

## **SELECT BOARD MEETING**

**Monday, September 15, 2025**

**6:40 pm**

**Nowak Room, Town Offices**

**10 Front Street, Exeter, NH 03833**

## **REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING BEGINS AT 7:00 PM**

Meetings can be watched on Ch 22 or Ch 6 or YouTube. Attendees can join in person or virtually via Zoom.

To access the meeting, click this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89029148601>

To access the meeting via telephone, call: +1 646 558 8656 and enter the Webinar ID: 890 2914 8601

Please join the meeting with your full name if you want to speak.

Use the "Raise Hand" button to alert the chair you wish to speak. On the phone, press \*9.

More instructions to access the meeting here: <https://www.exeternh.gov/townmanager/virtual-town-meetings>

Contact us at extvg@exeternh.gov or 603-418-6425 with any technical issues.

### **AGENDA**

1. Call Meeting to Order
2. Non-Public Session
3. Public Comment
4. Approval of Minutes
  - a. Regular Meeting: September 2, 2025
5. Appointments/Resignations
  - a. Resignation – Sustainability Advisory Committee – Jackie Ojala
6. Discussion/Action Items
  - a. Trustees of the Trust Funds & Swasey Parkway Trustees
7. Tax Abatements, Veterans Credits & Exemptions
8. Permits & Approvals
9. Town Manager's Report
10. Select Board Committee Report
11. Correspondence
12. Review Board Calendar
13. Non-Public Session
14. Adjournment

Niko Papakonstantis, Chair

Select Board

Posted 9/10/25 Town Office, Town Website

Persons with a disabling condition may request accommodations in order to attend this meeting. Requests should be made with 72 hours notice.

AGENDA SUBJECT TO CHANGE

## **Non-Public Session**

## **Public Comment**

## **Approval of Minutes**

Select Board Meeting  
Tuesday September 2, 2025  
6:15 PM  
Nowak Room, Town Offices  
Draft Minutes

1. Call Meeting to Order

Members present: Chair Niko Papakonstantis, Vice-Chair Molly Cowan, Clerk Nancy Belanger, Julie Gilman, Dan Chartrand, and Interim Town Manager Melissa Roy were present at this meeting. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Papakonstantis at 6:15 PM.

2. Non-Public Session

**MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A3II(d). Ms. Cowan seconded. In a roll call vote, the motion passed 5-0.

The Board entered into non-public session at 6:15 PM and went downstairs to the Wheelwright Room.

**MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to exit non-public session at 6:51 PM. Ms. Cowan seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

**MOTION:** Mr. Chartrand moved to seal the non-public minutes until the matter is complete. Ms. Belanger seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

3. Board Interviews

- a. Susan Drinker for the 250th Celebration Commission

The Board reconvened in the Nowak Room at 7 PM.

4. Public Comment

- a. There was no public comment at this time.

5. Proclamations/Recognitions

- a. Ms. Gilman spoke about John Merkle, formerly of the Heritage Commission, who recently passed away. Mr. Papakonstantis called for a moment of silence in his memory.

6. Approval of Minutes

- a. Regular Meeting: August 18, 2025

Corrections: Mr. Chartrand asked for revisions to his Committee Report to clarify that the meeting with the Unitol Tree Contractor was a separate meeting from the Conservation Commission.

**MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to approve the minutes of August 18, 2025 as amended. Ms. Cowan seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

45  
46 7. Appointments and Resignations

47 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to accept the resignation of Pete Cameron from the Planning  
48 Board. Ms. Gilman seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

49  
50 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to accept the resignation of Danielle Capalbo from the  
51 Recreation Advisory Board. Ms. Cowan seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

52  
53 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to accept the resignation of Maisie Sanderson from the Pairpoint  
54 Park Stakeholders Advisory Committee. Ms. Cowan seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

55  
56 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to accept the resignation of Mark Lemos and Theresa Page  
57 from the Zoning Board of Adjustment. Ms. Cowan seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

58  
59 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to appoint Laura Montagno from an alternate to a voting  
60 member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment, term to expire April 2027. Ms. Cowan seconded.  
61 The motion passed 5-0.

62  
63 **MOTION:** Ms. Gilman moved to appoint Susan Drinker to the 250th Celebration Commission,  
64 with no term. Ms. Belanger seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

65  
66 8. Discussion/Action Items

67 a. Drought Update

68 Public Works Director Stephen Cronin said at the last meeting, Steve  
69 Dalton recommended water restrictions due to a change in the drought status to  
70 "Moderate Drought." The Board implemented level 2 restrictions, and we've seen  
71 an overall decrease in daily demand. Last Thursday, 85% of the State was in  
72 moderate drought. We recommend increasing the restriction to level 4, the  
73 highest level in the ordinance, which prohibits landscape watering, filling of  
74 swimming pools over 100 gallons, washing streets, driveways, or impervious  
75 areas, and washing vehicles or boats at a non-commercial facility.

76 Ms. Gilman asked if this includes private wells, and Mr. Cronin said yes.

77 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to issue a level 4 water restriction, effective September 3, 2025,  
78 until further notice. Mr. Chartrand seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

79  
80 b. Donation Acceptance – K9 Ballistics Vest – Police Department

81 Deputy Police Chief Josh McCain asked the Board to accept a donation  
82 of a ballistic vest for the new patrol K9. The head trainer from Fox Hill Farm  
83 Kennels, Sean Castro, would be the donor, and he would like us to credit it in  
84 loving memory of Duke, his first dog.

85 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to accept a donation from Sean Castro for a ballistic K9 vest for  
86 our K9, Bobo, in the amount of \$3,000, with the condition that the Police Department  
87 acknowledge that it's in loving memory of Duke. Mr. Chartrand seconded. The motion passed 5-  
88 0.

89  
90 c. Rapid Intubation Sequence

91 Fire Chief Justin Pizon said that Exeter Hospital's Rapid Intubation  
92 Sequence service was dissolved, so we were motivated to get this training  
93 ourselves. The Board previously supported the purchase of a portable ventilator.  
94 Video laryngoscopes were donated by the RiverWoods Charitable Funds  
95 Committee, at a value of \$5,000. As of July, both EMS and Fire are credentialed  
96 in RSI. We used it in a tragedy a few weeks later, and it allowed the person's life  
97 to be maintained at that time; they did later pass, but four families were able to  
98 get life-saving organ donations, which may not have been possible without RSI.  
99 There are ongoing training requirements: 6 hours per year for each paramedic.  
100 One issue has been getting practice doing intubations on live individuals. He's  
101 been collaborating with Exeter Hospital, and on August 20 he was notified that  
102 they will approve us to get into the OR and work with the Anesthesiologist there.

103 Mr. Chartrand said he was excited about Chief Pizon being appointed for  
104 his ability to get this kind of stuff done.  
105

106 d. EMS Reimbursable Rate Legislation

107 Fire Chief Justin Pizon said that Senate Bill 245 prohibits "surprise billing"  
108 as of January 1st, 2026. He contacted Comstar, our billing agency, and met with  
109 an attorney there. We have an existing contract with Anthem Blue Cross Blue  
110 Shield, so we are automatically enrolled in their new program. They're difficult to  
111 contact and he hasn't been able to speak to someone there. About 76% of our  
112 runs are Medicaid and Medicare, so only 24% are affected by this bill. We've  
113 thought about going to collections with some unpaid bills, but he has qualms  
114 about that. He will advocate that we maintain a nonaggressive billing policy.  
115 When he has more information he will come back to the Board.

116 Mr. Chartrand asked if he's keeping the Finance Director apprised, and  
117 Chief Pizon said yes.  
118

119 e. Permit Verbiage Updates

120 Ms. Roy said a few weeks ago, we updated Ordinance 8 with an updated  
121 RSA. The permit forms which reference that ordinance need two changes:  
122 updating the liability insurance required and adding a reference to Ordinance  
123 802.

124 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to accept adding the following language to the Peddling,  
125 Soliciting, Vending, and Town House Common Mobile Vending permit applications: "Liability  
126 Insurance Required: Certificate of Insurance and endorsement/provisions to be submitted with  
127 completed application. Required Amounts: General Liability/Bodily Injury/Property Damage:  
128 \$1,000,000 per occurrence, \$2,000,000 aggregate; the Town of Exeter must be listed as  
129 additional insured." Mr. Chartrand seconded. The motion passed 5-0.  
130

131 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to accept adding the following language to the Peddling,  
132 Soliciting, Vending, and Town House Common Mobile Vending permit applications: "Complete

Ordinance 802 is available on the Exeter NH website at [exeternh.gov/bcc/town-ordinances](http://exeternh.gov/bcc/town-ordinances) or upon request." Ms. Gilman seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

f. Train Committee Reinstatement

Mr. Papakonstantis said the Train Committee has been formally defunct since 2012, but this group of people are meeting regularly and doing some good work. We'd like to reinstate the Train Committee. That group should review the draft charge and proposed membership structure. He would also like the members to come forward to the Board for an interview.

Mr. Chartrand said he likes the structure and charge, but he suggests five voting members instead of three who are Exeter Residents and two alternates. We have an active person who's not a town resident who could be the ex-officio member. It would also include a Select Board representative, the Economic Development Director, a member from the Exeter Chamber, and an ex-officio member. There would be two 3-year, two 2-year, and one 1-year term. Mr. Chartrand said their next meeting is the third week of September. Ms. Gilman suggested changing "Ex Officio," which implies that they have been a member of the committee in the past. Ms. Roy suggested "Regional Resident."

Ms. Roy said at some point, there will need to be Capital Improvements in this area, so there may be a budget in the future. It doesn't lie specifically under one Department, so we can review where they would fit.

**MOTION:** Mr. Chartrand moved to formally reinstate the Train Committee and authorize the interim Town Manager to contact the representatives for interviews, and post for other folks to apply as well. Ms. Belanger seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

g. Tax Collector Appointment

Mr. Papakonstantis said the Board needs to appoint Ms. Roy as the Tax Collector. Ms. Roy said in 1984, the Town Meeting voted to make the Town Manager the Tax Collector. In the initial vote to make her the Interim Town Manager, the Board didn't mention this aspect of the role.

**MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to appoint Melissa Roy, the Interim Town Manager, to serve as the Interim Tax Manager in accordance with warrant article 43 from March 1984 Town Meeting upon the recommendation of legal counsel. Ms. Cowan seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

9. Regular Business

a. Tax Abatements, Veterans Credits and Exemptions

- i. There were no abatements or exemptions considered at this meeting.

b. Permits & Approvals

i. Park Improvement Fund – Spray Pad

Parks & Recreation Director Greg Bisson said there is one more project to approve from the Parks Improvement Fund: the spray pad renovation. Our spray pad was first constructed in 2007 and was the first of its kind in NH. It's aged and has significant water loss, up to 500

gallons per day. We're going to redevelop how it functions. The town uses chloramine for sanitation in the water. For the pool end user, we don't want chloramine. Right now we turn the spray pad off every night, so it doesn't filter 24/7, unlike the pool. If we update the spray pad, we would be better able to meet State standards. We would use our alternative pump to pump out filtered water. It would be more efficient and sustainable, as well as brighter. We plan to seal all the cracks with spray rubber and have a cushioned surface. We received two quotes. Covered Bridge Construction of Manchester was the low bid and had good references. Concrete cutting would be a sole source from Moore Cutting. Covered Bridge Concrete would dig out the pipes, Parks staff would repair the pipes, Covered Bridge would re-concrete, and staff would spray the surface and repair the elements, at a cost of \$34,850. We pursued LifeFloor as a coating; they give away two full installations free a year. We applied, and if we get it, it's worth over \$100,000.

Mr. Papakonstantis asked if any other big expenses are coming up for the Parks Improvement Fund, and Mr. Bisson said no.

Mr. Papakonstantis asked if the grant will fund 100% of the cost. Mr. Bisson said yes. If we get the grant, we wouldn't spend the full \$34,000. Ms. Belanger said she's concerned about committing money we don't need yet. Mr. Bisson said the approval of the \$4,500 for rubber coating could wait.

**MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to authorize the Parks and Recreation Department to utilize \$3,000 from the Parks Improvement Fund to purchase PVC pipes and fittings to go towards the work of completing the Dan Healy Spray Pad Renovations. Mr. Chartrand seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

**MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to authorize the Parks and Recreation Department to contract with Covered Bridge Construction in the amount of \$11,000 from the Parks Improvement Fund to install the 3,000 gallon tank for the Dan Healy Spray Pad. Ms. Cowan seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

**MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to authorize the Parks and Recreation Department to contract with Moore Concrete Cutting in the amount of \$3,600 from the Parks Improvement Fund to renovate the Dan Healy Spray Pad. Ms. Cowan seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

**MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to authorize the Parks and Recreation Department to contract with Covered Bridge Construction in the amount of \$12,750 from the Parks Improvement Fund for the purpose of clearing and exposing the pipes to facilitate repairs, backfilling and re-concreting those areas at the Dan Healy Spray Pad. Ms. Cowan seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

- 221 ii. Exeter Hospital Community Grant Agreement Acceptance – Greg Bisson,  
222 Parks & Recreation Director  
223 Mr. Bisson said we have been selected as a recipient of Exeter  
224 Hospital's grant of \$30,000 for Senior Programming again this year.
- 225 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to accept the community grant agreement from Exeter Hospital  
226 in the amount of \$30,000 for Senior Programming and to authorize the Parks and Recreation  
227 Director to sign all documents. Ms. Gilman seconded. The motion passed 5-0.  
228
- 229 iii. Donation Acceptance – K9 Ballistics Vest – Police Department  
230 This item was discussed previously in the meeting.  
231
- 232 iv. MS-1 – Summary Inventory of Valuation  
233 Ms. Roy said the MS1 is an annual State requirement. The  
234 change in assessment is a result of construction and property reviews.  
235 The total taxable assessment increased \$17,802,000 for this year. The  
236 TIF retained value increased by \$2M.
- 237 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to authorize the Select Board to sign the New Hampshire  
238 Department of Revenue 2025 MS1. Ms. Gilman seconded. The motion passed 5-0.  
239
- 240 c. Town Manager's Report
- 241 i. On September 4, from 9-11 AM, there will be a planned phone system  
242 outage. Dispatch and Emergency Services are excluded. Residents can  
243 still call and leave a message.
- 244 ii. Household Hazardous Waste Day is Oct 4.
- 245 iii. She's reviewing the FY 26 Budget Requests.
- 246 iv. She attended a Leadership meeting
- 247 v. She attended a 10 Hampton Road Building construction sitewalk with the  
248 Facilities Committee.
- 249 vi. The Police Station and Fire Substation group received the 75%  
250 construction docs and are getting ready for bid packages.
- 251 vii. She and Corey Stevens met with the coordinator of Holiday Parade, who  
252 requested increased funding this year.
- 253 viii. She will join the GIS user group as DPW tries to work on the workflow.
- 254 ix. She does not have a Park Street Bridge update.
- 255 x. She attended the Tax Exemption and Credit meeting and passed along  
256 the public comment on the All-Veterans Credit.
- 257 xi. She worked with Caroline Neale of Parks and Rec and attended the  
258 250th Committee to discuss their plans.
- 259 xii. She attended the Planning Board CIP meeting last week.
- 260 xiii. She's working with DPW on the groundwater easement project on  
261 Drinkwater Road.
- 262 xiv. She attended a Train Committee meeting. They're looking for a grant and  
263 VHB has offered to do pro bono design for improvement of the station.
- 264 xv. She had the biweekly agenda meeting with the Select Board Chair.

265  
266 d. Select Board Committee Reports

- 267 i. Ms. Gilman attended the Facilities, 250th and Tax Exemption Committee  
268 meetings.  
269 ii. Ms. Belanger said she attended the Planning Board CIP discussion.  
270 There were a few members that noticed we're trying to keep things lean  
271 this year. At the Planning Board Aug 28, there was a continued public  
272 hearing on 97 Portsmouth Ave, Blue Ribbon Drycleaners, which will  
273 resume on September 11. There was also a Wetlands Conditional Use  
274 Permit request for 18 Ashbrook Road. The Arts & Culture Commission  
275 and Rec Advisory Board did not meet due to lack of a quorum. The next  
276 Housing Advisory meeting is September 12, and she took the day off to  
277 attend.  
278 iii. Ms. Cowan had no report.  
279 iv. Mr. Chartrand said the meetings he attended have been discussed.  
280 v. Mr. Papakonstantis said he attended a Swasey Park Trustee meeting on  
281 August 20. Peter Lennon, the Chair of the Trustees of the Trust Fund,  
282 called in. Both committees are planning to attend the Board's next  
283 meeting to discuss moving the Trust in Ohio back to New Hampshire. He  
284 also attended the Pairpoint Park Committee August 28. They talked about  
285 the fundraising and donation policy, as well as creating a logo. He met  
286 with the E911 committee today.  
287

288 e. Correspondence

- 289 i. A response from resident who wrote in last time  
290 ii. Town Manager Russ Dean's resignation, which the Board accepted at the  
291 last meeting  
292

293 10. Review Board Calendar

- 294 a. The next meetings are September 15, September 29, Tuesday October 14,  
295 October 27, November 10, November 24, December 8, and December 22.  
296

297 11. Other Business

298 Mr. Papakonstantis said for employee appreciation around the holidays, we're  
299 proposing a half day on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, as well as a half day on  
300 New Year's Eve and a full day off on December 26.

301 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to authorize the interim Town Manager to celebrate employee  
302 appreciation days by giving staff a half day off on Wednesday before Thanksgiving as well as a  
303 half day on New Year's Eve and a full day on December 26. Mr. Chartrand seconded. The  
304 motion passed 5-0.  
305

306 12. Non-Public Session

307 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A3II(a). Ms.  
308 Gilman seconded. In a roll call vote, the motion passed 5-0, and the meeting entered non-public  
309 session at 8:10 PM.

310

311 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to exit non-public session. Mr. Chartrand seconded. The motion  
312 passed 5-0.

313

314 13. Adjournment

315 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to adjourn. Ms. Gilman seconded. The motion passed 5-0 and  
316 the meeting adjourned at 8:43 PM.

317

318 Respectfully Submitted,

319 Joanna Bartell

320 Recording Secretary

## **Appointments/Resignations**

Fwd: SAC 9/3 7:00 PM External Inbox



**Kristen Murphy**

to me, Jackie

Good morning Pam,

Please see the forwarded email resignation from Jackie from the SAC.

Kristen

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Jackie Ojala <[jackeline.ojala21@gmail.com](mailto:jackeline.ojala21@gmail.com)>

Date: Sat, Aug 30, 2025 at 8:09 AM

Subject: Re: SAC 9/3 7:00 PM

To: Kristen Murphy <[kmurphy@exeternh.gov](mailto:kmurphy@exeternh.gov)>, Denise Short <[deniseshort@gmail.com](mailto:deniseshort@gmail.com)>

Hi Kristen and Denise,

I wanted to let you know that I am moving to VT in the coming months and with everything going on with that I think it's time that I step down from the SAC. I apologize for the short notice for n but with this life change I won't be able to any more. Send my best to the rest of the committee as well.

Thanks for everything

Jackie

## **Discussion/Action Items**

**Trustees of the Trust Funds and Swasey Parkway Trustees**



Exeter Trustees of Trust Funds  
Town Offices  
10 Front Street  
Exeter, NH 03833

August 26, 2025

Mr. Niko Papakonstantis  
Chair, Exeter Select Board and  
Select Board Members  
Town Offices – 10 Front Street  
Exeter, NH 03833

Dear Chair Papakonstantis and Members of the Exeter Select Board:

As you know, the original Ambrose Swasey Bequest to the Town of Exeter to create and maintain Swasey Parkway was deposited as a trust fund in The Cleveland Trust Company, Cleveland, Ohio, in 1929. The funds, now with a market value of about \$300,000, are now held by Key Bank, also of Cleveland, Ohio.

As you also know, the terms of the Bequest give the Exeter Select Board (SB) the right after September 3, 1979 to terminate the trust fund and have paid to them the entire trust estate for investment purposes. Income from such investments would be used for the care, maintenance, and improvement of Swasey Parkway. The funds would be invested and directed by the Trustees of Trust Funds.

