

**CHAPTER 126**  
**HB 178 - FINAL VERSION**

26Jan2017... 0049h  
20Apr2017... 1586-EBA

2017 SESSION

17-0374  
01/08

HOUSE BILL                    ***178***

AN ACT                    establishing a commission to study processes to resolve right-to-know complaints.

SPONSORS:                Rep. Weyler, Rock. 13; Rep. Souza, Hills. 43; Rep. Itse, Rock. 10; Rep. Spillane, Rock. 2; Sen. Giuda, Dist 2; Sen. Gray, Dist 6; Sen. Birdsell, Dist 19; Sen. Avar, Dist 12

COMMITTEE:                Judiciary

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ANALYSIS

This bill establishes a commission to study processes to resolve right-to-know complaints.

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                                 Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

*In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Seventeen*

AN ACT                    establishing a commission to study processes to resolve right-to-know complaints.

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

- 1            126:1 New Section; Commission to Study Processes to Resolve Right-to-Know Complaints.  
2 Amend RSA 91-A by inserting after section 8 the following new section:  
3            91-A:8-a Commission to Study Processes to Resolve Right-to-Know Complaints.  
4            I. There is established a commission to study processes to resolve right-to-know complaints.  
5                (a) The members of the commission shall be as follows:  
6                        (1) Three members of the house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the  
7 house of representatives.  
8                        (2) One member of the senate, appointed by the president of the senate.  
9                        (3) The attorney general, or designee.  
10                      (4) One municipal official, appointed by the New Hampshire Municipal Association.  
11                      (5) One school board member, appointed by the New Hampshire School Boards  
12 Association.  
13                      (6) One county official, appointed by the New Hampshire Association of Counties.  
14                      (7) One member who shall have brought suit pro se under RSA 91-A:7, appointed by  
15 the governor.  
16                      (8) One member representing the New Hampshire Press Association, appointed by  
17 that association.  
18                      (9) One member representing Right To Know New Hampshire, appointed by that  
19 organization.  
20                      (10) One member of the New Hampshire Civil Liberties Union, appointed by that  
21 organization.  
22                      (11) One citizen member, appointed by the governor.  
23                (b) Legislative members of the commission shall receive mileage at the legislative rate  
24 when attending to the duties of the commission.  
25            II.(a) The commission shall study alternative processes to resolve right-to-know complaints  
26 consistent with the following:  
27                      (1) Encouraging resolution of right-to-know complaints directly between citizens  
28 and public agencies and bodies.  
29                      (2) Reducing the burden and costs of right-to-know complaints on the courts.  
30                      (3) Reducing the burden and costs of right-to-know complaints on public agencies

**CHAPTER 126**  
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**- Page 2 -**

1 and bodies.

2 (4) Reducing the burden and costs of right-to-know complaints on citizens aggrieved  
3 by violations of RSA 91-A.

4 (5) Increasing awareness and compliance with the right-to-know law to minimize  
5 violations.

6 (b) The commission may solicit information from any person or entity the commission  
7 deems relevant to its study.

8 III. The members of the commission shall elect a chairperson from among the members.  
9 The first meeting of the commission shall be called by the first-named house member. The first  
10 meeting of the commission shall be held within 30 days of the effective date of this section. Seven  
11 members of the commission shall constitute a quorum.

12 IV. The commission shall report its findings and any recommendations for proposed  
13 legislation to the speaker of the house of representatives, the president of the senate, the house  
14 clerk, the senate clerk, the governor, and the state library on or before November 1, 2017.

15 126:2 Repeal. RSA 91-A:8-a, establishing a commission to study processes to resolve right-to-  
16 know complaints, is repealed.

17 126:3 Effective Date.

18 I. Section 2 of this act shall take effect November 1, 2017.

II. The remainder of this act shall take effect upon its passage.

Approved: June 16, 2017

Effective Date:

I. Section 2 effective November 1, 2017

II. Remainder effective June 16, 2017