

Section 1 Header

2022 SESSION

22-2270.0

05/04

HOUSE BILL ***[bill number]***

AN ACT establishing a committee to study free and open source software.

SPONSORS: [sponsors]

COMMITTEE: [committee]

ANALYSIS

This bill establishes a committee to study free and open source software.

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Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.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

AN ACT establishing a committee to study free and open source software.

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

1 1 Software Committee Established. There is established a committee to study the expanded use
2 of free and open source software. The committee shall be known as the "Securing Our Freedom To
3 Write And Read Everything" (SOFTWARE) committee.

4 I. The members of the committee shall be as follows:

5 (a) Three members of the house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the
6 house of representatives.

7 (b) Three members of the senate, appointed by the president of the senate.

8 II. Members of the committee shall receive mileage at the legislative rate when attending to
9 the duties of the committee.

10 III. The committee shall solicit information and testimony from the department of
11 information technology and members of the public with experience and expertise in open source
12 software.

13 IV. The committee shall study free and open source software, including, the use and
14 application of copyleft licenses, which allow users to freely use, copy, modify, and distribute works
15 provided that all derivative works offer the same freedom to users. The committee shall:

16 (a) Explore the scope and application of copyleft licenses in the public and private sector.

17 (b) Examine legal protection for copyleft licensees, including limits on noncompete
18 clauses and presumptions in favor of copyleft licensees.

19 (c) Study the state's ability to develop and release open source software and consider
20 ways to reduce the mandatory use of proprietary software.

21 (d) Develop a program and funding mechanism to provide legal assistance to developers
22 of free software.

23 (e) Review and develop recommendations for the expansion of the statewide information
24 policy on open government data standards in RSA 21-R:14.

25 V. The members of the study committee shall elect a chairperson from among the members.
26 The first meeting of the committee shall be called by the first-named house member. The first
27 meeting of the committee shall be held within 45 days of the effective date of this section. Four
28 members of the committee shall constitute a quorum.

29 VI. The committee shall report its findings and any recommendations for proposed
30 legislation to the speaker of the house of representatives, the president of the senate, the house
31 clerk, the senate clerk, the governor, and the state library on or before November 1, 2022.

Section 3 Header

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1 2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect upon its passage.