After much discussion with the Swasey Parkway Trustees and the Town Finance Director (and later with the Town Attorney), the Trust Fund Trustees voted unanimously (3-0) on August 4, 2025 to ask the SB to exercise its option to terminate the Ohio Trust Fund and bring its funds to Exeter. Once in Exeter, the funds would retain their separate identity as a new "Ambrose Swasey Bequest Trust Fund" and would be combined for investment purposes with other Town trust funds under the Trustees' Investment Advisor. We understand that a SB vote, letter, and Minutes excerpts are sufficient for Key Bank to accomplish this objective.

Importantly, at their August 20, 2025 meeting, the Swasey Parkway Trustees unanimously (3-0) endorsed this request to you, and we understand that the Town Finance Director also supports this course of action.

The Trust Fund Trustees have concluded that bringing the Ohio funds to Exeter has, at least, the following benefits compared to leaving the funds in the Ohio bank: (a) increasing oversight through the Investment Advisor's monthly reporting system, (b) ensuring that the funds will be invested according to the Trustees' Investment Policy, (c) possibly avoiding potentially higher fees, and (d) consolidating all of the Trustees' major trust funds in a single portfolio for management, coordination, and investment.

At the appropriate time, the Trustees will ask for the opportunity to appear before the SB to present our request and to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Cordially,

Peter D. Lennon

Chair, Exeter Trustees of Trust Funds

## **Tax Abatements, Veteran's Credits & Exemptions**

## List for Select Board meeting September 15, 2025

Land Use Change			
Map/Lot/Unit	Location	Amount	Tax Year
33-26	Signature Cir/Roadway	-	2025
33-26-1	5 Signature Circle	32,500	2025
33-26-2	11 Signature Circle	33,000	2025
33-26-3	23 Signature Circle	27,500	2025
33-26-4	29 Signature Circle	31,500	2025
33-26-5	33 Signature Circle	31,000	2025
33-26-6	35 Signature Circle	31,500	2025
33-26-7	37 Signature Circle	31,500	2025
33-26-8	38 Signature Circle	31,500	2025
33-26-9	36 Signature Circle	31,500	2025
33-26-10	34 Signature Circle	32,000	2025
33-26-11	30 Signature Circle	31,500	2025
33-26-12	24 Signature Circle	31,000	2025
112-7	Powder Mill Rd	5,000	2025 reissue

## **Permits & Approvals**

## **Town Manager Report**

## **Select Board Committee Reports**

## **Correspondence**



Pam McElroy <pmcelroy@exeternh.gov>

## Exeter, New Hampshire & Amtrak

1 message

Clark, Margaret T <Margaret.Clark@amtrak.com>

Mon, Sep 8, 2025 at 10:44 AM

To: "selectboard@exeternh.gov" <selectboard@exeternh.gov>

Cc: "pmcelroy@exeternh.gov" <pmcelroy@exeternh.gov>, "Schulz, Craig" <Craig.Schulz@amtrak.com>, "Mamone, Anabel" <anabel.mamone@amtrak.com>

Dear Members of the Exeter Selectboard,

I recently read the Union Leader article titled, "[Deaths on the Tracks Leave Scars in Exeter](#)", and want to extend my condolences to the families and community members affected by these tragic incidents. The article underscores the importance of continued public education around rail safety.

In light of this, I would welcome the opportunity to meet with members of the Selectboard to share information about [Operation Lifesaver](#), a national nonprofit rail safety education organization. Operation Lifesaver offers free, evidence-based programming designed to reduce collisions, injuries, and fatalities at highway-rail crossings and on or around railroad tracks.

I believe there may be meaningful opportunities to collaborate on educational outreach in Exeter—whether through schools, community events, or public service campaigns—to help prevent future tragedies.

Please let me know if there is a convenient time for a brief virtual meeting to discuss this further.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Warm regards,

Margaret

[Margaret Clark](#)

Manager, Government Affairs-Northeast

525 East Street | Rensselaer, NY 12144-2332

[Margaret.clark@amtrak.com](mailto:Margaret.clark@amtrak.com) 518.256.5950



**Niko Papakonstantis** <npapakonstantis@exeternh.gov>

Mon, Sep 8, 2025 at 1:32 PM

To: "Clark, Margaret T" <Margaret.Clark@amtrak.com>

Cc: Melissa Roy <mroy@exeternh.gov>, Pam McElroy <pmcelroy@exeternh.gov>

Hi Margaret,

I will share this email with our public safety leadership and the Town Manager's office.

I will contact you once I discuss with the leadership team and perhaps we can set something up.

Respectfully,

**Niko Papakonstantis**

**Select Baird, Chair**

[Quoted text hidden]

# Community Resource Fair

Sat, Sep 20 | Exeter

Explore resources in Exeter and meet local organizations.



Explore resources in Exeter  
and meet local organizations

## Time & Location

Sep 20, 2025, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM  
Exeter, 4 Chestnut St, Exeter, NH 03833, USA

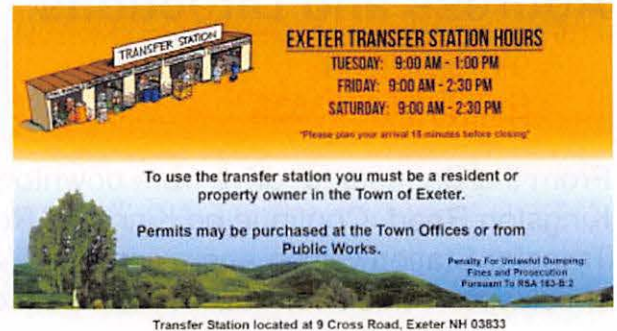
## About the Event

Interested in discovering the resources available in your community? Attend the Community Resource Fair at the library, organized in collaboration with Exeter Parks and Recreation, on Saturday, September 20 from 9 AM to 1 PM. This event is free and open to everyone. For further details, please contact the library at 603-772-3101.

# Transfer Station

**6/27/2025: The Transfer Station will be closed on Friday, July 4th in observance of Independence Day and will re-open on Saturday, July 5th 9am - 2:30pm.**

**Transfer Station Permit Reminder:** As stated in the Town Ordinance (chapter 11 - 1101.1) Transfer Station permits must be affixed to the windshield, on the inside lower left corner, of each resident's vehicle. This allows the attendant to validate entry and improve traffic flow.



## Transfer Station Information

2025 Transfer Station permits (\$20) are available for purchase. Permits and stickers are available to purchase from the Public Works Office, Town Office, or through the Town web service. Once you check out you will receive confirmation, and **stickers and permits are mailed to you.**

[Click here to purchase Transfer Station permits and disposal stickers](#)

A printable version of our Solid Waste program can be found in the attachment below. To utilize the Transfer Station you must be a resident or property owner in Exeter. Please have proper identification ready when entering (residents: a driver's license or for property owners: a tax bill).

Some items require the purchase of a permit, item sticker, or both. The cost of disposing of many items can add up! Local charitable organizations (Goodwill, Salvation Army, etc.) will gladly accept gently used items. For bulky trips, it may be cost-effective to utilize the Raymond Transfer Station (603-895-6273).

To buy a Permit you must be a resident or property owner in Exeter and show ID at the Town Office. License plate numbers are required for permits. The yearly permit must be affixed to the lower corner of the car's windshield on the driver's side.

**Calendar year permits: \$20**

**5-Day permit: \$5**

For questions email: [Publicworks@exeternh.gov](mailto:Publicworks@exeternh.gov)

## **Transfer Station Hours:**

Tuesday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Friday & Saturday 9:00 am - 2:30 pm

## **October 15th - December 15th Transfer Station Hours:**

Tuesday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm  
Friday 9:00 am - 2:30 pm  
Saturday 8:00 am - 2:30 pm  
Sunday Noon - 4:00 pm

## Address and Directions

9 Cross Road  
Exeter, NH 03833

From the Bandstand, drive from downtown on Front Street. Front Street (Route 111) becomes Kingston Road. Continue on Kingston Road (Route 111) to 9 Cross Road (on the right). The Transfer Station will be approximately 1/4 mile on the left. **STOP for the attendant** to check your vehicle for hazardous waste or other banned materials.

Items that can be dropped off at NO COST with proper ID:

- Used oil - not mixed with any other substance including gas or antifreeze
- Leaves - if bagged biodegradable brown paper bags must be used
- Christmas Trees - tinsel, lights, and ornaments must be removed
- Books - Bay State Book bin (617)203-1797
- Calculators
- Cell phones for Soldiers - any cell phones, ipads, tablets, mp3 players - used or broken, including device chargers
- Compost with [Mr. Fox Composting](#) bins at the Transfer Station

Items that require a Transfer Station permit:

- Brush - Landscapers/Contractors will need to purchase load tickets per trip. Load tickets must be purchased in advance at the Public Works Office. There is no limit to the number of tickets contractors can purchase.
  - Small load: Up to a full-size pick-up truck or single axle trailer \$25.00 (each load)
  - Large load: One-ton truck or double axle trailer \$50.00 (each load)
- White goods - (non-refrigerant) appliances, washer, dryer, paper shredders, etc.
- Metals - ferrous: steel, iron, bicycles, metal grills, snow blowers and lawn mowers (with gas and oil removed)
- Metals - non-ferrous: aluminum, copper, brass, etc.
- Wood - no painted or treated, no larger than 4' in length, no plywood, T-111 or particle board
- Ash - wood or coal stove ash
- Propane tanks - #20 or less
- Recyclable materials - plastics labeled #1, #2, & #5. Please follow guidelines for recyclables.
- Household Trash - must be in Exeter Blue Bags

- Batteries - Rechargeable (not household) only (automobile, toy, and tool batteries) - see Battery document below
- Mercury-containing thermometers, thermostats, electric switches, mercury button cell batteries, and fluorescent lights. These items can also be collected on Hazardous Waste Day.

## Items that require both stickers and permits:

Disposal stickers (Electronic, Construction, & Appliance) can be purchased at the Town Office, Public Works Office, or Arjay's Ace Hardware. Disposal stickers can also be purchased [online](#) as well.

Construction Debris Bags and Town of Exeter Blue trash bags can be purchased at the Public Works Office and Arjay's Ace Hardware.

## Electronics (\$10)

Due to the hazardous materials in most electronic goods, they must be disposed of with care. A \$10 electronics sticker can be purchased at the Town Office or Public Works for the disposal of any electronic goods at the Transfer Station. Best Buy and Staples have electronic recycling programs for most electronics.

