



New Hampshire Senate News Release

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Boutin praises support of legislation strengthening NH child abuse laws

Series of bills address concerns raised by Commission to Review Child Abuse Fatalities

Concord, NH - Today, a series of bills from the Commission to Review Child Abuse Fatalities were heard in the Senate Health and Human Services committee, in addition to a fourth companion bill that is up for a full Senate vote this week.

Senator David Boutin (R-Hooksett), Commission Chairman, issued the following statement.

"The legislation we've introduced today will clarify and strengthen the protections for children against abuse and neglect by parents or legal guardians by allowing for greater access to information as part of the investigatory process for many cases."

"These bills are designed to reduce and prevent a dangerous home environment for children while ensuring that any children taken into protective services are eventually placed back in safe homes where they will be appropriately cared for. We've seen too many cases where children are returned to unstable parents or guardians and we want to eliminate instances where this danger, including severe injury or even death, does not exist in the future."

BACKGROUND:

Bills introduced today:

[SB 537](#) AN ACT relative to record management of abuse and neglect reports. (Voted ought to pass from committee 4-0.)

[SB 538](#) AN ACT relative to children taken into custody under the child protection act and relative to the commission to review child abuse fatalities. (Voted ought to pass from committee 4-0.)

[SB 539](#) AN ACT relative to access to records under the child protection act.

On the Senate Floor 3/3/16:

[SB 536](#) AN ACT relative to emergency interim relief under the child protection act.

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