

SELECT BOARD MEETING
Monday, March 2, 2026
6:30 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/81324053873>

To access the meeting via telephone, call: +1 646 558 8656 and enter the Webinar ID: 813 2405 3873

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. Ballot Machine Training for Select Board Members
3. Public Comment
4. Approval of Minutes
 - a. Regular Meeting: February 17, 2026
5. Appointments/Resignations
6. Discussion/Action Items
 - a. Election Preparation – Kate Miller, Moderator
 - b. Heart Safe Community – Chief Justin Pizon, Fire Department
 - c. SB245 Emergency Billing – Chief Justin Pizon and Deputy Chief Ryan Booth, Fire Department
7. Tax Abatements, Veterans Credits & Exemptions
8. Permits & Approvals
 - a. Donation Acceptance – Police Department Comfort Dog Program
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 2/27/26 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

Ballot Machine Training for Select Board Members

Public Comment

Approval of Minutes

Select Board Meeting
Tuesday February 17, 2026
6 PM
Nowak Room, Town Offices
Draft Minutes

1
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6
7 1. Call Meeting to Order

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

11
12 2. Non-Public Session

13 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A3II(I). Ms.
14 Cowan seconded. The motion passed 5-0. The meeting went into non-public at 6:00 PM.

15
16 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to exit non-public session at 6:57 PM. Mr. Chartrand seconded.
17 The motion passed 5-0.

18
19 **MOTION:** Mr. Chartrand moved to seal the minutes until the first matter is resolved. Ms.
20 Belanger seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

21
22 **MOTION:** Mr. Chartrand moved to seal the minutes indefinitely. Ms. Belanger seconded. The
23 motion passed 5-0.

24
25 **MOTION:**

26 3. Board Interviews

27 a. Zoning Board of Adjustment - Adam Carter

28
29 The Board reconvened at 7:05 PM in the Nowak Room.

30
31 4. Public Comment

32 a. There was no comment at this time.

33
34 5. Proclamations/Recognitions

35 a. Mr. Papakonstantis called for a moment of silence for Bill Childs, who recently
36 passed away.

37
38 6. Approval of Minutes

39 a. Regular Meeting: February 2, 2026

40 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to approve the minutes of February 2, 2026 as presented. Ms.
41 Gilman seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

42
43 7. Appointments

44 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to appoint Adam Carter to the Zoning Board of Adjustment as
45 an alternate, term to expire April 2027. Mr. Chartrand seconded. The motion passed 5-0.
46

47 8. Discussion/Action Items

48 a. Public Hearing - Creation of Exeter Public Library Infrastructure Expendable
49 Trust Fund

50 Mr. Papakonstantis read the public notice of hearing:

51 *Notice is hereby given that the Select Board of the Town of Exeter will hold a*
52 *public hearing in the Nowak Room, 10 Front Street, Exeter beginning at 7:00 PM*
53 *on the 17th day of February 2026, for the purpose of complying with the*
54 *provisions of RSA 31:95-b,III(a) for the following: The creation of Exeter Public*
55 *Library Infrastructure Expendable Trust Fund.*
56

57 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to open the public hearing. Ms. Cowan seconded. The motion
58 passed 5-0.
59

60 Mr. Papakonstantis asked for public comment, but there was none.
61

62 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to close the public hearing. Ms. Cowan seconded. The motion
63 passed 5-0.
64

65
66 b. ADA Funding Request - Library Changing Table

67 Public Library Director Julia Lanter gave a presentation on the Library's
68 Universal Changing Station proposal. This is an adult-sized platform; the Library
69 has one that is stationary, but hopes to upgrade it to a mechanical one in
70 compliance with newer ADA laws. This will allow the Library to continue to have
71 open access to all. 13% of NH residents are classified as disabled; 31,000 are
72 self-care disabled. Under RSA, 155:80, if the Library were built today, it would
73 need a universal changing station with a mechanical element. These laws were
74 passed after the plans for renovation were complete. The Library will donate the
75 stationary unit to Exeter Parks and Rec.

76 Ms. Lanter said we received six bids and we recommend a Pressalit
77 1000. It is the least expensive, has been successfully used by Parks and
78 Recreation, and fits the space the best. For installation, we received three bids,
79 two for complete install, one just for electrical and install but which would require
80 other vendors. We recommend Lang Construction for installation. The total would
81 be \$16,057.

82 Mr. Papakonstantis said the Library is asking the Board to approve this
83 from the ADA fund. He asked Ms. Lanter if the Trustees have voted. Ms. Lanter
84 said the Trustees approved an upgrade in April 2025; she's asking the Select
85 Board to approve this before the Trustees vote on the specific bids.

86 Mr. Papakonstantis asked about the current balance of the ADA Fund.
87 Ms. Roy said \$82,000. She added that the ADA Fund staff group did support this.

88 The Library will donate the stationary changing table to the pool building, which is
89 only open about 8 weeks of the year.

90 Ms. Belanger asked how long the turnaround would be. Ms. Lanter said
91 within two weeks or so of approval.

92 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to expend \$16,057 from the Town of Exeter ADA Capital
93 Reserve Fund for the procurement and installation of an ADA compliant mechanical universal
94 adult changing table to be installed in the Exeter Public Library children's room. Ms. Gilman
95 seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

96
97 c. Exeter Country Club (ECC) Discretionary Easement -

98 President of Exeter Country Club Marc Carbonneau and Attorney
99 Elizabeth McDonald of DTC Lawyers were present to discuss this request.

100 Ms. Roy said Attorney Spector-Morgan has communicated with the
101 Country Club and reviewed some of the requests that came up in the meeting.
102 The Country Club is willing to put the entire golf course into the discretionary
103 preservation easement for 15-20 years. They ask that other than the 3 acres be
104 assessed at the conservation rate, rather than the preservation rate. They would
105 also like to place the driving range in the discretionary easement. Counsel and
106 the Town Assessor feel that this is acceptable.