These items include:

- Computers - monitors, hard drives, printers , laptops, tablets, battery packs or battery back-ups.
- Televisions
- Scanners, copy, and fax machines

## Freon (Appliance) sticker - \$10

- Refrigerators - Doors, non-metal parts (bins, shelves) MUST BE removed and placed in blue trash bags. Metal components can be placed in the metal dumpster.  
\*Check the Unitil link below for updates on their periodic refrigerator rebate program.
- Freezers
- Air Conditioners
- Water Coolers
- Dehumidifiers

## Construction Debris - \$8 (each item)

Small quantities of construction debris can be disposed of at the Transfer Station with the appropriate bag or sticker. Town Office and Public Works have Construction Stickers to purchase; Arjay's Ace Hardware has both Construction Bags and Stickers. For large loads, we recommend utilizing the Raymond Transfer Station as they allow non-residents to use the facility and charge by weight.

Construction Bags (\$8 each): small items: drywall, shingles, insulation, etc. Liquids must be solidified.

Construction Stickers (\$8 each): doors, windows, toilets, sinks, bundled wood (treated/painted) or carpet.

## Items NOT Accepted at the Transfer Station

- **Bulky Items** - (couch, mattress, etc.) if you utilize blue bag pick-up, 1 Bulky item can be picked up per week (\$5 bulk sticker)
- **Hazardous Waste** - Usually on a Saturday in October hosted by Rockingham Planning at the DPW Complex
- **Tires** - Raymond Transfer station (603-895-6273) will accept tires for a fee or check with local tire dealers
- **Antifreeze, brake fluid, or other auto chemicals** - collected on Hazardous Waste Day
- **Asbestos**
- **Sharps/Syringes** - "Sharps by mail systems" can be purchased at your local pharmacy for safe disposal or place sharps in a durable plastic bottle such as a laundry detergent bottle. Once the jug is 3/4 full, write SHARPS on it, tape the lid so it will not accidentally open, and dispose of in your household trash.
- **Pharmaceuticals** - Exeter PD now has a prescription drop off box in the lobby

## Free for Residents

- Compost
- Wood Chips

Contact [Public Works](#) for availability.

## Waste Management Dumpster Bag

A Waste Management dumpster bag (link below) is another great option if you have a lot of items to dispose of. The dumpster bag can hold up to 3,300 pounds of debris. The bags can be purchased at stores such as Home Depot and Lowe's for \$30\*. Once you fill the bag notify Waste Management to pick it up! It's that easy! Waste Management fees for pick-up are about \$270 - price may vary.

# SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

 **Mr. Fox Composting Information (209 KB)**

 **Batteries (761 KB)**

 **How do I dispose of...? Item list A-Z (722 KB)**

## **WEB LINKS**

[Managing My Waste - NH Dept. of Environmental Services](#)

[Raymond Transfer Station](#)

[Recycling](#)

[Unitil Rebates and Incentives](#)

[Waste Management Dumpster Bag Information](#)

# Recycling

The Town of Exeter established a contract with Waste Management for curbside collection of recyclables. Exeter's blue recycling containers must be used for Waste Management to pick up recyclables. Any overflow must wait until the following week or drop off at the Transfer Station (permits required, \$20 for the calendar year). Recycle bins are available to purchase at the Public Works Office:

- **\$75** ~ 65 gallon totes (with a cover & wheels)  
Cash, check - payable to Town of Exeter, or credit cards (\$2.50 or 2.99% whichever is greater fee applies to credit card sales)

Let's get back to the basics of recycling.

**Remember these three rules each time you recycle:**



Single Stream Recycling: All items can be placed in your recycling container together. No need to separate!

- Aluminum cans
- Plastic bottles and containers - #1, #2, #5 (caps on)
- Steel and tin cans
- Newspaper
- Glass food and beverage containers (caps off) brown, clear, or green
- Mail (mixed paper)
- Magazines
- Uncoated paperboard (ex. cereal boxes, food and snack boxes)
- Aerosol cans - cap removed (dispose in trash)
- Phone books
- Old corrugated containers/cardboard (uncoated)

## **Items that are NOT recyclable in our program (even if it has a recycle symbol):**

- X Cardboard cartons (usually containing juice, milk, or broth)
- X Plastic bags and any bagged recycled materials #3, 4, & 7 (visit [earth911.com](http://earth911.com) for info.) Bring to local grocery stores that have plastic bag collection bins.
- X Mirrors
- X Light bulbs (bring to Transfer Station with a permit) or Arjay's Ace Hardware
- X Windows, dishes, Pyrex, ceramics, and porcelain
- X Unmarked plastics (toys, shelves, containers, chairs, etc.)
- X Styrofoam (even with a recycle symbol - not recyclable in our program)
- X Foam packaging #6
- X Unclean food containers (better to throw away than to create a pest problem)
- X Shredded paper

For items that are not recyclable, there could be ways to re-purpose or re-use the item. When in doubt, it is best to throw it out in your household trash.



Pam McElroy <pmcelroy@exeternh.gov>

## NHMA 2025 Final Legislative Bulletin

1 message

NHMA Government Affairs <governmentaffairs@nhmunicipal.org>  
To: Pam McElroy <pmcelroy@exeternh.gov>

Thu, Sep 4, 2025 at 3:29 PM

### New Hampshire Municipal Association

THE SERVICE AND ACTION ARM OF NEW HAMPSHIRE MUNICIPALITIES

# LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN

Final Legislative Bulletin

2025 Session  
2025

September 4,



Live Bill Tracker

2025 Final Legislative Bulletin

### In this issue:

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- [Legislative Calendar](#)
- [NHMA Advocacy Team](#)
- [Sharing is Caring ... About Sound Public Policy](#)
- [Final Word on 2025](#)

Overview of the 2025 Session



## Mixed Results for Towns and Cities

*No major cuts to state aid, but some smaller ones*

*Municipalities faced onslaught of zoning mandates*

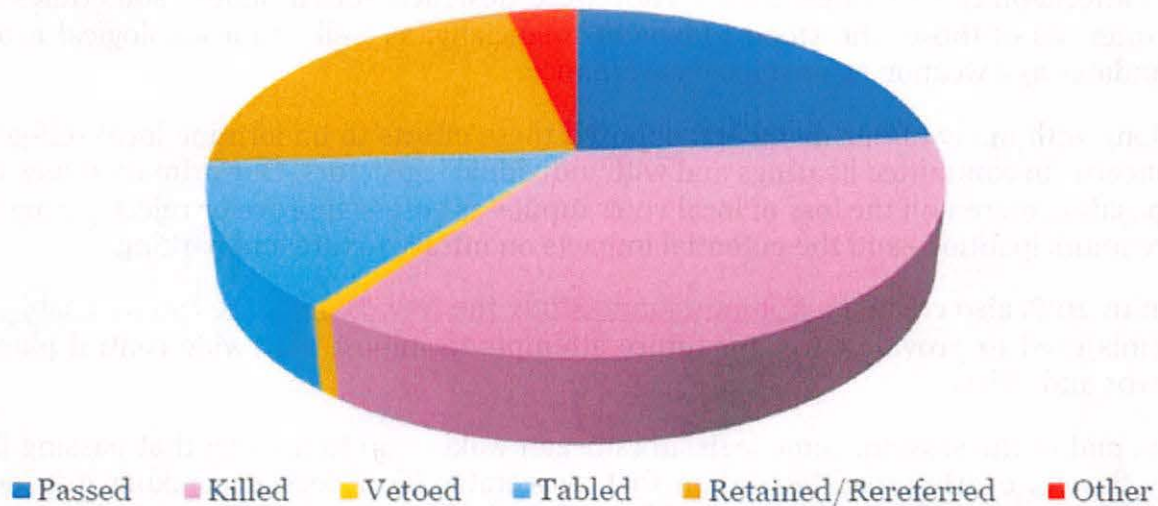
*Multiple changes to election/town meeting laws*

Eighty-six bills with municipal impact became law in the 2025 legislative session, but no session can be summed up by numbers alone. Overall, NHMA and our members ended up playing more defense than offense this year, spending a significant amount of time fighting a slew of bills that would hurt local government or supplant local decision-making, including working to defeat yet another effort that would have deprived municipalities of their voice at the legislature.

Still, we were able to work collaboratively with many legislators in both parties and other stakeholders to help pass important legislation including:

- Stabilizing ground ambulance insurance reimbursements, eliminating balance-billing, and creating a commission to determine fair, long-term reimbursement rates.
- Allowing the use of electronic poll books at town meetings.
- Securing a state commitment to pay the local “normal cost” attributable to significant retirement changes passed as part of the state budget.
- Enabling municipalities to create social districts.
- Adding municipal public works facilities as eligible capital facilities for the assessment of impact fees.
- Providing state-purchased accessible voting systems (AVS) to municipalities for local elections.

## 2025 Bill Distribution



This chart shows the outcomes on nearly 360 bills NHMA followed throughout the session.

The two dominant policy issues in 2025 were the state budget and a concerted effort to override local zoning and planning, although the sheer volume of changes to election and town meeting laws was also noteworthy.

### ***State budget preserves (most) municipal gains***

Despite a challenging state revenue picture and costly legislative priorities (retirement system changes, school voucher expansion), the \$15.9 billion, two-year FY 2026-27 state budget adopted in June maintains most of the hard-won gains in state aid that municipalities have achieved in recent years.

Various proposals to reduce 30% municipal share of meals and rooms tax were unsuccessful. Municipal revenue from this tax has grown steadily since the local share was restored in 2021.

Unfortunately, the state spending package budget did not include any new funding for Housing Champions or any other housing incentive programs, which was a glaring omission in a year where elected state officials in both parties touted housing as the biggest issue facing New Hampshire. Also left out was \$200,000 in state block grants to support regional planning commissions.

The budget also introduced premiums for the Granite Advantage low-income health programs. NHMA is concerned that these out-of-pocket premiums will have an adverse trickle-down impact on local welfare budgets.

Finally, New Hampshire Retirement System pension benefit increases for a subset of first responders were hammered out literally on the eve of the final budget vote (see below for details of the key changes). NHMA advocated vigorously to ensure the added costs of these benefits not be downshifted to cities and towns and the final compromise included a promise of at least \$262 million in state funding through 2034, although only the \$42 million to be paid in FY 26-27 is guaranteed. If the state were to renege on its long-term promise, local retirement costs would skyrocket.

