRICULTURE**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION on SB 162**

**BILL TITLE:** relative to exemptions from rabies vaccinations for dogs, cats, and ferrets.

**DATE:** May 9, 2023

**LOB ROOM:** 301-303

**MOTIONS: OUGHT TO PASS**

Moved by Rep. Dutzy

Seconded by Rep. Creighton

Vote: 18-1

**CONSENT CALENDAR: YES**

**Statement of Intent: Refer to Committee Report**

Respectfully submitted,

Rep Barbara Comtois, Clerk



2023 SESSION

Environment and Agriculture

Bill #: SB162 Motion: OTP AM #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exec Session Date: 5-9-23

Members	YEAS	Nays	NV
Aron, Judy F. Chairman	✓		
Creighton, Jim L. Vice Chairman	✓		
Comtois, Barbara Clerk	✓		
Verville, Kevin G.	✓		
Davis, Arnold G.	✓		
<del>Brouillard, Jacob</del> <i>Reed, Karen</i>	✓		
Coulon, Matthew	✓		
Kenny, Catherine M	✓		
Potenza, Kelley L	✓		
Smart, Lisa A		✓	
Bixby, Peter W.	✓		
Sofikitis, Catherine M.			
Dutzy, Sherry	✓		
Murray, Megan A.	✓		
Germana, Nicholas A	✓		
Haskins, Linda J	✓		
Howard, Molly C	✓		
Knab, Allison	✓		
Morse, Corinne	✓		
Vogt, Robin	✓		
<b>TOTAL VOTE:</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>1</b>	



SB 162 - AS INTRODUCED

2023 SESSION

23-0808

08/05

SENATE BILL           **162**

AN ACT               relative to exemptions from rabies vaccinations for dogs, cats, and ferrets.

SPONSORS:          Sen. Pearl, Dist 17

COMMITTEE:       Energy and Natural Resources

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ANALYSIS

This bill makes the initial period for an exemption from the rabies vaccination for dogs, cats, and animals annual with the recertification of a veterinarian.

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Explanation:       Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.  
Matter removed from current law appears ~~[in brackets and struckthrough.]~~  
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

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

AN ACT relative to exemptions from rabies vaccinations for dogs, cats, and ferrets.

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

1 1 Rabies Vaccinations; Dogs, Cats and Ferrets; Exemptions. Amend RSA 436:100, II to read as  
2 follows:

3 II. A rabies immunization exemption may be issued, where illness or a veterinary medical  
4 condition warrants, by the local rabies control authority upon the written recommendation of a  
5 veterinarian licensed under RSA 332-B. The recommendation shall also be signed by an American  
6 College of Veterinary Internal Medicine diplomate and the state veterinarian. ***The exemption***  
7 ***shall be valid for one year. After the initial one year has expired and if the animal still***  
8 ***qualifies for the exemption, the exemption shall be recertified by a veterinarian licensed***  
9 ***under RSA 332-B on an annual basis.*** The exempted animal shall be maintained in strict rabies  
10 isolation, under conditions that are at the discretion of the local rabies control authority, until such  
11 time as the medical condition has been resolved and the animal can be immunized against rabies.  
12 Exempted animals shall not be allowed outdoors without being on a leash and shall be under the  
13 direct physical control of an adult owner at all times. In addition, when the animal is outdoors, it  
14 shall be muzzled in a manner approved by the local rabies control authority. [~~The exemption shall~~  
15 ~~be valid for no more than one year from the date of the last signature on the written~~  
16 ~~recommendation for exemption.~~]

17 2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.