107 Attorney McDonald said we want to exclude the Clubhouse, the parking
108 lot, and other areas. It would just be the land currently in the discretionary
109 easement. 55.25 acres is the conservation easement; 7 is the remainder, so a
110 total of 62.25 in the discretionary easement. Mr. Carbonneau said the period
111 would be 6 years at minimum; he would propose 15 years. The conservation
112 easement doesn't require public access or have us maintain it as a public golf
113 course. The discretionary easement does both of those. Attorney McDonald said
114 public access is permitted as long as there's adequate snow for snowshoeing
115 and similar activities.

116 Ms. Roy said the recommendation to the Board is to work with Assessing
117 and the Country Club to meet the March 31 deadline.

118 Ms. Belanger said she ran the numbers, and there would be a tax loss to
119 the town of \$35,000.

120 Mr. Papakonstantis asked if the Board is comfortable to have the Interim
121 Town Manager to continue working on this, and the Board generally agreed. Ms.
122 Roy said we could come back on March 16 or 30.

123 Attorney McDonald said we will file an application and review whether we
124 need an appraisal.

125 The Board will consider this item again on March 16.

126
127 d. Front Street/Linden Street/Pine Street Roundabout Update -

128 Greg Bakos of VHB, Public Works Director Steve Cronin, and
129 former Town Engineer Paul Vlasich were present to discuss this item.

130 Mr. Cronin said the Front/Linden/Pine intersection was reviewed
131 for safety and traffic. There are deficiencies in the existing configuration.

132 A roundabout concept was proposed. The 2023 Town Meeting authorized
133 final design and construction funding. We've been working with VHB on
134 the design process, abutters, and PEA. we're now prepared to advertise
135 for bids for work in this coming construction season.

136 Mr. Bakos gave a presentation on the project. The roundabout
137 concept solves the existing issues by forcing the vehicles to circulate
138 around and reduces the conflict points. It also addresses ADA and
139 pedestrian crossing concerns. The planned crosswalks are shorter and
140 take you to refuge islands in the middle of the road. On Front Street,
141 speeds will be dramatically reduced. This area is on the small side for a
142 roundabout at 95 feet, but we've done smaller ones. There are "truck
143 aprons" to allow larger vehicles to pass through. We proposed three
144 additional streetlights. There will be a loss of 9 public parking spaces: 5
145 spaces on the diagonal parking at Front Street and 4 parallel spots on
146 Pine Street.

147 Ms. Gilman asked if the curb cut in front of the Church shown on
148 the plan is existing. Mr. Bakos said yes. He added that any existing
149 parking in front and on the side of the church will remain.

150 Ms. Belanger asked about the pedestrian crossings and signage.
151 The streetlights in this area are older, would we replace them? Mr. Cronin
152 said the new overhead lights would match what we have around town.
153 We are proposing some ornamental lighting. Mr. Bakos said the three
154 new lights we're planning would be ornamental lights. We would try to
155 match the style of others along this corridor. One light we're
156 recommending to remove. Regarding signage, there will be two
157 pedestrian crossing signs at each crosswalk.

158 Mr. Chartrand said this is a great design and will help with the
159 congestion around voting. He thanked Paul Vlasich and Steve Cronin for
160 their work on this project.

161

162 9. Regular Business

163 a. Tax Abatements, Veterans Credits and Exemptions

164 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to approve an abatement for 64/105/22 in the amount of
165 \$913.61 for tax year 2025. Ms. Cowan seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

166

167 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to approve a Veterans Credit for 68-6-428 in the amount of
168 \$500.00 for tax year 2026. Ms. Cowan seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

169

170 b. Permits & Approvals

171 i. Pairpoint Park Donation Acceptance

172 Mr. Papakonstantis said there's a memo from Finance Director
173 Corey Stevens in the packet. Mr. Stevens said this is not from a specific
174 donor; we're going to collect donations for a month, put the acceptance
175 form together, and have a list of approvals.

176 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to accept the donations received during the months of
177 December 2025 and January 2026 totaling \$1,250 for the design and construction of Pairpoint
178 Park, and to direct the funds be held by the Trustees of Trust Funds in the Pairpoint Park Fund;
179 disbursement of the fund shall be made by the authorization of the Interim Town Manager or
180 their designee for the purpose of designing and/or constructing Pairpoint Park. Ms. Cowan
181 seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

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183

Keith Whitehouse of Westside Drive asked for an update on his proposal for Pairpoint Park. Mr. Papakonstantis said the Board is planning to put him on one of the March agendas.

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ii. Transportation Funding - TASC, RNMO

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Ms. Roy said each year, we have a request for the Transportation Fund. This is funded from car registrations from the Town Clerk. Organizations put together an application for the funds. We've received three requests: TASC [Transportation Assistance for Seacoast Citizens], Meals on Wheels, and COAST. TASC and Meals on Wheels had the same request, \$16,000, as the past few years. COAST's request is substantially more than normal and needs to be reviewed further.

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MOTION: Ms. Belanger moved to approve the request from TASC 2026 Human Services transportation funding in the amount of \$16,000 to be paid from the Transportation Fund. Ms. Cowan seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

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MOTION: Ms. Belanger moved to approve the request from Rockingham Meals on Wheels 2026 Human Services transportation funding in the amount of \$16,000 to be paid from the Transportation Fund. Ms. Cowan seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

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c. Town Manager's Report

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i. Ms. Roy said we had a nice retirement send-off for Police Chief Poulin and swore in interim Chief McCain this morning.

205

206

ii. She and Corey are working on the Police and Fire Substation and she's working on a budget video to give information to the community.

207

208

iii. She dealt with a property owner dispute with code enforcement

209

iv. She's working on some personnel issues

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211

d. Select Board Committee Reports

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i. Ms. Gilman gave an update on State-level issues.

213

ii. Ms. Belanger attended the Select Board meeting about the new Town Manager. She attended a Rec Advisory Board where they did a deeper dive on the budgeting process. She attended the Planning Board, where they approved a minor subdivision for 13 Bayberry Lane. Ben Richards of Unitil talked about tree pruning. Jay Perkins, our Tree Warden, confirmed with Unitil that the tagged trees are hazardous and need to come down.

