

HB 392-FN - AS INTRODUCED

2025 SESSION

25-0058

09/08

HOUSE BILL

392-FN

AN ACT directing the dissolution of the department of health and human services' office of health equity, department of environmental services' functions for civil rights and environmental justice, and the governor's council on diversity and inclusion.

SPONSORS: Rep. Belcher, Carr. 4; Rep. Corcoran, Hills. 28; Rep. Alexander Jr., Hills. 29; Rep. Turcotte, Straf. 4; Rep. Sabourin, Rock. 30; Rep. Terry, Belk. 7; Rep. Warden, Hills. 39

COMMITTEE: Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs

ANALYSIS

This bill directs the dissolution of the department of health and human services' office of health equity, department of environmental services' functions for civil rights and environmental justice, and the governor's advisory council on diversity and inclusion.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.
Matter removed from current law appears ~~[in brackets and struckthrough]~~.
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Five

AN ACT directing the dissolution of the department of health and human services' office of health equity, department of environmental services' functions for civil rights and environmental justice, and the governor's council on diversity and inclusion.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 1 Directive; Governor; Governor's Advisory Council on Diversity and Inclusion. The governor is
2 hereby directed to dissolve the governor's advisory council on diversity and inclusion, and is
3 prohibited from re-establishing this council.

4 2 Directive; Department of Health and Human Services; Office of Health Equity. The
5 department of health and human services is hereby directed to dissolve the office of health equity,
6 and is prohibited from re-establishing this office or using any allocated monies for any project
7 labeled as "health equity."

8 3 Directive; Department of Environmental Services; Civil Rights and Environmental Justice
9 Programs. The department of environmental services is hereby prohibited from the use of any
10 allocated monies for those projects labeled "civil rights and environmental justice."

11 4 Compensation of Certain State Officers; Salaries Established; Position Deleted. Amend RSA
12 94:1-a, I(b) by deleting the following:

13 FF Department of health and human services director of the office of health equity

14 5 Repeal. RSA 126-A:88, I(hh), relative to the director of the office of health equity membership
15 on the state health assessment and state health improvement plan advisory council is repealed.

16 6 Effective Date. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

HB 392-FN- FISCAL NOTE
AS INTRODUCED

AN ACT directing the dissolution of the department of health and human services' office of health equity, department of environmental services' functions for civil rights and environmental justice, and the governor's council on diversity and inclusion.

FISCAL IMPACT: This bill does not provide funding, nor does it authorize new positions.

Estimated State Impact				
	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028
Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<i>Revenue Fund(s)</i>	None			
Expenditures*	\$0	\$100,000 decrease in general funds; Indeterminable decrease in federal funds	\$100,000 decrease in general funds; Indeterminable decrease in federal funds	\$100,000 decrease in general funds; Indeterminable decrease in federal funds
<i>Funding Source(s)</i>	General Fund, Federal Funds			
Appropriations*	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<i>Funding Source(s)</i>	None			

***Expenditure = Cost of bill**

***Appropriation = Authorized funding to cover cost of bill**

METHODOLOGY:

This bill directs the Department of Health and Human Services to dissolve the Office of Health Equity, and deletes that Office's unclassified director from state statute. In addition, the bill prevents the Department from using funds from any project identified as "health equity," and prevents the Department of Environmental Services from using funds for any project labeled "civil rights and environmental justice." The Department of Health and Human Services states that salary and benefits for the director of health equity total approximately \$169,000 per year, and are paid for with 59 percent state general funds and 41 percent federal funds. This aspect of the bill would therefore result in savings of approximately \$100,000 per year of general funds and \$69,000 per year of federal funds. The Department further notes that the Office currently manages approximately \$4.6 million per year in federal grants and another \$700,000 in other federal funds. It is unclear if all such funds, or only a portion, would no longer be administered as a result of the bill.

The Department of Environmental Services states the bill could impact receipt of federal funds, in that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency requires recipients of federal funding to

comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as well as multiple other federal mandates. The Department states that it receives between \$80 - \$90 million annually in federal funding that requires compliance with Title IV. It is unclear what percentage of this will be impacted by the bill.

AGENCIES CONTACTED:

Departments of Environmental Services and Health and Human Services