# New Hampshire Senate Passes Bill Barring Transgender Girls from School Sports



A bill to bar transgender girls from participating in girls' school sports has been approved by the New Hampshire Senate and is now headed to Governor Chris Sununu's desk. The bill, supported along party lines, mandates that athletic activities in both public schools and private schools that compete against them be designated for males, females, or both, based on "biological sex at birth." Male students would be prohibited from joining female-designated teams unless they provide an unamended birth certificate or "other evidence" of their sex at birth. This legislation targets students in grades 5 through 12.

Governor Sununu, a Republican, has previously signed laws prohibiting discrimination based on gender identity in New Hampshire schools. However, his current stance on this specific bill remains unclear. Opponents of the bill hope he may veto it, as he has previously supported anti-discrimination measures.

During the Senate debate, proponents like Republican Senate President Jeb Bradley argued the bill is necessary for safety and fairness, referencing instances of injuries in sports involving transgender athletes. Bradley asserted that "biological males have a strength and speed advantage over biological females." Conversely, Democrats such as Senator Debra Altschiller and Senator Suzanne M. Prentiss argued against the bill, emphasizing that it affects only a small number of transgender athletes and raises significant safety and privacy concerns.

The proceedings were briefly interrupted when Republican Senator Denise Ricciardi collapsed. She was transported to the hospital and was reported to be conscious and taken as a precaution.

In a related vote, the Senate also approved House Bill 1312, which would require schools to notify parents at least two weeks in advance of any instructional content on human sexuality, allowing them to opt-out their children.

The outcome of these legislative measures remains to be seen, pending Governor Sununu's decision.