



## NH SENATE PRESS RELEASE

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### House Concurs on HB 1135, Honors Granite Staters

**CONCORD** - Today, the New Hampshire House of Representatives voted to concur with the Senate recommendation of Ought to Pass as Amended on HB 1135 in a vote of 299-17. The bill incorporates several naming bills passed earlier this session to honor Granite Staters, brings recognition to important issues facing our state, and adds Holocaust and genocide studies to the definition of an adequate education. HB 1135 will next be enrolled with the Secretary of State's office and then go to the governor's desk, at which time he will have five days to act.

**After the vote, Senator David Watters (D-Dover), Senator Jon Morgan (D-Brentwood), and Senator Jay Kahn (D-Keene) issued the following statements:**

"New Hampshire's opioid epidemic is one of the worst in the nation," stated **Senator David Watters (D-Dover)**. "In 2019, there were 284 losses in New Hampshire due to overdoses. Here in the Granite State, almost everyone knows someone who has been affected by the opioid crisis. In HB 1135 we declare August 31 International Overdose Awareness Day. By giving families and friends of those affected by this crisis, we work to destigmatize the conversation and give loved ones a space to heal."

**Senator Jon Morgan (D-Brentwood)** added, "As a Senate we were proud to recognize Officer Arkell's service to the state of New Hampshire. As a Brentwood resident, I am honored to have this opportunity to remember Officer Arkell. I thank my House colleagues for their support in granting this local hero the public recognition he deserves."

**Senator Jay Kahn (D-Keene)** concluded, "As we remember those who have served the Granite State we also remember the point of studying history. We teach about the past to work towards a better future. By adding Holocaust and genocide education to New Hampshire's criteria for an adequate education, we enable students "to participate in the democratic process and to make informed choices as responsible citizens." I am grateful for the support of New Hampshire students, teachers, religious leaders, and my colleagues in the Senate and the House for their support and look forward to the governor's signature."

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**On Background:**

- HB 1135 as amended includes language from the following bills:
  - SB 552 *designating a portion of state route 125 as Officer Stephen Arkell Memorial Highway*
  - SB 604 *naming certain courtrooms in the tenth circuit district court and relative to circuit court, district and family division cases in Rockingham county*
  - SB 727 *relative to Holocaust and genocide studies legislation and establishing a commission to study genocide education*
  - HB 1135 *naming a portion of route 49 in honor of Specialist Marc P. Decoteau*
  - HB 1313 *declaring June 6 as D-Day Remembrance Day*
  - SB 564 *proclaiming August 31 as Overdose Awareness Day*