



NH SENATE PRESS RELEASE

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Senator Kahn Urges Governor Sununu to Sign HB 1558, Omnibus Education Bill

CONCORD - Today, HB 1558, an omnibus education bill, was delivered to the Secretary of State. The bill previously passed the Senate on a voice vote and was concurred by the House with bipartisan support in a vote of 201-129. It next goes to the governor's desk where he will have five business days to sign, veto, or allow the bill to become law without his signature.

Senator Jay Kahn (D-Keene) issued the following statement in response:

"HB 1558 combines efforts of many House and Senate members, Republicans and Democrats, as well as stakeholders, to bring together legislation that makes improvements for our schools, students, towns and municipalities at a time when there is a clear need for consistent guidance and defined funding mechanisms.

This legislation provides safety guidance, access to behavioral health resources and training programs, updated policies on discipline and suspension, brain injury recovery, sexual abuse prevention training, multi-tiered systems of support for behavioral wellness, change of school assignment, reporting violence in schools and criminal history background checks of school bus drivers and attendants. It gives our districts greater flexibility to address fiscal concerns when budgets and revenues are uncertain, increases reserve limits, provides funding to districts transitioning to full-day kindergarten funding during this biennium, provides a seat for the Chancellor of the university system on the department of business and economic affairs council of partner agencies, and creates a clearer pathway for businesses to participate in economic revitalization zones and graduate retention incentive partnerships.

HB 1558 is designed to incorporate bills with bipartisan legislative support and we are hopeful that the governor will provide his support and signature for this timely legislation."

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On Background:

- All the underlying legislation contained in HB 1558 passed through committee with broad bipartisan support. HB 1558 includes texts from the following bills:

- *HB 677 relative to discipline of students, addressing students' behavioral needs, and making an appropriation therefor*
- *SB 625-FN-A relative to kindergarten funding*
- *SB 661 relative to economic revitalization zone tax credits and the New Hampshire college graduate retention incentive partnership (NH GRIP)*
- *HB 1558 relative to the provision of special education services for older students*
- *SB 556 relative to violence in schools*
- *SB 584 relative to policies for students with head injuries*
- *SB 711 relative to child sexual abuse prevention education and training*
- *SB 563 relative to authorizing the issuance of bonds or notes by a municipality*
- *SB 565 adding the chancellor of the university system of New Hampshire to the department of business and economic affairs council of partner agencies*
- *HB 1328 relative to a change of school or assignment due to manifest educational hardship.*
- *SB 675 relative to school board expenditure of year-end fund balances*
- *SB 665, relative to a children's system of care and student wellness*