A detailed summary of changes contained in the state budget impacting municipal government is included in the new laws section below.

### ***Land use: Pre-empting local control***

More than two dozen bills regarding planning, zoning and land use were introduced in 2025. Many of the bills this session sought to impose one-size-fits-all solutions with regard to planning and zoning, permitting processes, and housing development.

NHMA believes that municipalities and the state legislature should work together to foster safe, healthy, and vibrant communities. Unfortunately, many of the housing and zoning bills this year were not crafted to address affordability or homelessness. They were designed—often subtly, sometimes brazenly—to serve the interests of those who stood to benefit financially, as well as for ideological actors, who see zoning mandates as a weapon against local governance.

NHMA, along with many of our members, opposed these efforts to undermine local self-governance by voicing concerns in committee hearings and with individual legislators. Our primary issues with many of these proposals centered on the loss of local voter input—as voters approve or reject zoning in most New Hampshire municipalities—and the potential impacts on infrastructure and parking.

Legislation in 2025 also created a [Commission to study the New Hampshire zoning enabling act](#), which could be (mis)used to provide cover for future attempts to impose statewide central planning on our diverse towns and cities.

Toward the end of the session, some legislators began waking up to the fact that passing ill-conceived, technically flawed, overly broad legislation that eviscerates local decision-making may not be such a good idea and several troubling bills were tabled or killed. However, we fully expect to see many of these bills return next year, along with new efforts, so it's important that legislators continue to hear from you year-round about the importance of protecting local governance and decision-making. It's never the wrong season to advocate for your interests!

## New Laws by Topic

Here is a summary of the bills affecting cities and towns that became law in 2025. If you have specific questions, the entire bill should be reviewed. The links below will take you to the [Fast Democracy](#) page for the underlying bill. Click on “Chaptered Final Version” to view the full text of the new law. **Note:** The links will no longer work later this year when the NH General Court archives the bills from the 2025 session; at that time, refer directly to the relevant statutes, which are [available here](#).

NHMA has prepared guidance on several new laws enacted this year, which is [available here](#). Laws denoted with an asterisk (\*) are included in one of the guidance documents. Members with specific questions about the application of these and other statutes may be directed to NHMA Legal Services at [legalinquiries@nhmunicipal.org](mailto:legalinquiries@nhmunicipal.org) or 603-224-7447.

### HB 2 (BUDGET TRAILER BILL)

Weighing in at 161 pages, **Chapter 141 (HB 2)**, the budget trailer bill, included multiple sections impacting municipal government:

**SAG grants. (Chapter 141: 112, 379):** The budget includes \$2.5 million per year in funding for State Aid Grants (SAG), which provide 20% to 30% of eligible principal and interest payments for completed municipal wastewater infrastructure projects. The funding is still well below the \$15 million per year included in the last budget.

**Solid waste surcharge. (Chapter 141:176):** A new \$3.50 per ton surcharge on all solid waste disposed of at any of the state's six active landfills or its waste-to-energy facility takes effect January 1, 2026. The fee will be paid by municipalities, businesses, and other entities, but towns and cities will receive a 100% quarterly rebate. The surcharge will fund waste management programs at the state Department of Environmental Services (DES) and grants focused on improving waste disposal infrastructure across the state. DES is [developing guidance](#) for this surcharge and NHMA will pass along this information when it becomes available.

**PFAS mitigation. (Chapter 141:375):** A new section was added to RSA 485-H:6 requiring DES to establish an application approval process and determine the prorated compensation amount for each public water system with PFAS detections based on the amount public water systems spent or will spend on infrastructure to mitigate PFAS compounds minus the amount received from other funding sources.

**Vehicle safety inspections. (Chapter 141:253):** The budget eliminates motor vehicle safety inspections in 2026 and authorizes the state to work with the federal government regarding emissions testing. Because 12 percent of the motor vehicle fee revenue is distributed to municipalities, the state Department of Transportation estimated this change will decrease municipal revenue by about \$350,000 per year.

**Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund. (Chapter 141:378):** The budget appropriates \$11.55 million from the Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund to pay for drinking water infrastructure as part the Southern New Hampshire Regional Water Project.

**Revenue sharing. (Chapter 141:111):** Although it has no current fiscal impact, the budget includes a repeal of municipal revenue sharing under RSA 31-A. In 1969, reform in how the state taxed businesses led to the implementation of the Business Profits Tax (BPT). This eliminated antiquated taxes that were more reflective of the agricultural economy of the past. These taxes, however, were assessed and collected locally and were part of the property tax base for municipalities, school districts, and counties. When RSA 31-A was enacted in 1970, it included a provision to increase state revenue sharing by 10% annually, however that promise was modified or deferred multiple times over the years. Although revenue sharing has been suspended in every budget since 2010, keeping the statute alive would have made it easier for a future legislature to revisit it someday.

**Housing Appeals Board (HAB). (Chapter 141:335-338):** The budget includes funding for a modified version of the HAB, which the House wanted to eliminate. Under the new model, the HAB will share resources with the Board of Tax and Land Appeals (BTLA).

**Right-to-know ombudsman. (Chapter 141:206-208):** The ombudsman was converted to a per-diem position, which precipitated the resignation of the incumbent ombudsman. The position will continue to independently exercise the statutory jurisdiction conferred upon it when it is filled.

**Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI). (Chapter 141:321):** This section prohibits DEI initiatives and DEI-related contract provisions in state and local government entities, public schools, and public universities, and includes financial penalties for school districts that don't comply. While municipalities are included, the legislation does not assess specific penalties to towns and cities for non-compliance. The state Department of Justice (DOJ) is mandated to establish a process by which all political subdivisions review their existing contracts for the presence of DEI-related provisions. This provision is currently being challenged in federal court by school districts and other parties.

**Ownership of property by foreign principals (Chapter 141:346):** No foreign principal (defined as China, Russia, North Korea, Iran or Syria) may lease or acquire any permanent or temporary ownership or controlling interest in real property within the state by any means.

**Partners in Housing. (Chapter 141:209-214):** The budget created, but did not fund, a new initiative under the Housing Champions program to assist municipalities, counties, and developers in building modestly priced housing on municipal or county owned land that is suitable for development.

## **ZONING AND LAND USE**

**Recusal from ZBA votes.\* Chapter 108 (HB 92)** mandates that a zoning board of adjustment (ZBA) member shall recuse himself or herself from voting on matters previously voted upon by the same member while serving on the planning board in a quasi-judicial capacity. **Effective: 8/22/25. Statute: RSA 673:3, V**

**State Building Code Update. Chapter 135 (HB 134)** amends the state building code to incorporate more recent versions of various international codes and updates to the National Electrical Code. **Effective: 7/1/25. Statute: RSA 155-A:1**

**Impact fee expansion. Chapter 58 (HB 168)** allows municipalities to include public works facilities as eligible capital facilities for the assessment of impact fees on new developments. **Effective: 7/28/25. Statute: RSA 674:21, V**

***Building permits on private roads.\**** Chapter 175 ([HB 296](#)) adds an alternative pathway to gain authorization from local governing bodies to erect buildings along private roads. The law also contains an unrelated provision removing the zoning board of adjustment's discretion for determining when to take an appeal and replaces it with a non-discretionary 30-day period. **Effective: 9/13/25. Statutes: RSA 674:41; RSA 676:5**

***Vesting period for approved site plans.\**** Chapter 186 ([HB 413](#)) extends the vesting time periods that protect approved subdivision and site plans from changes in local planning and zoning regulations and limits the authority of the ZBA or select board when acting as the building code board of appeals. **Effective: 7/1/25. Statutes: RSA 674:39; RSA 674:34, I ; RSA 155-A:11-b; RSA 478:1-a; RSA 679:5, IV; RSA 673:3, IV**

***State building code.\**** Chapter 276 ([HB 428](#)) limits local amendments to the state building code and state fire code to matters involving issuance of permits, collection of fees, and similar administrative functions. **Effective: 7/1/26. Statutes: RSA 155-A:1-5, 7, 10, and 11-b; RSA 674:34; RSA 675:1**

***Occupancy limits.\**** Chapter 188 ([HB 457](#)) prohibits municipal zoning ordinances from restricting the number of occupants of any dwelling unit to less than two occupants per bedroom. **Effective: 9/13/25. Statute: RSA 674:16, VIII**

***Accessory Dwelling Units.\**** Chapter 197 ([HB 577](#)) modifies the existing laws regarding Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) by expanding their definition and allowing for detached units to be constructed by right. Additionally, the maximum square footage for ADUs is increased, with a stipulation that the total living space cannot exceed 950 square feet unless authorized by the municipality and cannot be restricted to less than 750 square feet. **Effective: 7/1/25. Statutes: RSA 674:71 and 73**

***Residential development in commercial zones.\**** Chapter 201 ([HB 631](#)) mandates that municipalities allow multi-family residential development on commercially zoned land, with specific conditions related to infrastructure and exemptions for adaptive reuse projects. **Effective: 7/1/26. Statute: RSA 674:77**

***Supportive housing.*** Chapter 153 ([HB 731](#)) creates a limited state license exemption for supportive housing options specifically designed for individuals with developmental disabilities. **Effective: 9/5/25. Statute: RSA 151:2, II(a)**

***Youth recreation cabins.*** Chapter 227 ([SB 95](#)) exempts residential cabins in youth recreation camps from the requirement to install automatic sprinkler systems, even in new or renovated structures; clarifies that while these cabins must comply with the state building code, they are not required to have electrical, mechanical, or plumbing systems unless such systems are installed—at which point they must meet code standards; and limits new residential facilities at youth summer camps to two stories above grade. **Effective: 9/13/25. Statutes: RSA 153:5; RSA 155-A:14**

***Third-party inspections and review.\**** Chapter 246 ([SB 188](#)) allows licensed or certified third-party professionals to conduct building inspections and construction document reviews in place of local building officials. **Effective: 7/15/25. Statute: The bill did not state where these changes will be inserted into the statutory scheme.**

***Class VI roads.\**** Chapter 256 ([SB 281](#)) prohibits municipalities from denying building or occupancy permits for property adjacent to class VI roads under certain circumstances. **Effective: 7/1/26. Statute: RSA 674:41, I(c)**

