

NEW HAMPSHIRE BAR ASSOCIATION  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS' MEETING  
Tuesday, February 3, 2026  
4:30pm

**Meeting Minutes**

**Board Members:** Present for all or part of the meeting: Oliver Bloom, Gar Chiang, Jake Crabbs, Sarah Mattson Dustin, Steven Dutton, James Eager, Caroline Epperson, Kristin Fields, Geoffrey Gallagher, Derek Lick, Bob Lucic, Kate Mahan, Tony Naro, Kyle Robidas, Barry Schuster, Cathy Shanelaris, Jim Shepard, Charla Stevens, Bill Woodbury

**NHBA Staff:** Sarah Blodgett, Holly Chandler

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 4:33p.m. by President Lick.

**PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS**

- A. HB 1825 – Relative to the regulation of the practice of law, establishing an independent legal licensing board, and making an appropriation therefor. Sarah Blodgett

Executive Director Sarah Blodgett explained that the Judiciary Committee is meeting tomorrow afternoon at 3:00 pm to discuss HB 1825. This special board meeting is an opportunity for Board members to discuss the bill and vote on whether to take a position. Due to the short turnaround time, President Lick cannot attend the hearing to provide live testimony. If the board votes to take a position, we will provide written testimony. President Lick asked Board members to share their thoughts.

Jim Shepard mentioned that the bill had a positive note. He noticed that bill has a definition of the practice of law which he believes is well-written. Mr. Shepherd would oppose everything else in the bill.

Barry Schuster said that this bill is effectively trying to segment lawyers based on practice area. Mr. Schuster is appalled by this bill and finds it insulting. He is opposed to this. There were general comments about a potential Chapman issue. President Lick noted that while it is currently unclear whether there would be substantial unanimity to deunify the Bar, he believes that there would be substantial unanimity to oppose the bill as drafted due to the significant inconsistencies it contains.

Derek Lick mentioned that there is one member of the Board that can't be here but is in favor of not having a Bar Association.

President-Elect Lucic noted that the New Hampshire Bar is a creature of the Supreme Court. We are an organization that was created by the Supreme Court to do specific tasks. There is concern that this bill will cause general chaos.

Cathy Shanelaris agrees with Bob Lucic's comments. She found the bill to be full of inconsistencies and she does not see how it can operate the way it has been written.

Ms. Epperson asked if NHBA has taken a position on this bill in the past.

Executive Director Blodgett stated that the Board has not seen this bill before.

**ACTION**

On Motion: to oppose the bill as written. Passed unanimously.

Ms. Blodgett will draft written testimony based on today's discussion. President Lick will review and approve.

B. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:29 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Holly Chandler for Catherine Shanellaris, Secretary*