

Amendment to SB 235-FN

1 Amend the bill by replacing all after the enacting clause with the following:

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3 1 New Subdivision; General Court Administrative Office. Amend RSA 14 by inserting after
4 section 51 the following new subdivision:

5 General Court Administrative Office

6 14:52 Administrative Office.

7 I. There shall be a general court administrative office in the state house under a director of
8 the administrative office. The director may employ and contract for such additional professional,
9 technical, clerical, or other employees necessary to perform the functions and duties of the office.

10 II. The director shall designate a person as the independent human resources professional.
11 The director shall ensure the person designated has had or will receive training or certification in
12 sexual harassment investigations. In addition to the procedure in RSA 14-B:3, I(d), the designated
13 person shall carry out obligations as set forth in the general court's sexual harassment policy,
14 including but not limited to, the receipt, investigation, and processing of verbal or written
15 complaints from legislative staff, members of the public, or other members of the general court
16 concerning current members of the general court, or members of the general court whose service
17 ceased within 2 years prior to the complaint. Neither the office of the senate president nor the
18 office of the speaker of the house of representatives shall have any oversight or responsibility for
19 any complaints involving sexual harassment.

20 III. A sexual harassment complaint filed with the general court administrative office shall
21 be confidential and not subject to disclosure to any third party, including but not limited to the
22 attorney general's office; provided that the complainant may waive such confidentiality protections
23 with informed, written consent.

24 2 New Paragraph; Joint Committee on Legislative Facilities; Duty Added. Amend RSA 17-E:5-
25 a by inserting after paragraph X the following new paragraph:

26 XI. Prior to the beginning of each biennium, to review sexual harassment policies of other
27 jurisdictions and legislatures and adopt a sexual harassment policy consistent with best practices,
28 which shall include procedures for the independent human resources professional in the general
29 court administrative office to address sexual harassment complaints and ensure independence from
30 the office of the senate president and the office of the speaker of the house of representatives. Prior
31 to the beginning of each biennium, the committee shall determine whether to propose to the senate
32 and house of representatives that each body shall propose by rule that all legislators, legislative

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1 officers, and legislative staff shall attend in-person education and training regarding sexual and
2 other unlawful discrimination and harassment. The sexual harassment policy shall be posted
3 online and shall be included in the ethics guidelines, statutes, and procedural rules booklet.
4 3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

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AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill authorizes an independent human resources professional in the general court administrative office, who shall be responsible for complaints involving sexual harassment. The bill also allows the legislative facilities committee to propose rules for required training on harassment and discrimination.