



**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

**CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU**  
Governor

August 10, 2021

**Governor's Veto Message Regarding House Bill 334**

By the authority vested in me, pursuant to part II, Article 44 of the New Hampshire Constitution, on August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021, I have vetoed House Bill 334, relative to prohibitions on carrying a loaded firearm on an OHRV or snowmobile and relative to the procedure for conducting firearm background checks.

I support the provisions in this bill that would apply our constitutional right to carry a firearm to OHRVs and snowmobiles, and hope to sign such a bill next year. It is unfortunate that the legislature chose to tack on unrelated legislation that will cause those provisions to not move forward.

As Governor, my record is very clear – I have consistently defended the 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment rights of New Hampshire's citizens and I remain committed to doing so. New Hampshire's laws are well-crafted and fit our culture of responsible gun ownership and individual freedom. The background check provisions are not about firearms rights, they are about government administrative processes. This bill, which was introduced to solve a problem caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, is no longer necessary. New Hampshire has taken steps to improve technology, processes, and staffing in order to address this issue without legislation.

This bill would create substantial unintended negative consequences by ceding control of our state process to the Federal Government. Groups as diverse as the New Hampshire Firearms Coalition, the New Hampshire Coalition against Domestic and Sexual Violence, the Attorney General's Office, and the Judicial Branch all join me in raising significant concerns with this legislation.

For the reasons stated above, I have vetoed House Bill 334.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Christopher T. Sununu".

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Christopher T. Sununu  
Governor