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The public can email forestry@unitil.com or call 888-301-7700 with any

220 questions about tagged trees. They heard about the Complete Streets
221 guidelines from Scott Bogle of RPC. RPC are strongly suggesting we
222 form a Complete Streets Advisory Committee. At the Housing Advisory
223 meeting, there was ongoing discussion with Exeter Housing Authority on
224 collaboration on workforce housing options. Darren Winham and Doug
225 Eastman are working on a list of properties Exeter owns. Julie Gilman
226 attended the Housing meeting to give an update on State housing bills.
227 Darren Winham had a video on Economic Development in town. She also
228 attended Chief Poulin's retirement party.

- 229 iii. Ms. Cowan had no report.
- 230 iv. Mr. Chartrand attended a Sustainability Advisory meeting. He missed a
231 Conservation Commission meeting.
- 232 v. Mr. Papakonstantis said Pairpoint Park did not meet due to lack of a
233 quorum. He attended Chief Poulin's retirement party and the swearing in
234 of Interim Chief McCain. He was invited to a local organization to go over
235 the warrant. On February 26, he will be attending RiverWoods to discuss
236 the ballot.
- 237 vi. Ms. Cowan asked if there were any contested races in the next election.
238 Ms. Roy looked it up and said the Library is a contested race.

239
240 e. Correspondence

- 241 i. An annual customer notice from Xfinity
- 242 ii. A letter from the Landscape Manager at Riverwoods to Unitil about tree
243 trimming.
- 244 iii. The NHMA Municipal Bulletin

245
246 10. Review Board Calendar

- 247 a. The next meetings are March 2, March 16, March 30, April 13, April 27, May 4,
248 May 18, June 1, June 15, and June 29. March 10 is the town election.

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250 11. Non-Public Session

251 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A311(a). Ms.
252 Cowan seconded. In a roll call vote, the motion passed 5-0. The meeting went into non-public at
253 8:30 PM.

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255 **MOTION:** Mr. Chartrand moved to exit non-public session at 9:42 PM. Ms. Cowan seconded.
256 The motion passed 5-0.

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258 **MOTION:** Mr. Chartrand moved to seal the minutes until the matter is resolved. Ms. Cowan
259 seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

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261 12. Adjournment

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263 **MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to adjourn the Select Board meeting at 9:43 PM. Ms. Gilman
264 seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

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267 Respectfully Submitted,

268 Joanna Bartell

269 Recording Secretary

270

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273

Appointments/Resignations

Discussion/Action Items

Election Preparation

Heart-Safe Community



EXETER FIRE DEPARTMENT

20 COURT STREET • EXETER, NH • 03833-3792 • (603) 773-6131 • FAX 773-6128
www.exeternh.gov

Advanced Life Support / EMS - Fire Suppression - Health Department - Emergency Management

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: MELISA ROY, INTERIM TOWN MANAGER
FROM: JUSTIN PIZON, FIRE CHIEF
SUBJECT: HEARTSAFE COMMUNITY
DATE: 02/25/2026

Melissa,

Can you please add the Fire Department to the March 2nd Select Board agenda? Bill Wood, NH Bureau of EMS, will be attending the meeting to recognize the town of Exeter as a HeartSafe Community. This is a significant achievement that shows the community has met requirements to sustain life saving measures in the case of cardiac arrest. I have attached a bulletin from the state that explains, at a high level, what is required to be recognized as a HeartSafe Community. This was no easy task and took several years for Exeter to qualify.

Justin



Robert L. Quinn
Commissioner

State of New Hampshire

DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY

Division of Fire Standards and Training & Emergency Medical Services

www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/fstems



Mark P. Wholey

Director

Jeffrey R. Phillips

Assistant Director

N.H. "HEARTSAFE COMMUNITY" INITIATIVE"

August 2025

Cooperative effort with the NH Department of Safety, NH Department of Health & Human Services and the American Heart Association in assisting local communities to improve survival outcomes for out-of-hospital cardiac arrest victims.

To make a community HeartSafe, citizens need to recognize:

Signs and Symptoms of Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA)

Know when to call 9-1-1

Be trained in CPR and the use of AED's

HeartSafe Community Components

1. **CPR/AED Training:** On-going, coordinated training programs
2. **AED Placements:** Public-accessible, visible locations such as public buildings, health clubs, businesses, industries, civic and religious sites, healthcare facilities and locations where large numbers of adults gather
3. **Designated First Responders:** AED's in community emergency vehicles and CPR/AED training for all emergency responders
4. **Advanced Cardiac Life Support:** Dispatch of ACLS-certified and equipped responders to all cardiac emergencies
5. **Evaluation Process:** Periodic review of the "Chain-of-Survival" efforts to expand CPR/AED training, AED placements and maintenance, promote citizen, public safety and government awareness.

For additional assistance with the N.H. "HeartSafe Community initiative, contact:

Bill Wood, Coordinator

NH statewide AED Program

Preparedness & Special Projects

NH Fire & EMS Academy

Concord, New Hampshire

(603) 223-4228

William.H.Wood@dos.nh.gov

SB245 - Emergency Billing



EXETER FIRE DEPARTMENT

20 COURT STREET • EXETER, NH • 03833-3792 • (603) 773-6131 • FAX 773-6128
www.exeternh.gov

Advanced Life Support / EMS - Fire Suppression - Health Department - Emergency Management

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: MELISA ROY, INTERIM TOWN MANAGER
FROM: JUSTIN PIZON, FIRE CHIEF
SUBJECT: SB245 (AMBULANCE BILLING)

DATE: 02/25/2026

Melissa,

Deputy Chief Ryan Booth and I would also like to address the Select Board regarding SB245, Prohibiting surprise ambulance billing and regulating ground ambulance reimbursement. SB245 was effective January 1, 2026. Through SB245, ambulance billing rates will be set that are standardized across the state. Though not a requirement, I believe it is in the best interest for Exeter to follow state guidance. The state will evaluate the costs to operate an ambulance service and adjust rates as necessary. The Fire Department will be required to report expenses which Jenna Gosselin, our Office Manager, and I are prepared to do. We follow a similar process when reporting to Medicare. The current legislation states that ambulance providers will be reimbursed at 3.25x the current medicare rate. For reference purposes I have attached the current Medicare rates and a bulletin from the state regarding SB245. The next review will take place after December 31, 2027. This only applies to insurance companies that operate within NH. SB245 will not apply to out of state insurance carriers, Medicare, Medicaid or Tricare (military).

