Section 1 Header

2023 SESSION

23-0188.0 06/08

HOUSE BILL [bill number]

AN ACT prohibiting, with limited exceptions, state agencies from using proprietary

software in interactions with the public.

SPONSORS: [sponsors]

COMMITTEE: [committee]

ANALYSIS

This bill prohibits, with limited exception, state agencies from using proprietary software in interactions with the public.

.....

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Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.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 Three

AN ACT prohibiting, with limited exceptions, state agencies from using proprietary software in interactions with the public.

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

- 1 Short Title. The act shall be known and may be cited as the "Securing Our Freedom To Write 2 And Read Everything (SOFTWARE) Act".
 - 2 New Chapter; Free and Open Source Software. Amend RSA by inserting after chapter 21-V the following new chapter:

5 CHAPTER 21-W

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FREE AND OPEN SOURCE SOFTWARE

- 21-W:1 Mandatory Use of Proprietary Software Prohibited. No person in the state of New Hampshire shall be required to use proprietary software for any interaction with the government, including but not limited to: the filing or payment of taxes, remote appearance for court proceedings, the taking of standardized tests or the completion of coursework by school students, applying for or receiving unemployment benefits, or other similar benefits, unless the government agency has determined that the proprietary software is the only means available for the required interaction. In such cases, the agency shall post a notice of its determination and the use of proprietary software on the agency's website.
 - 3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.