



## NH SENATE PRESS RELEASE

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### **Senate Judiciary Committee Passes Criminal Justice Omnibus Bill, Advances Efforts to Increase Police Accountability and Improve Bail Reform**

**CONCORD** - Today, the Senate Judiciary Committee passed Amendment #1380s to HB 1645, a bipartisan omnibus criminal justice bill, co-sponsored by Senate Judiciary Chair Martha Hennessey (D-Hanover), Senator Melanie Levesque (D-Brookline), and Senator Harold French (R-Franklin).

**After the committee vote, Senate Judiciary Chair Martha Hennessey (D-Hanover) and Senator Melanie Levesque (D-Brookline) issued the following statements:**

“Some of the Legislature’s most important work this session were criminal justice reforms, including improvements to our bail reform statute, increasing the safety of New Hampshire’s minors, and strengthening accountability for perpetrators of domestic violence,” said **Senate Judiciary Chair Martha Hennessey (D-Hanover)**. “We have seen the need to make significant changes to our law enforcement training and force policy. I am grateful for the bipartisan work of my Judiciary Committee colleagues for working together to advance these important measures in these difficult times.”

**Senator Melanie Levesque (D-Brookline)** added, “The nation’s eyes are on the criminal justice system right now, and the New Hampshire Legislature is working to take thoughtful, concrete steps to break down systemic racism. These changes, like today’s committee amendment to prohibit the use of chokeholds, are steps we can take together in the best interest of New Hampshire. This bill makes important strides toward that goal by mandating that police report misconduct by fellow police officers -- something doctors and lawyers already do within their professions -- and increasing access to psychological screening before officers assume duties. This is just the beginning of a critical conversation and reform efforts; I am proud to work with my Senate colleagues to take these first steps and look forward to continuing this work in the next biennium.”

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**On Background:**

- Amendment #1380s to HB 1645 includes language from the following bills:
  - SB 755 *relative to superior court judgments in actions against the state*
  - SB 551 *adding a bail commissioner to the commission on pretrial detention, pretrial scheduling, and pretrial services, and relative to the release of a defendant pending trial*
  - HB 1272 *prohibiting prison privatization*
  - HB 1645 *relative to the annulment of misdemeanor domestic violence offenses*
  - SB 722 *relative to the payment and education of bail commissioners, relative to criteria for determining an offender's indigence, and establishing a committee to study providing remote access to a bail commissioner's services.*
  - HB 1351 *relative to immunity from arrest or prosecution for certain alcoholic beverage violations for a person under 21 years of age who reports a situation involving risk of alcohol overdose*
  - HB 1217 *requiring police officers to report misconduct*
  - HB 1468 *relative to criminal mischief*
  - HB 1174 (New Title) *requiring screening for all law enforcement officers for psychological stability prior to assuming their duties as certified officers*