We would be grateful for the board to put forward a motion for the Fire Chief, or his designee, to enter into negotiations with the appropriate insurance companies doing business in New Hampshire, using the state of New Hampshire's Standard Contract Application, to adjust ambulance billing rates as required, based on the direction set forth in SB245.

Going forward, we will provide advance notice to the Town Manager and Select Board if the state adjusts rates. There will be no need to renegotiate contracts. Just to note, we will continue our non-aggressive billing policy.

Thank you,

Justin

Town of Exeter



Justin Pizon <jpizon@exeternh.gov>

Re: Exeter - Current Medicare Rates

1 message

Justin Pizon <jpizon@exeternh.gov>

Wed, Jan 14, 2026 at 2:15 PM

To: Patricia Primmer <pprimmer@comstarbilling.com>

This is perfect, thank you!

On Wed, Jan 14, 2026 at 2:12 PM Patricia Primmer <pprimmer@comstarbilling.com> wrote:

Hi Justin,

The current Medicare rates are listed below.

HCPCS	Description	Urban
A0426	ALS Non-Emergency Base Rate	352.57
A0427	ALS1 Emergency Base Rate	558.22
A0433	ALS2 Emergency Base Rate	807.96
A0429	BLS Emergency Base Rate	470.09
A0428	BLS Non-Emergency Base Rate	293.8
A0425	Mileage	9.18
A0432	Paramedic Intercept	514.16
A0434	Specialty Care Transport	954.86

Best Regards,

Trish

Trish Primmer

Provider Relations Manager

**Comstar
Ambulance Billing Service**
8 Turcotte Memorial Drive
Rowley, MA 01969
PH: 800-488-4351

FIRE & EMS DEPARTMENT

Ambulance Service (per trip)	Established MEDICARE rates +100%
Basic Life Support – (Non-Emergency)	\$535.74
Basic Life Support – (Emergency)	\$857.20
Advanced Life Support – (Non-Emergency)	\$642.90
Advanced Life Support – (ALS-1)	\$1,017.92
Advanced Life Support – (ALS-2)	\$1,473.32
Specialty Care Transport	\$1,741.18
Loaded Mile	\$16.80/mile
Photocopies:	
Ambulance – Patient Care Record	\$25.00
Fire/Investigation Report	\$25.00
Copies – Non-Reports	\$1.00 per page
Non-Emergency Standby (Detail)	
Personnel – Each (2 hour minimum)	\$70.00/hr,
Vehicles – Published FEMA Rates 2023	
Ladder Truck	\$180.49/hr
Fire Engine	\$82.24/hr
Ambulance	\$41.76/hr
Command Vehicle	\$19.97/hr
Permits	
Blasting/Explosive Use	
1-7 days	\$200.00
8-14 days	\$400.00
15 – 31 days	\$600.00
Fire Alarm System – Installation/Modification	\$50.00
Fire Alarm Acceptance Testing	
1-10 devices	\$70.00
11-40 devices	\$140.00
41-100 devices	\$210.00
101+ devices	\$70.00/hr per person (4 hour minimum)
Reinspection for failed Fire Alarm Test	\$70.00/hr per person (1 hour minimum)
Fire Suppression System – Installation/Modification	\$50.00
Fire Suppression System Acceptance Testing	\$70.00/hr per person (1 hour minimum)
Reinspection for failed Fire Suppression Test	\$70.00/hr per person (1 hour minimum)
Outdoor Burning	
Paper Copy – Obtained at the fire station	No charge
Online Permit	Fee determined by 3 rd party vendor
Oil Burner Installation	\$50.00
Plans Review	
Small Projects up to 1 hour (in house)	\$150.00
Large Projects	Fee determined by 3 rd party fire protection engineer
Fire and Safety Violations (per day)	
Penalty for Chapter 13 (Fire Safety Regulation)	\$250.00/day
Penalty for Chapter 18 (Life Safety & Fire Protection Code)	\$100.00/day

Current Fee Schedule



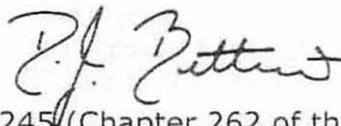
The State of New Hampshire Insurance Department

21 South Fruit Street, Suite 14
Concord, NH 03301

David J. Bettencourt
Commissioner

Keith E. Nyhan
Deputy Commissioner

BULLETIN **Docket #INS 25-073-AB**

TO: All New Hampshire Licensed Health Carriers and Providers of Ground Ambulance Services
FROM: Commissioner David J. Bettencourt 
DATE: November 21, 2025
RE: Guidance on Implementation of SB 245 (Chapter 262 of the 2025 laws of the New Hampshire General Court)

I. Introduction:

SB 245 represents the Legislature's response to a marketplace that, for years, failed to align incentives for carriers, ambulance providers, and—most importantly, the insured patients who rely upon them during medical emergencies. Most providers remained out of network, reimbursement varied widely, and patients, despite maintaining insurance, were occasionally exposed to balance billing.

The statute adopts a framework that does not displace competition but restores it. Ground ambulance providers are encouraged, not compelled, to enter carrier networks by pairing protections for consumers with the opportunity for providers to secure predictable, economically viable reimbursement. In exchange for a prohibition on balance billing and participation in a standardized contracting process, providers gain access to reimbursement rates initially set at 3.25 times the Medicare rate and, thereafter, to a cost-based schedule developed by an independent expert.

This Bulletin addresses the implementation of those reimbursement provisions during the two-year interim period while the statewide cost study is undertaken. A dedicated webpage has been added to the Department's website to provide ongoing updates and resources for carriers and providers.