***Stairway requirements.\**** Chapter 257 ([SB 282](#)) requires municipalities to allow residential buildings with four or fewer floors to have only one stairway, provided that the building is equipped with a compliant sprinkler system and meets specific fire code requirements. **Effective: 7/15/25. Statute: RSA 155-A:2, XII**

***Floor-area-ratios.\**** Chapter 301 ([SB 283](#)) mandates that municipalities exclude below-grade areas, which include basements and sublevels, from the calculation of floor-area-ratios for new

construction projects. **Effective: 9/30/25. Statutes: RSA 674:77-78**

***Required parking spaces.\**** Chapter 258 ([SB 284](#)) reduces the number of residential parking spaces a municipality can require per residential housing unit from 1.5 to one. **Effective: 9/13/25. Statute: RSA 674:16, VII**

## ELECTIONS AND TOWN MEETINGS

***Accessible voting machines.\**** Chapter 264 ([HB 67](#)) requires cities and towns to ensure the availability of at least one accessible voting system at each polling place. It requires local clerks to enter into agreements with the secretary of state for the use of these systems, which will be provided by the state. The bill also stipulates that local governments are responsible for the costs associated with programming local elections using the accessible voting systems, while the secretary of state will cover programming costs for state and federal elections. **Effective: 1/1/26 (with current pilot extended to 12/31/25); Statute: RSA 659:20-b**

***Ability to adjust terms for supervisors of the checklist.\**** Chapter 166 ([HB 151](#)) creates a local option that would allow the city or town's legislative body to adopt 3-year terms for supervisors of the checklist. **Effective: 9/13/25. Statute: RSA 41:46-a**

***Hand-counting ballots.\**** Chapter 271 ([HB 154](#)) allows any voter to request their ballot to be hand-counted. **Effective: 9/30/25. Statute: RSA 656:42, XII**

***Election audits.*** Chapter 23 ([HB 261](#)) changes the timing of when election audits are conducted, stipulating that audits will take place only after the completion of any recounts. **Effective: 7/13/25. Statute: RSA 660:17-c**

***Date for correction of the voter checklist.*** Chapter 25 ([HB 269](#)) removes the requirement for a Saturday session of the supervisors of the checklist, allowing for flexibility as long as the session occurs in accordance with the statutory requirements. **Effective: 7/13/25. Statute: RSA 654:28**

***External storage devices.*** Chapter 174 ([HB 270](#)) requires the preservation of electronic ballot counting device external storage devices until the resolution of any election contest and the expiration of all appeals, or for a minimum of 22 months following elections, whichever is longer. **Effective: 9/13/25. Statutes: RSA 33-A:3-a; RSA 656:42**

***Absentee ballot requests.*** Chapter 62 ([HB 288](#)) amends the procedure for requesting absentee ballots. Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) voters may submit their federal official post card forms no earlier than January of the calendar year in which the election occurs. All other absentee ballot applications must be received or postmarked within six months of the election date; any applications received or postmarked prior to this six-month period will not be accepted. **Effective: 8/1/25. Statute: RSA 657:6**

***Processing absentee ballots.\**** Chapter 45 ([HB 294](#)) repeals the ability of voters to postpone the processing of absentee ballots until after the polls are closed. **Effective: 7/28/25. Statute: RSA 659:49, II**

***Filing for NH House.\**** Chapter 47 ([HB 327](#)) amends the statute to allow a state representative to file for office with the town/city clerk as outlined in RSA 655:15, II and III, or the secretary of state. **Effective: 7/28/25. Statutes: RSA 655:15, II and III; RSA 655:28**

***Partisan town elections.*** Chapter 127 ([HB 367](#)) changes the method for adopting partisan town elections to be the same as rescinding partisan town elections. **Effective: 9/13/25. Statute: RSA 669:11, 11-a, 12, 13**

***Multiple changes to election statutes.*** Chapter 277 ([HB 464](#)) prohibits candidates for political office from participating in the counting of ballots, with exceptions for certain positions such as moderator and clerk. Additionally, it allows the use of personal information from state agencies to verify

voter eligibility and mandates that political committees report campaign donations under \$50 without disclosing personal identifying information. **Effective: Multiple dates. Statutes: RSA 658:31; RSA 654:45; RSA 654:12; RSA 664:6; RSA 500-A:2; RSA 263:40-a and 5-C:9; RSA 664:3**

***Counting write-in votes.\**** Chapter 65 ([HB 474](#)) requires there to be a second witness to the counting of write-in votes. **Effective: 8/1/25. Statute: RSA 659:64-a, I**

***Election system vulnerability.*** Chapter 200 ([HB 626](#)) requires the secretary of state to establish a vulnerability disclosure program for certain election systems. **Effective: 7/15/25. Statute: RSA 652:23**

***Posting requirement for election return forms.\**** Chapter 79 ([SB 16](#)) adds a new requirement that the city or town clerk must post copies of the election return forms submitted to the secretary of state's office pursuant to RSA 659:73, I within 7 days following an election. **Effective: 8/9/25. Statute: RSA 659:73, VII**

***Poll books and electioneering.\**** Chapter 217 ([SB 43](#)) authorizes cities and towns to use poll books for voter registration and check-in for not only elections but also for business meetings, deliberative sessions, and special meetings for both the town and school district. SB 43 also amends the statute regulating clothing worn at a polling place that advocates for or against any candidate, political party, or measure. **Effective: 9/13/25. Statutes: RSA 652:16-h, I; RSA 652:27, I**

***Terminology change.*** Chapter 102 ([SB 212](#)) changes all references from "votes" to "ballots," as requested by the secretary of state, and revises provisions related to write-in candidates and recount procedures, ensuring that candidates must meet thresholds based on total ballots cast rather than votes. **Effective: 6/17/25. Statutes: RSA 655:42; RSA 659:88; 659:91-a; RSA 660:1-3 and 6; RSA 669:31**

***Voting procedures in unorganized places.*** Chapter 249 ([SB 215](#)) revises voting procedures for electing town officers in unorganized towns or places. **Effective: 9/13/25. Statute: RSA 668:6**

***Documentation for absentee voting.*** Chapter 298 ([SB 218](#)) requires absentee ballot voters to submit information demonstrating citizenship, age, domicile, and identity in order to qualify to vote and requires town or city clerks to notify the applicant in writing within 7 days if their ballot cannot be certified; the town or city clerk shall provide the applicant with an absentee ballot and a notice that the ballot will not be counted unless the applicant submits the documents necessary to complete an absentee registration. **Effective: 9/30/25. Statutes: RSA 654:17, 17-a, 19; RSA 657:7, 16, 17, 17-a, 18**

***Verification of voter checklist.\**** Chapter 299 ([SB 221](#)) amends the timing of verification of the checklist from every 10 years to annually, beginning in 2026. Additionally, SB 221 amends the look back period to determine whether a person shall be deemed reregistered from 4 years to 5 years. **Effective: 1/1/26. Statute: RSA 654:39**

***"Primary petitioner" for petition warrant articles.\**** Chapter 173 ([HB 228](#)) establishes a process for a primary petitioner to be identified for every petitioned warrant article and guarantees the primary petitioner's right to introduce a petitioned warrant article at town meeting for at least 10 minutes. **Effective: 9/13/25. Statutes: RSA 39:9; RSA 40:7**

## **TAXATION/TAX CAPS**

***Timber tax/carbon sequestration.*** Chapter 164 ([HB 123](#)) creates a commission (see below) to study the impacts of carbon sequestration on state and local tax revenue, forest management, and the logging industry in New Hampshire, establishes a moratorium on carbon sequestration contracts for land parcels over 500 acres from July 1, 2025, until the submission of the commission report, and defines "pre-sequestration timber tax revenue." **Effective: Section 4, 11/1/27; remainder, 7/1/25. Statutes: RSA 79:1, 5, and 32-33**

***Tax impact notations.\**** Chapter 144 ([HB 138](#)) requires municipalities that already include a notation stating the estimated tax impact of the annual budget and special warrant articles to include on special warrant articles with multi-year tax impacts a notation stating the estimated tax impact each year for the first 5 years, or each year if the tax impact is less than 5 years. **Effective 8/30/25. Statute: RSA 32:5, V-b**

***Overriding tax caps.\**** Chapter 170 ([HB 200](#)) eliminates the current ability of a majority at town meeting to override a tax cap and requires any override to be approved by town meeting by ballot with a 3/5th vote. **Note:** Prior to the enactment of HB 200, a tax cap did not limit the amount the voters could actually appropriate at the annual town meeting; it was only a limit on the budget submitted to the voters by the governing body or budget committee. **Effective: 9/13/25. Statute: RSA 32:5-b**

***Tax caps tied to inflation or population.\**** Chapter 183 ([HB 374](#)) amends RSA 32:5-b to clarify how a tax cap using inflation and/or changes in population or school attendance will be calculated. New definitions on “Attendance,” “Base Amount,” and “Population” are provided along with a clarification that official inflation figures shall be as of October 1st preceding the date of the budget hearing held. **Effective: 9/13/25. Statute: RSA 32:5-b, c, e, and f**

***New options for budget caps.\**** Chapter 131 ([SB 105](#)) enables municipalities to adopt a budget cap limiting a proposed budget not to exceed the dollars spent per resident in the prior fiscal year times the current town population plus a fixed percentage, or percent annual increase for inflation based upon data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics or American City or County. Furthermore, this legislation also introduces a new limit on the authority of town meeting to amend warrant articles: Any question to adopt a budget cap under RSA 32:5-g shall not be subject to amendment by the legislative body. **Effective: 8/23/25. Statutes RSA 32:5-g and h**

## LOCAL AUTHORITY AND RELATED ITEMS

***Unlicensed dog notices.*** Chapter 7 ([HB 86](#)) increases the cost of service for notice of civil forfeiture of unlicensed dogs to the rate for certified mail. **Effective: 7/7/25. Statute: RSA 466:14**

***Special forest maintenance fund surplus.\**** Chapter 164 ([HB 124](#)) enables a municipal forest committee or conservation commission to offer surplus money to the municipality for deposit in the municipal unreserved fund balance. **Effective: 7/1/25. Statute: RSA 31:113**

