

# HOUSE PASSES EXPANDED RIGHTS AND PROTECTIONS FOR SEXUAL ASSAULT AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SURVIVORS

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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## **HOUSE PASSES EXPANDED RIGHTS AND PROTECTIONS FOR SEXUAL ASSAULT AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SURVIVORS**

Today, the New Hampshire House passed HB 1240, legislation that includes protections for victims of sexual assault by those in a position of authority in the education system, and authorizes temporary marriage officiant licenses and apportions a portion of the license fee to domestic violence prevention. Sponsor of the legislation and Chair of the House Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee, **Representative Renny Cushing (D-Hampton)**, released the following statement:

“HB 1240 affords protections for minor students when a school employee, inherently in a position of authority, engages in inappropriate sexual conduct with a student. Sexual assault, which is always a heinous act, is especially disturbing when an individual in a disparate position of power exploits it. I am pleased at the House’s strong vote today, affirming the message that New Hampshire does not stand for sexual assault in any situation, including our education system.”

“Establishing a new temporary marriage officiant license will boost our tourism industry, allowing couples to more easily marry in our beautiful state with friends and family as an integral part of their ceremony. In addition, this legislation will provide more essential funding for domestic violence prevention. In the United States, 20 people are abused by an intimate partner every minute. Domestic violence is a major problem in this country. Allocating a portion of fees for marriage officiant license to combating domestic violence is both a valuable message that New Hampshire stands with victims and a valuable resource to the organizations committed to supporting victims.”

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