II. The Temporary Two-Year Rate Schedule:

From January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2027, ground ambulance providers may receive reimbursement at 3.25 times the applicable Medicare rate **only if** they take the steps necessary to enter into the Standard Contract with each carrier. This is a conditional right—not automatic—and SB 245 ties eligibility directly to a

provider's willingness to participate in the network environment envisioned by the Legislature.

a. Qualifying Contingencies

A ground ambulance provider qualifies for the 3.25× Medicare reimbursement rate with respect to a carrier by:

- 1.) **Submitting the Standard Contract Application Form** and diligently pursuing the contracting process (status as an "enrolling" provider), **or**
- 2.) **Executing the Standard Contract with the carrier.**

The Standard Contract Application Form is available online and, once submitted electronically, is automatically transmitted to both the Department and the selected carriers. Providers wishing to access enhanced reimbursement as early as January 1, 2026, are strongly advised to complete and submit the form **on or before December 31, 2025.**

b. Disqualifying Contingencies

A provider may lose eligibility for the 3.25× reimbursement rate if:

- 1.) **The provider fails to pursue the contracting process in good faith** for 60 days (e.g., failing to respond, provide documents, or sign materials).
- 2.) **The provider fails to cooperate with the cost study**—including cost data submission, validation, or audits.
- 3.) **A Standard Contract is terminated for good cause by the carrier** or by the provider for any reason.

In such circumstances, reimbursement reverts to the carrier's non-participating rate or the Medicare rate, whichever is higher. When the provider is found to not be pursuing a contract in good faith, the provider cannot re-submit the Standard Contract Application Form for 180 days. However, the provider can gain access to the contracted rate as soon as the contract is fully executed.

These provisions are intended not to penalize, but to ensure that providers receiving enhanced reimbursement are those contributing to the cost-based system that will govern the market going forward.

III. Providers Already Under a Pre-Existing Contract:

The Standard Contract established under SB 245 does not displace valid existing negotiated contracts. Providers currently in network may continue under those arrangements.

However, many providers, facing increasing operational and workforce pressures, may find that the Standard Contract provides a more predictable and sustainable reimbursement framework once the interim rate and later the cost-based schedule take effect. Whether to transition rests with each provider; SB 245 leaves space for market choice, not mandated uniformity.

IV. Reporting Requirements:

The temporary reimbursement framework relies on accurate reporting from both carriers and providers.

Carriers must report to the Department:

- All fully executed Standard Contracts
- All fully executed negotiated contracts
- Any instance in which a provider has failed to actively engage in contracting for 60 days

Providers should report to the Department:

- Submission of the web based Standard Contract Application Form
- Any carrier's failure to finalize contracting within 45 days following receipt of all required materials

All reporting shall be submitted to: ambulancecontracting@ins.nh.gov.

V. Reimbursement Eligibility Registry:

To ensure uniformity and transparency, the Department will maintain a public Registry tracking:

- Each provider's contract status with every carrier
- The reimbursement rate that applies to each relationship
- The dates that establish rate eligibility

Carriers must consult the Registry when processing claims. If a billed amount is lower than the applicable Registry rate, reimbursement should be made at the billed amount.

VI. Due Process:

A provider's eligibility for 3.25x Medicare reimbursement may not be changed based solely on a report from a carrier or the independent expert.

The Department will:

1. Notify the affected provider of the allegation,

2. Provide an opportunity to respond, and
3. Decide eligibility only after reviewing both sides

Any determination is appealable under RSA 400-A:17. The system created by SB 245 thus balances efficiency with fairness and predictability—values essential to maintaining confidence in the regulatory process.

VII. “Any Willing Provider” Rule:

Carriers must offer the Standard Contract to any qualified ground ambulance provider willing to meet its terms.

Carriers may propose alternative terms, and providers may negotiate alternatives. However, in all circumstances, the option to contract under the Standard Contract must remain available. A contract that varies from the standard terms is considered a negotiated contract.

This approach preserves market freedom while ensuring that providers seeking network participation cannot be excluded.

VIII. Applicability of SB 245:

SB 245 applies to fully insured commercial coverage regulated by the Department. It does not apply to:

- Medicare
- Medicare Advantage
- Medicaid / CHIP
- TRICARE
- Out-of-state commercial policies
- Self-funded employer plans

However, carriers may choose to apply the Standard Contract to their self-funded business as well. If they do, providers treating self-funded beneficiaries under that contract will receive the same protections and reimbursement structure.

IX. Medicare Temporary Add-On Payments:

Recent temporary Medicare add-on payments have been extended until January 31, 2026. If the add-on program is not in effect, carriers are not required to reimburse add-on amounts when calculating SB 245 reimbursements.

Carriers should continue monitoring federal action and be prepared to implement the add-on adjustments—potentially retroactively—should Congress reinstate them.

X. Frequently Asked Questions:

The Department will maintain a regularly updated list of FAQs regarding SB 245 on its website and encourages carriers and providers to consult that resource as questions arise.

XI. Contact:

Questions regarding this Bulletin should be directed to Brenda Golden Hallisey, Health Law and Policy Legal Counsel, at Brenda.M.GoidenHallisey@ins.nh.gov.

Concluding Note

SB 245 does not seek to command the marketplace, but to repair its incentives. When ambulance providers are compensated predictably and fairly, participation rises; when participation rises, balance billing disappears; and when balance billing disappears, patients—who reasonably expect their insurance to protect them—are no longer placed in financial jeopardy because of the timing or location of a medical emergency.

The Department's responsibility is to ensure that the statute operates as written by promoting consumer protection, financial stability for emergency medical providers, and a marketplace grounded in competition, transparency, and lawful process.

