



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU
Governor

July 2, 2024

Governor's Veto Message Regarding Senate Bill 501

By the authority vested in me, pursuant to part II, Article 44 of the New Hampshire Constitution, on July 2, 2024, I have vetoed Senate Bill 501, relative to driver licenses for non-citizens residing in New Hampshire.

New Hampshire's system for issuing driver's licenses is efficient and effective for Granite Staters and out-of-state, legal citizens alike.

The lack of specificity within this bill's text does not fulfill the stated legislative intent. Instead, this bill utilizes language such as "conditional" and "temporary," without clarifying what either term means. This oversight is of great importance as the term "conditional" is not currently used by the Department of Motor Vehicles. As such, the Department has no legal basis to determine whether an individual has been granted "conditional" residency within the United States.

Given the ongoing and ever-evolving crisis of illegal immigration our country currently faces, such terms must be especially well-defined. This bill introduces harmful confusion.

Due to this bill's ambiguity, reliance on terminology not currently used by the Department of Motor Vehicles, and unanswered questions, Senate Bill 501 threatens to create unnecessary confusion in a process that is already working well.

For the reasons stated above, I have vetoed Senate Bill 501.

Respectfully submitted.

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

Christopher T. Sununu
Governor