

Amendment to HB 593-FN

1 Amend the title of the bill by replacing it with the following:

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3 AN ACT establishing a committee to study the process for forfeiture of items used in  
4 connection with drug offenses.

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6 Amend the bill by replacing all after the enacting clause with the following:

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8 1 Committee Established. There is established a committee to study the process for forfeiture of  
9 items used in connection with drug offenses.

10 2 Membership and Compensation.

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

12 (a) Two members of the house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house  
13 of representatives.

14 (b) One member of the senate, appointed by the president of the senate.

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

17 3 Duties. The committee shall study ways to improve RSA 318-B:17-b and shall suggest  
18 legislation, including but not limited to ways to:

19 I. Streamline processes and increase fairness by assigning the criminal and civil forfeiture  
20 cases to the same court;

21 II. Protect innocent owners, by:

22 (a) Simplifying processes for spouses and parents, and

23 (b) Assigning a public defender to represent the indigent in a civil forfeiture case if  
24 represented in the corresponding criminal case;

25 III. Establish a requirement for a prompt post-seizure hearing;

26 IV. Set criteria for transferring forfeiture cases to the federal government; and

27 V. Identify how to use forfeited assets and proceeds.

28 4 Chairperson; Quorum; Public Hearing. The members of the study committee shall elect a  
29 chairperson from among the members. The first meeting of the committee shall be called by the first-  
30 named house member. The first meeting of the committee shall be held within 45 days of the  
31 effective date of this section. Two members of the committee shall constitute a quorum. The  
32 committee shall hold at least one public hearing.

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- 1       5 Report. The committee shall report its findings and any recommendations for proposed
- 2 legislation to the speaker of the house of representatives, the president of the senate, the house
- 3 clerk, the senate clerk, the governor, and the state library on or before November 1, 2024.
- 4       6 Effective Date. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

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AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill establishes a study committee to study and suggest potential legislation for improving the procedure for forfeiture of items used in connection with drug offenses, and provides duties thereto.