Tax Abatements, Veteran's Credits & Exemptions

List for Select Board meeting March 2, 2026

Abatement				
Map/Lot/Unit	Location	Amount	Tax Year	
110/2/66	236 Winding River CG	\$189.00	2025	
63-102-1	1 Brookside Dr #1	\$195.10	2025	
Veterans Credit				
Map/Lot/Unit	Location	Amount	Tax Year	
71-10-4	14B Portsmouth Ave	\$2,000.00	2026	disable
86-20-4	4 Pine Grove Rd	\$2,000.00	2026	disable
104-79-204	204 Robinhood Dr	\$500.00	2026	
Elderly Exemption				
Map/Lot/Unit	Location	Amount	Tax Year	
104/79/11	11 Sir Lancelot Dr	152,251	2026	
60-9	8 Dogtown Rd	152,251	2026	
Religious Exemption				
Map/Lot/Unit	Location	Amount	Tax Year	
29-21-E	307 Epping Rd	1,546,700	2026	
29-26	8 Anna Louise Dr	578,100	2026	
95-61	94 Linden St	777,500	2026	
Charitable Exemption				
Map/Lot/Unit	Location	Amount	Tax Year	
73-292	53 Lincoln St	592,000	2026	

Permits & Approvals

Donation Acceptance Approval



TOWN OF EXETER, NEW HAMPSHIRE

10 FRONT STREET • EXETER, NH • 03833-3792 • (603) 778-0591 • FAX 772-4709
www.exeternh.gov

DONATION ACCEPTANCE FORM

Name of Donor: WINTER FROLIC ASSORTED SILENT AUCTION

Contact Information (address, phone, email): 20 MAHU ST
EXETER NH 03833

Description of Donation: \$ CASH \$ 1775.00 (checks)⁶

Conditions of Acceptance or Donor Designation: SUPPORT COMFORT DOG PROGRAM
-MAPLE

Intended Use: SUPPORT COMFORT DOG PROGRAM - MAPLE

Donor Estimate of Current Value (non-cash): _____

TOWN USE ONLY

Potential immediate or initial acquisition or installation cost, any on-going maintenance or replacement cost:

Remarks: _____

Selectboard: ACCEPTED / DENIED Date: _____

January 27, 2026

Chief Stephen Poulin
Exeter Police Dept.
P.O. Box 127
Exeter, NH 03833

Dear Chief Poulin,

I hope this letter finds you well as we look forward to the new year – 2026. As you may remember from last year, as the Academy winds down for winter break, the adults of the community enjoy their year-end signature gathering – the WINTER FROLIC – which is an annual event of both celebration and “non-sibi” community service. We are thrilled to report that we raised just over \$ 10,000 in sponsor contributions on behalf of our area food pantries – End 68 Hours of Hunger, St. Vincent de Paul and Gather as well as for Maple. Each of those food service organizations was on hand to also collect oodles of non-perishable items that our employees and their guests also brought to the event. It was a win-win.

Consistent with the past 3 years, we began an effort to support Exeter Police Dept’s comfort dog, Maple, with the proceeds of the silent auction prizes of our signature event. We made an original commitment of \$ 7,500 (*5 year pledge \$ 1,500 per year*). I am pleased to let you know that included in this envelope are (6) individual checks totaling \$ 1,775 made payable to the Exeter Police Dept for those efforts. **Feel free to formally receipt those individuals directly. Those donations are not provided by Phillips Exeter Academy, directly.** As of year 4 of the effort, we have raised \$ 7,315 towards our \$ 7,500 pledge.

The Exeter Police Department is a valued support to our greater community. You may recall, our school motto, Non-Sibi, means “not for one-self” and our goal in coming together as a community to celebrate the season is to be cognizant of those within our community. With that we seek to include those organizations who do the important work to ensure that those folks in our community are provided for. Your work, along with Maple’s support, continues to emphasize those valuable resources that your department provides for our greater community.

Thank you for all that you do for our community at large

Sincerely,

Leigh Drapeau

Principal’s Office, Director



EXETER POLICE DEPARTMENT

Stephan R. Poulin – Chief of Police



PO Box 127 · Exeter NH 03833-0127 · (603) 772-1212 · Fax (603) 778-7061
www.exeternh.gov/police

January 23, 2026

Principal's Office, Director Leigh Drapeau
Phillips Exeter Academy
20 Main Street
Exeter, NH 03833

Dear Director Drapeau,

We have received the generous donations that you have sent to support our comfort dog program, Maple. I can't thank you and the donating members enough for all of the help over these past few years. I also thank the Academy for including the pledge and the effort each year into the Winter Frolic.

Please know that the Exeter Police Department and the Town of Exeter are very appreciative of your support and the extra effort that you put in for making these donations happen.

With gratitude,

Chief Stephan R. Poulin

Cash		Checks		Amount
1.00	0	-	Number Name	
5.00	0	-	107 A.Belanger	200.00
10.00	0	-	2043 M.Foley/E.Janicki	275.00
20.00	0	-	150 J.Dini	350.00
50.00	0	-	2542 R.Phillips/J.Graunas	300.00
		-	350 L.Drapeau	350.00
		-	5721 L.Wood/N.Planck	300.00
				<u>1,775.00</u>

1,775.00

Police

12-ESAV @1/30/26 *7879 ST SAV DEP \$1,775.00 13

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Town Manager Report

Select Board Committee Reports

Correspondence



Pam McElroy <pmcelroy@exeternh.gov>

Bulletin #8: House Committee to Act on Anti-NHMA Bills

1 message

NHMA Government Affairs <governmentaffairs@nhmunicipal.org>

Fri, Feb 20, 2026 at 11:18 AM

To: Pam McElroy <pmcelroy@exeternh.gov>

New Hampshire Municipal Association

THE SERVICE AND ACTION ARM OF NEW HAMPSHIRE MUNICIPALITIES

LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN

Legislative Bulletin 8

2026 Session

February 20, 2026



[Live Bill Tracker](#)
[Bill Hearings Schedule](#)

In this issue:

- Committee to Act on Anti-NHMA Bills
- House and Senate Roundup
- Day Care Mandate Ties Zoning to State Rules
- HB 1704: Costly Headache for Public Employers
- Limited Legislative Activity Next Week
- Quick Hits: Updates on Other Bills We Are Following
- Legislative Policy Proposals Welcome
- How to Make Your Voice Heard
- Follow Bills That Matter to You Online

Committee to Act on Anti-NHMA Bills

The [House Legislative Administration Committee](#) will hold work sessions on **HB 1359** and **HB 1360** on **Wednesday, February 25, at 9:00 a.m. in Government Place (GP) Room 234**. Executive sessions will follow beginning at **10:00 a.m.** These bills specifically take aim at NHMA's ability to advocate and at member municipalities' ability to govern the organization.

