

SB 111 - AS INTRODUCED

2017 SESSION

17-0932

03/06

SENATE BILL        ***111***

AN ACT                establishing a bipartisan commission to evaluate New Hampshire's response to Russian interference in our democracy.

SPONSORS:            Sen. Woodburn, Dist 1; Sen. D'Allesandro, Dist 20; Sen. Feltes, Dist 15; Sen. Fuller Clark, Dist 21; Sen. Hennessey, Dist 5; Sen. Kahn, Dist 10; Sen. Watters, Dist 4

COMMITTEE:          Election Law and Internal Affairs

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ANALYSIS

      This bill establishes a bipartisan commission to evaluate New Hampshire's response to Russian interference in our democracy.

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                          Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.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

AN ACT                    establishing a bipartisan commission to evaluate New Hampshire's response to Russian interference in our democracy.

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

1            1 Findings. The general court finds that:

2            I. In his 1809 letter to veterans gathered in Bennington, and signed with the revered words  
3 "Live Free or Die; Death is Not the Worst of Evils", General John Stark stated: "As I was then, I am  
4 now—the friend of the equal rights of men, of representative democracy, of republicanism and the  
5 Declaration of Independence, the great charter of our national rights; and of course the friend of the  
6 indissoluble union and Constitution of the states. I am the enemy of all foreign influence, for all  
7 foreign influence is the influence of tyranny."

8            II. Foreign interference in our elections only undermines our constitutional democracy, our  
9 electoral process, and our independence and sovereignty.

10           III. It is the uncontested conclusion within the intelligence community of the United States  
11 of America that Russia interfered in the 2016 election.

12           IV. Free and fair elections are the cornerstone of our democracy, both in the United States  
13 and here in New Hampshire, including our first-in-the-nation primary.

14           V. It is more than reasonable for New Hampshire to establish a bipartisan commission to at  
15 least evaluate whether and how to respond to Russian interference in our democracy.

16           2 New Subdivision; Bipartisan Commission to Evaluate New Hampshire's Response to Russian  
17 Interference in our Democracy. Amend RSA 176 by inserting after section 19 the following new  
18 subdivision:

19                                Bipartisan Commission to Evaluate New Hampshire's Response to  
20    Russian Interference in our Democracy

21           176:20 Commission Established.

22           I.(a) There is established a bipartisan commission to evaluate New Hampshire's response to  
23 Russian interference in our democracy. The members of the commission shall be as follows:

24                                (1) Two members of the senate, one of whom shall be appointed by the president of  
25 the senate, and one of whom shall be appointed by the senate minority leader.

26                                (2) Two members of the house of representatives, one of whom shall be appointed by  
27 the speaker of the house of representatives, and one of whom shall be appointed by the house  
28 minority leader.

29                                (3) The liquor commissioner, or designee.

30                                (4) The secretary of state, or designee.

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1                   (5) The commissioner of the department of resources and economic development, or  
2     designee.

3                   (6) The chairman of the board of trustees of the New Hampshire retirement system,  
4     or designee.

5                   (7) A representative of the advisory committee on international trade, appointed by  
6     that committee.

7                   (8) An election law expert, appointed by the governor.

8                   (9) A representative of the business community, appointed by the governor.

9                   (b) Legislative members of the commission shall receive mileage at the legislative rate  
10    when attending to the duties of the commission.

11                  II.(a) The commission shall evaluate whether and how to respond to Russian interference in  
12    our democracy, including, but not limited to, the temporary or long-term divestment of  
13    New Hampshire retirement system investments in some or all Russian-based companies or entities,  
14    the suspension or cessation of New Hampshire liquor commission purchases of Russian-made  
15    liquor, and requiring New Hampshire's commemorative "Old Man on the Mountain" bottles to  
16    include liquor made in the United States of America, not in Russia.

17                  (b) In undertaking subparagraph (a), the commission shall study and review prior  
18    examples of New Hampshire divestment as well as the suspension or cessation of certain liquor  
19    purchases, including any legal, practicable, or unintended consequences. The commission shall also  
20    review actions taken by other states and the federal government in response to the Russian  
21    interference in our democracy.

22                  (c) The commission shall seek and accept input and testimony from experts, interested  
23    stakeholders, and members of the public in order to fulfill its duties under subparagraphs (a) and  
24    (b).

25                  III. The members of the commission shall elect a chairperson from among the members.  
26    The first meeting of the commission shall be called by the liquor commissioner. The first meeting of  
27    the commission shall be held within 30 days of the effective date of this section. Five members of  
28    the commission shall constitute a quorum.

29                  IV. On or before November 1, 2017, the commission shall submit a final report of its  
30    findings and any recommendations for proposed legislation to the president of the senate, the  
31    speaker of the house of representatives, the senate clerk, the house clerk, the governor, and the  
32    state library.

33                  3 Repeal. RSA 176:20, relative to a bipartisan commission to evaluate New Hampshire's  
34    response to Russian interference in our democracy, is repealed.

35                  4 Effective Date.

36                  I. Section 3 of this act shall take effect November 1, 2017.

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