***Liability for indigent relatives.*** Chapter 267 ([HB 132](#)) changes the obligation of relatives from “shall” to “may” when it comes to assisting poor relatives in need of public relief and removes provisions that previously mandated court involvement and potential imprisonment for relatives who refuse to provide assistance, instead allowing towns or cities to seek reimbursement from legally liable relatives who have sufficient means. Furthermore, the bill stipulates that aid to eligible individuals cannot be withheld due to a legally liable relative’s refusal to provide aid. **Effective: 1/1/26. Statute: RSA 165:19**

***Disaster relief.*** Chapter 43 ([HB 165](#)) increases the maximum annual amount of disaster relief funding that a municipality can receive from the state Disaster Relief Fund from \$25,000 to \$100,000. **Effective: 7/28/25. Statute: RSA 21-P:37-e**

***Enabling the muzzling of dogs.*** Chapter 272 ([HB 250](#)) allows local governing bodies to establish regulations regarding the muzzling of dogs, specifically targeting vicious dogs as defined in RSA 466:31, II(g), with exemptions for certain working dogs. **Effective: 9/30/25. Statute: RSA 466:39**

***“Quiet hours” exemption.*** Chapter 61 ([HB 272](#)) exempts certain agricultural practices from municipal noise regulation. **Effective: 8/1/25. Statutes: RSA 31:39; RSA 47:17**

***Access to minor’s library history.*** Chapter 272 ([HB 273](#)) allows a parent to access their minor child’s library records. **Effective: 1/1/26. Statute: RSA 201-D:11**

***Lease of town-owned real property.*** Chapter 127 ([HB 373](#)) requires the select board to obtain a vote from the legislative body for leases of real property exceeding one year, with the maximum lease term extended to 99 years. If a lease is for one year or less, the select board can proceed without legislative body approval. The legislative body may vote to grant the select board universal authority to lease property for up to five years without further action. **Effective: 6/23/25. Statute: RSA 41:11-a**

***Social districts.*** Chapter 158 ([HB 467](#)) enables municipalities to create a “social district,” defined as a designated outdoor area where individuals can consume alcoholic beverages sold by licensed establishments. **Effective: 9/5/25. Statutes: RSA 178:33-38**

***Public Deposit Investment Pool.*** Chapter 65 ([HB 469](#)) requires the Public Deposit Investment Pool (PDIP) advisory committee to evaluate investment advisors by requesting proposals and reviewing them based on criteria established by the state treasurer and the advisory committee, subject to a competitive bidding process. The law also adds one member to the PDIP advisory committee appointed by the Municipal Managers Association of New Hampshire. **Effective: 8/1/25. Statutes: RSA 6:45; RSA 6:47**

***County-wide communication districts.*** Chapter 69 ([HB 569](#)) enables the establishment of county-wide communication districts as a local option. **Effective: 8/1/25. Statute: RSA 53-G:1-2**

***Leases by state agencies.*** Chapter 152 ([HB 694](#)) requires leases of land, buildings, or space between a political subdivision and the state must adhere to this fair market value requirement, with the exception of leases obtained through a competitive selection or bidding process. **Effective: 9/5/25. Statute: RSA 4:39-g**

***Keno change; ability to ban games of chance.\**** Chapter 288 ([HB 737](#)) automatically permits Keno, unless a municipality votes to prohibit it (i.e., opt out instead of opting in), and provides local governments the option to ban games of chance within their boundaries. **New Keno law effective: 6/1/27; New opt-out law effective: 7/1/25. Statutes: RSA 287-D:32; RSA 284:51-a**

***“Sanctuary Cities”—I\**** Chapter 39 ([HB 511](#)) mandates that law enforcement agencies comply with federal immigration detainers for inmates when it is safe to do so, prohibits local government from enacting sanctuary policies that would impede the enforcement of federal immigration law, and limits law enforcement agencies from investigating an inmate’s citizenship status in some circumstances. **Effective: 1/1/26. Statute: RSA 106-P:1-4**

***Death affidavits.*** Chapter 114 ([SB 42](#)) requires beneficiaries of a transfer on death deed to file a notice of death affidavit with detailed information at the registry of deeds within 60 days of the transferor’s death, thereby ensuring proper documentation and communication with the tax assessor. **Effective: 8/22/25. Statute: RSA 563-D:22**

***Boat decal fees.*** Chapter 84 ([SB 51](#)) specifies that all boat decal fees collected shall not be diverted from specific dedicated funds. Some municipalities process boat registrations for the state. **Effective: 6/10/25. Statutes: RSA 233-A:13; RSA 487:25**

***“Sanctuary Cities”—II\**** Chapter 38 ([SB 62](#)) prohibits a municipality from impeding law enforcement agencies from applying for or entering into federal agreements, specifically the 287(g) program, which allows for cooperation with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). The law also introduces enforcement mechanisms, allowing the attorney general to take action against local entities that violate these provisions. **Effective: 7/21/25. Statutes: RSA 106-P-Q; RSA 30-B:1**

## **ASSESSING/PROPERTY TAXES/EXEMPTIONS**

***Notice of re-assessment.*** Chapter 265 ([HB 71](#)) creates a new public notice requirement that municipalities with a population of 10,000 or more must follow before issuing tax bills after the re-assessment. (The bill also prohibits school facilities to be used to provide shelter for certain illegal immigrants.) **Effective date of assessment notice requirement: 7/1/26. Statute: RSA 75:8**

**Disabled veterans credit.** Chapter 15 ([HB 99](#)) increases the optional maximum property tax waiver for disabled veterans from \$4,000 to \$5,000. **Effective: 7/13/25. Statutes: RSA 72:27-a; RSA 72:28, 28-b, and 28-c; RSA 72:36-a**

**Retroactive charitable exemption.** Chapter 20 ([HB 426](#)) allows charitable organizations to request a property tax exemption for the 2024 tax year if it can demonstrate to selectmen that they were unable to file their statement of financial condition by the deadline due to accident, mistake, or misfortune. **Effective: 7/1/25. Statute: Session law**

**Utility property tax.** Chapter 206 ([HB 696](#)) makes changes to the application of utility property taxes and statewide education property taxes to electric generating facilities. **Effective: 7/13/25. Statutes: RSA 72:74; RSA 83-F:1, 5, and 9**

**Religious property tax exemption.** Chapter 303 ([SB 291](#)) exempts church parsonages that are rented or vacant from property taxation. **Effective: 8/1/25. Statute: RSA 72:23, III**

**Application process for special appraisal.** Chapter 87 ([SB 91](#)) eliminates the annual requirement that owners of residences located in industrial or commercial zones must apply for a special appraisal based on the property's current use as a residence and replaces it with a one-time application. **Effective: 4/1/26. Statute: RSA 75:11**

**Housing covenants.** Chapter 120 ([SB 173](#)) amends the appraisal process for residential properties subject to housing covenants under the low-income housing tax credit program. **Effective: 7/1/25. Statute: RSA 75:1-a**

## **PUBLIC EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT**

**Benefit restoration for some first responders.** Chapter 142 ([HB 282](#)) restores most, but not all, New Hampshire Retirement System benefits for about 1,500 first responders hired before July 1, 2011, and not vested prior to January 1, 2012, that were changed through legislation in 2011. The bill also increases the maximum amount of a first responder critical injury benefit administered under worker's compensation. **Effective: Multiple dates. Statutes: RSA 100-A:1, A:5, A:6, A:6-a, A:10, A:16, A:19-b and d; RSA 21-I:30; RSA 281-A:32-a; RSA 198:41**

## **PUBLIC HEALTH**

**Homestead food operations.** Chapter 18 ([HB 150](#)) allows homestead operations to use commercial kitchen equipment in preparing food for sale. **Effective: 7/13/25. Statute: RSA 143-A:12, I(a)**

**Uninspected bison, red deer and elk meat.** Chapter 92 ([SB 229](#)) permits the sale of uninspected bison, red deer, and elk meat by allowing retailers to purchase these products directly from producers. **Effective: 6/30/25. Statute: RSA 143-A:20-a**

**Authority of town health officers.\*** Chapter 60 ([HB 230](#)) modifies the language of RSA 147:1 by removing the language "and such other regulations relating to the public health." The statute will now read, "The health officers of towns may make regulations for the prevention and removal of nuisances..." The definition of public nuisance in existing statutes seems to support the fact that a "nuisance" both encompasses and expands upon issues related to public health and safety. Therefore, it would be reasonable to take the position that even with the change in statutory language, health officers are still able to adopt regulations related to issues of public health. **Effective: 8/1/25. Statute: RSA 147:1**

## **PUBLIC SAFETY/CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

**Free police report.** Chapter 171 ([HB 218](#)) allows crime victims to request a free initial police report related to their case and, upon the conclusion of the investigation or case, a free copy of the complete case file. **Effective: 8/1/25. Statute: RSA 21-M:8-k**

**Bail reform.** Chapter 3 ([HB592](#)) amends the administration of bail by repealing the establishment of magistrates and making corresponding changes throughout the legal framework. **Effective: 9/21/25. Statutes: RSA 490-K:1; RSA 594:20-a; RSA 597:6-e, and 7-a**

**Ambulance billing.** Chapter 262 ([SB 245](#)) requires insurers to reimburse ground ambulance providers at 325% of Medicare rates for two years on the condition that the ambulance service begins the process of becoming an in-network provider. During that period, a newly formed commission will conduct an in-depth study to determine fair, long-term reimbursement rates. **Effective: multiple dates; Statute/adopted: RSA 358-T:1, RSA 153-A:38, RSA 400-A:15; RSA 420-J:20-26**

**Ambulance service designation.** Chapter 89 ([SB133](#)) designates ambulance service providers as essential service providers within the context of the homeland security and emergency management statute. **Effective: 8/9/25. Statute: RSA 21-P:35**

## RIGHT-TO-KNOW LAW

**Meeting minutes.** Chapter 112 ([HB 265](#)) requires that a public body's meeting minutes include start and end times of the meeting and the printed name of the recording secretary. **Effective: 8/22/25. Statute: RSA 91-A:2**

## ENVIRONMENT/ENERGY

**Leachate management plan.** Chapter 196 ([HB 566](#)) requires permit applications for new landfills to contain a detailed plan for leachate management. **Effective: 9/13/25. Statute: RSA 149-M:9**