There is still time for local officials and concerned citizens to **contact committee members** and their **local House members** to impress upon them the value of NHMA membership and of having a shared voice at the State House.

HB 1359 and **HB 1360** are attempts by the legislature to take over a private, member-run corporation. See the **January 23 Bulletin** for more on these bills, which are an intentional effort to **silence local voices in the state's legislative process** and make it harder for towns and cities to engage in collective advocacy and receive services from organizations like NHMA.

We encourage members to **send letters or resolutions, approved by their governing bodies, in support of NHMA and in opposition to these bills to your local House members**. If your municipality requires assistance with a letter or resolution, feel free to contact us at governmentaffairs@nhmunicipal.org.

House and Senate Roundup

The House and Senate were in session Thursday and acted on several bills NHMA is following:

House

HB 1010, relative to multi-family residential development on commercially zoned land, **passed with an amendment**. The bill gives municipalities more authority to review the potential impacts of proposed multi-family projects in commercial zones on road, water, and sewer infrastructure. NHMA **supports** this bill and the amendment, which will go to the Senate.

HB 1427, a bill **opposed** by NHMA, was **killed**. **HB 1427** would have significantly limited the ability of a municipality or other political subdivision to issue bonds except in circumstances of declared emergencies, or where essential infrastructure is at risk, or to secure matching federal or state funds.

HB 1474, which would have radically changed the distribution formula for the meals and rooms tax, was **killed**. NHMA was neutral on the bill because it did not modify the total amount a M&R revenue going to cities and towns, although we were concerned that the complicated formula would create winners and losers by changing the historical population-based distribution method.

HB 1622, a landfill-siting bill **supported** by NHMA, **passed with an amendment**. Unlike other legislation on this topic, **HB 1622** does not give the state the power to override existing municipal agreements with landfill operators. The bill was referred to the **House Finance Committee**.

HB 1786, the last of three bills introduced this year creating some permutation of a new property tax assessment on non-homestead luxury second homes, was **tabled**. The other two bills on this topic were killed last week, but **HB 1786** had to be tabled because it never had a public hearing in committee due to what was described as a “clerical” error. NHMA was neutral on this bill.

Senate

SB 564, which NHMA **opposes**, was **passed**. The bill creates a universal mandate prohibiting municipalities from placing limits on maximum road length or imposing a numerical cap on the number of housing lots on a dead-end road or street. The bill also permits developers to place utilities within open space or perimeter buffer areas of subdivisions. The bill advances to the House.

SB 508, which creates a deadline for municipalities to stamp and accept revised building plans submitted by applicants, **passed with an amendment** that increased the deadline to respond from three business days to 10 business days. NHMA **opposes** this bill, which will be sent to the House.

SB 435 **passed with an amendment**. The original bill would have removed “unnecessary hardship” from the items a zoning board of adjustment may consider when reviewing a variance

request, significantly lowering the standard under which variances may be denied. The amendment, which is **supported** by NHMA, clarifies the relatively confusing language in current law by replacing “unnecessary hardship” with “unreasonable restriction.” The bill will proceed to the House.

Day Care Mandate Ties Zoning to State Rules

HB 1195, which **greatly expands the existing zoning mandate requiring home-based day care be permitted as an accessory use**, was reported out of the **House Municipal and County Government Committee** this week as ought-to-pass as amended (OTP-A) on a 10-7 vote. Unfortunately, the amendment adopted does not address many of the core issues with the bill, including the provisions that tie zoning ordinances related to in-home child care centers to state rulemaking.

NHMA **opposes** this bill as introduced and as amended. The House won't vote on **HB 1195** until **March 5** at the earliest, but **please begin contacting your local House members and ask them to oppose this bill**. Tell them more zoning mandates can't alleviate the primary factors driving child care cost and access in New Hampshire—labor availability and wage and overhead costs.

HB 1704: Costly Headache for Public Employers

HB 1704 would give large swaths of public employees the ability to negotiate wages, hours, or other employment terms directly with their employer, which would **dismantle established labor relations, create administrative burdens and decrease efficiency, and raise significant legal and constitutional concerns** that will lead to expensive lawsuits—all of which, ultimately, increase costs for taxpayers.

HB 1704 requires municipalities to negotiate with individual employees, even if they prefer to negotiate only with a certified bargaining agent or the municipality chooses not to negotiate individual contracts. It would prevent municipalities from setting contractual terms for employees not employed under a collective bargaining agreement that match the wages, benefits, and working conditions of an existing collective bargaining agreement covering employees doing the same work. These requirements make it harder to predict budget impacts when considering labor costs and limit local decision-making. Additionally, a municipality would arguably be prohibited from requiring employees to be paid in accordance with established pay scales created after doing a wage study. The bill exempts public safety employees from negotiating individually.

If **HB 1704** became law, municipalities would likely need to negotiate hundreds of individual contracts, track multiple pay scales, benefits, and grievance procedures, and manage legal risk from inconsistent agreements. It would also greatly increase local costs, including more human resources staff, more lawyers or associated legal costs, more lawsuits, and larger legal budgets. If two workers doing the same job or work are paid or compensated differently, or if they have different working conditions, municipalities may face an increased risk of pay equity lawsuits, discrimination claims, and allegations of favoritism, which also increases costs.

HB 1704 requires municipalities to address grievances from independent public employees either through a process negotiated in each individual contract with those employees or through a municipality-established policy for independent grievances. This could be very onerous and costly.

Nothing in current law prohibits a municipality from negotiating with a union over which employees are covered under a collective bargaining agreement. Municipalities can always privatize or use contracted services, if permitted under the terms of a collective bargaining agreement, to meet labor needs or increase flexibility. These issues should be addressed at the bargaining table, where municipal officials can determine how best to meet the town or city government's labor needs and the level of legal risk they wish to assume, rather than being mandated by state law.

It is unclear exactly when **HB 1704** will go to the House, but please **start contacting your local House members now and tell them that under this bill municipalities would face dozens, potentially hundreds, of individualized negotiations**, requiring them to track different pay scales, benefits, and other employment conditions.

