



**NH State Senate**  
**NEWS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release:**

September 7, 2011

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## **Senate overrides Governor's veto of SB 88**

*Pro self-defense legislation now heads back to House*

(Concord) On a vote of 17-7, the state Senate overrode Gov. John Lynch's veto of SB 88 today. Senators supporting the measure called the legislation "pro self-defense", and "pro-public safety", as well as a show of support for law abiding citizens. The bill now heads to the House. If the House also votes to override the governor's veto, law-abiding New Hampshire citizens will be able to protect their lives and the lives of their loved ones.

Majority Leader Jeb Bradley, R-Wolfeboro, acknowledged the emotional nature of the bill, but stressed that it has a narrow focus concentrated on the duty to retreat. He added, "Republicans have repeatedly tried to work with Governor Lynch on a compromise to address concerns about prosecuting criminals. Unfortunately, no alternatives to SB88 have been offered at this time – that makes compromise difficult. We look forward to continuing this conversation with the governor after SB 88 becomes law."

SB 88 prime sponsor Sen. David Boutin, R-Hooksett, also recognized the bill generated strong feelings on both sides of the issue, but described it as "a long overdue fix to the state's self-defense law." He also called SB88 "a well-thought out, well-vetted measure that enjoys broad support in both the Senate and the House as well as with the general public."

As passed today, SB 88:

- Allows a person who is anywhere he or she has a right to be to use deadly force to protect oneself or a third person.
- Amends the definition of "non-deadly force" to include the act of producing or displaying a weapon
- Inserts a civil immunity provision for the use of force against a perpetrator in certain circumstances.
- Deletes the minimum mandatory sentencing requirement for felony convictions which include the possession, use, or attempted use of a firearm.

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