**Off-grid electricity providers.** Chapter 285 ([HB 672](#)) creates a new category of electricity providers known as "off-grid electricity providers" and defines these providers as entities that generate, transmit, distribute, or sell electricity independently, without connection to the regulated electric grid; off-grid electricity providers are not considered public utilities. **Effective: 8/1/25. Statutes RSA 374:3-c**

**Office of Energy Innovation.** Chapter 286 ([HB 682](#)) reorganizes the NH Office of Energy Innovation and related entities and repeals both the offshore wind industry workforce training center committee and the offshore and port development commission. **Effective: 8/1/25. Statutes: RSA 12-P:7-b, P:16; RSA 162-B:4; RSA 188-E:30; RSA 362-F:10; RSA 362-H:2; RSA 485-I:6**

**ISO New England.** Chapter 205 ([HB 690](#)) mandates the NH Department of Energy to conduct a comprehensive investigation into the state's potential withdrawal from ISO-New England, as well as other strategic decisions that could impact ratepayers in relation to New England's environmental policies. **Effective: 7/15/25. Statutes: RSA 12-P:17**

**Establishing commercial property assessed clean energy and resiliency program.** Chapter 1 ([SB 4](#)) repeals and reenacts the existing energy efficiency and clean energy districts statute; delineates the roles of municipalities and the New Hampshire Business Finance Authority in administering the program, including the creation of special assessments to finance qualifying projects on commercial properties. **Effective: 1/1/26. Statute: RSA 53-F:2-5**

**Energy regulation.** Chapter 294 ([SB 108](#)) transfers various regulatory and adjudicative responsibilities from the Public Utilities Commission to the NH Department of Energy. **Effective: 9/30/25. Statutes: RSA 374-F:4-b; RSA 363-A:3; RSA 365:1, 1-a, 3; RSA 53-E:7; RSA 362-A:9**

**Water testing fees.** Chapter 245 ([SB 178](#)) mandates the state Department of Health and Human Services to establish administrative rules concerning laboratory services and the associated fees for testing water supplies. **Effective: 7/13/25. Statutes: RSA 6:12; RSA 485-A:26; RSA 131:3-a**

The following committees and commissions were created in 2025 to look at issues of municipal interest:

- [Commission to study the New Hampshire zoning enabling act](#) (**Chapter 2, [HB 399](#)**)
- [Carbon sequestration programs study commission](#) (**Chapter 165, [HB 123](#)**)
- [Committee to investigate the implementation of housing investment trusts](#) (**Chapter 130, [HB 633](#)**)
- [Commission to study stable tokens](#) (**Chapter 177, [HB 310](#)**)
- [Committee to study adding statewide resources to assist with animal cruelty](#) (**Chapter 9, [HB 153](#)**)
- [Commission to study human trafficking within illicit massage businesses](#) (**Chapter 63, [HB 405](#)**)

## Vetoed Bills

The governor vetoed the following bills with municipal impacts. The House and Senate will convene later this year to address the vetoes, which can be overridden by a two-thirds vote in both chambers.

- [SB 213](#), creating a misdemeanor-level offense for public employees who “electioneer,” as newly defined in the bill.
- [HB 475](#), modifying the calculation of default budgets in SB 2 towns.
- [HB 613](#), enabling towns and cities to opt out of deploying accessible voting machines under certain circumstances.

The “Veto Day” session has not been scheduled yet.

## Legislative Calendar

### 2025-2026 House Schedule

**Monday, Sept. 15**—First day to file LSRs for 2026 session.

**Friday, Sept. 19**—Last day to file LSRs for 2026 session.

**Friday, Nov. 21**—Last day to sign off LSRs for 2026 session.

**Friday, Nov. 21**—Last day to report all retained bills.

**Wednesday, Jan. 7, 2026**—Convening Day.

**Thursday, Jan. 8, 2026**—Last day to introduce House Bills.

### 2025-2026 Senate Schedule

**Wednesday, Sept. 3**—First Day to file legislation for 2026 Senate Session.

**Friday, Sept. 12 at 4:00 p.m.**—Deadline for the Office of Legislative Services to accept drafting of a Senate Bill, Senate Concurrent Resolution, or Senate Joint Resolution with complete information for the 2026 Senate Session.

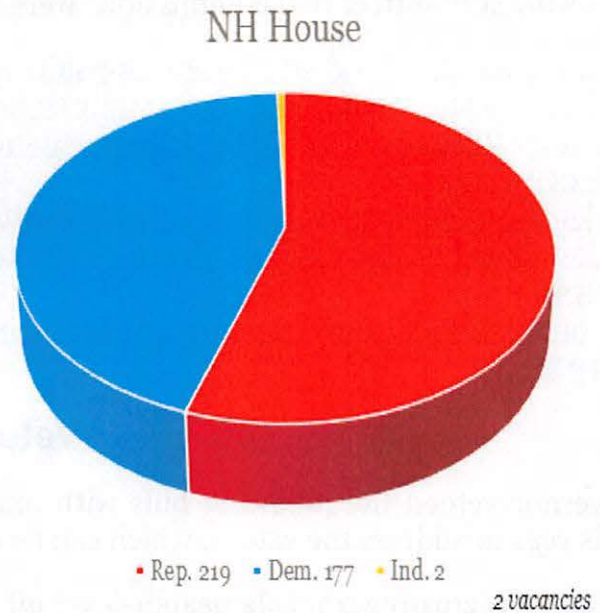
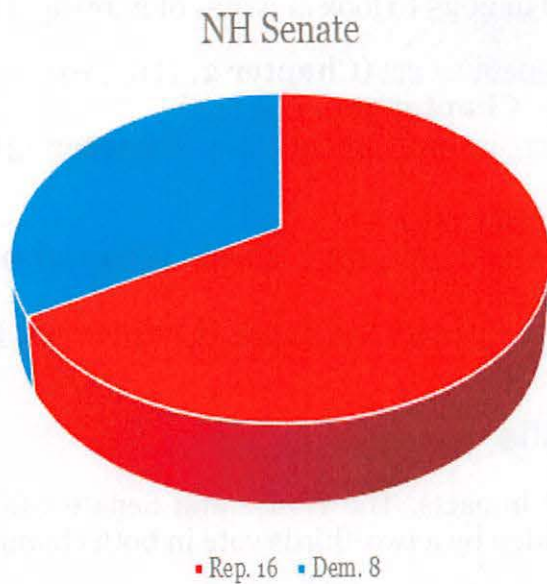
**Thursday, Nov. 13 at 4:00 p.m.**—Deadline for prime sponsors to sign off on legislation.

**Thursday, Dec. 11 at 4:00 p.m.**—Deadline for co-sponsors to sign off on legislation.

**Thursday, Dec. 11 at 4:00 p.m.**—Deadline to report rereferred bills out of committee.

**Wednesday, Jan. 7, 2026**—Convening Day.

**Monday, Feb. 23-Friday, Feb. 27, 2026**—Senate break.



### NHMA Advocacy Team

The NHMA Advocacy Team are your eyes and ears at the State House. We follow several hundred bills of interest to municipalities during each legislative session, draft legislation to carry out NHMA's [member-driven legislative policies](#), monitor legislative hearings, testify on bills when appropriate, and work individually with legislators and local officials throughout the process.



**Sarah Burke Cohen, Legislative Advocate:** Sarah's areas of focus are elections, building/fire code, labor & employment law, right to know law, immunity & liability, welfare/health & human services, ambulance billing, energy, science & technology. Her experience before joining NHMA includes serving as the Assistant Director of the NH Commission for Human Rights (HRC) and a staff attorney at NH Legal Assistance.

**Brodie Deshaies, Legislative Advocate:** Brodie's areas of focus are land use & zoning, town meeting, municipal budgeting, governing body powers & authority, property taxation/assessing, public works & highways. Before joining the NHMA staff, he worked as the Communications & Policy Manager for NH Hunger Solutions. Brodie's previous work experiences include being a political consultant and project manager, coordinating political campaigns, and serving as a NH State Representative. Brodie also serves as a member-at-large on the Governor Wentworth Regional School Board and previously served as a trustee of the Wolfeboro Public Library.

**Marty Karlon, Policy & Research Analyst:** Marty's areas of focus are the state budget and the retirement system. He works more behind the scenes, editing the weekly *Legislative Bulletin* and producing research, data collection, and analysis. Before joining NMHA, Marty was Director of Communications & Legislative Affairs at the NH Retirement System for nearly 15 years. Marty's previous work experience includes serving in several senior editing roles at New Hampshire newspapers.

## Sharing is Caring ... About Sound Public Policy

If you know of anyone who may benefit from receiving the NHMA *Legislative Bulletin* next year feel free to pass this email along and encourage them to sign up! NHMA members can subscribe to the *Bulletin* through our member portal at:

<https://nhmunicipal.weblinkconnect.com/portal>

Once you are logged in, click "edit this profile" and "newsletter management." You can sign up for the *Legislative Bulletin*, *Newslink*, and *Town & City* magazine in one place! (If you are having trouble logging into your account, [follow these steps](#).)

## Final Word on 2025



*The House Housing Committee had a packed house on April 15 for public hearings on several bills usurping the voice of local voters on planning and zoning issues. (Photo by Brodie Deshaies)*

Throughout the 2025 session, members' testimony, emails, letters, and calls helped educate and mobilize legislators to take a deeper look at many bills, leading to improved outcomes for municipalities.

Here are some things you can do now and next year about legislation that impacts your city or town:

<b>Speak</b>	Speak to your local legislators by phone or in person.
<b>Invite</b>	Invite your local legislators to a select board, council, or aldermen meeting.
<b>Tell</b>	Tell your constituents about important bills and explain their impact.
<b>Write</b>	Write a letter or a commentary to send to local media outlets.
<b>Share</b>	Share your concerns about specific bills or issues with the Governor's office
<b>Talk</b>	Talk to NHMA to get additional background on these bills.
<b>Attend</b>	Attend the public hearings on bills important to your municipality and sign up to testify.

From everyone here at NHMA, thank you again for your input, questions, expertise, and support throughout the legislative session. **Your voices truly mattered!**

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### NHMA Events Calendar

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#### Editorial Staff:

**Margaret M.L. Byrnes, Executive Director**  
**Marty Karlon, Editor in Chief, Policy & Research Analyst**  
**Sarah Burke Cohen, Legislative Advocate**  
**Brodie Deshaies, Legislative Advocate**

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## **Review Board Calendar**

## **Non-Public Session**