Limited Legislative Activity Next Week

The Senate is in recess next week, which is February vacation week in most school districts, and the House has a limited meeting schedule. March is shaping up to be a real meat grinder heading into Legislative Crossover on **March 26**, so here's hoping legislators, advocates, and staff can enjoy some much-needed R&R.

Quick Hits

Updates on other important bills we are following:

Manufactured mandate: On **Tuesday, March 3 at 10:00 a.m. in GP Room 231**, the **House Housing Committee** has an executive session on **HB 1357**, which would allow manufactured housing in all residential zones. NHMA **opposes** this bill and encourages members to **contact the committee** to share their opposition to this statewide mandate.

Sludge application moratorium: On **Tuesday, February 24, at 10:00 a.m. in GP Room 153**, the **House Environment and Agriculture Committee** has a work session on **HB 1275**, which creates a fund for farmers who have experienced losses or incurred costs due to the presence of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in soil, water, or agricultural products, including as a result of standard agricultural practices like the application of sludge or biosolids. The fund will be financed through litigation recoveries, grants, and donations. This bill also imposes a five-year moratorium on the land application of sludge and biosolids for agricultural use, which would deprive municipal wastewater utilities of a major pathway of biosolid management and lead to higher costs and operational challenges. NHMA **opposes** the moratorium.

Champions still in limbo: The **Senate Commerce Committee** held a public hearing Tuesday on **HB 1196**, a bill **opposed** by NHMA that repeals Housing Champions, a voluntary program created in 2023 and funded with a \$5 million appropriation to provide communities with another tool encouraging affordable housing development. No action was taken following the hearing.

Perpetual tax cap referendum: No action this week on **HB 1300**, a bill **opposed** by NHMA that would create biennial local tax cap referendums for every city, town, county, and school district in New Hampshire.

Legislative Policy Proposals Welcome

NHMA has a member-driven process by which it establishes the legislative policy positions to guide staff advocacy activities over the coming legislative biennium.

For the past month we have been (and still are) recruiting volunteers to serve on our three legislative policy committees. These committees will review existing policies as well as legislative policy proposals submitted by local officials and make recommendations on those policies, which will go to the NHMA Legislative Policy Conference in September.

If there is a law affecting municipal government that you think needs to be fixed, or if you have an idea for how the functions of local government might be improved with legislation, this is your opportunity to propose a change. To share your proposal, complete this **Legislative Policy Proposal Form**. Include a brief (one or two sentence) policy statement, a statement about the municipal interest served by the proposal and an explanation that describes the nature of the problem or concern from a municipal perspective and discusses the proposed action that is being advocated to address the

problem. Mail to NHMA, [25 Triangle Park Drive, Concord, NH 03301](#); or e-mail to governmentaffairs@nhmunicipal.org no later than the close of business on **April 17, 2026**.

Learn more about NHMA's 2027-2028 Legislative Policy Process in this [Questions and Answers fact sheet](#).

If you are a municipal official in a city or town and are interested in serving on one of the policy committees, please contact the advocacy staff at: governmentaffairs@nhmunicipal.org. For more information on what the committees are and how they work, see the [February 6 Bulletin](#).

How to Make your Voice Heard

The adage goes that "life is all about showing up." The same can be said for legislative advocacy. If a bill is of importance to your municipality, it's always best to make your case – for or against – in person. Every Friday, NHMA posts a [Bill Hearings Schedule](#) for the upcoming week. However, if you can't make it to Concord, you can use the Legislature's online portal to put your position on the hearing record.

The House has an [online testimony submission system](#) that allows you to indicate your position on the bill with an option to attach testimony. If you want to email all the members of a House committee, you will have to copy their email addresses individually from the [committee page](#).

The Senate has a [remote sign-in sheet](#) where you can indicate whether you are supportive of a bill, opposed, or neutral. Written testimony can be submitted via the "Email Entire Committee" link found on the [Senate committee page](#).

If you have time to follow along, livestreams of [House](#) and [Senate](#) sessions and committee meetings are available on YouTube. Prior sessions and committee meetings are also archived.

Finally, if you just want to contact your local legislators, there are [Contact a Senator](#) and [Contact a Representative](#) links on the [General Court](#) website.

Note: For any readers who print these emails out, all of the above links can be found on the General Court website at: <https://gc.nh.gov/>

Because the House and Senate have moved to digital calendars, committees now have the ability to reschedule when there is bad weather, when there are absences, or when issues with bills just haven't quite been worked out. If you are planning to attend a hearing or work session in person, we strongly recommend checking the [House Digital Calendar](#) and [Senate Digital Calendar](#) before heading to the State House. For those of you with an interest in a particular bill or set of bills, please use the 'subscribe' feature on [FastDemocracy](#) to get email updates when those bills are scheduled or rescheduled.

Finally, remember that House committees are meeting in a new location. The Legislative Office Building (LOB), where House committees typically meet, is closed for renovation and hearings are now being held at 1 Granite Place (GP), which is about 1.6 miles north of the State House. NHMA has [prepared a handout](#) on how to navigate Government Place.

Follow Bills That Matter to You Online

In addition to our weekly Legislative Bulletin, NHMA provides members access to FastDemocracy, an online bill tracking platform, for efficient, real-time updates to legislative activity of interest to members. This tool can help ensure that you know when the bills that you care about most are scheduled for public hearing or votes.

Visit our online [Bill Tracker](#) page to learn more and feel free to subscribe to weekly or daily updates on subjects and bills of interest.

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NHMA Events Calendar 2025 Final Legislative Bulletin

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

Layout & Communications:

Miranda Blaikie, Communications Coordinator

New Hampshire Municipal Association

25 Triangle Park Drive

Concord, NH 03301

Tel: 603.224.7447

Email: governmentaffairs@nhmunicipal.org

Website: www.nhmunicipal.org

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Pam McElroy <pmcelroy@exeternh.gov>

Bulletin #9: Some action on anti-NHMA bills

1 message

NHMA Government Affairs <governmentaffairs@nhmunicipal.org>

Fri, Feb 27, 2026 at 12:19 PM

To: Pam McElroy <pmcelroy@exeternh.gov>

New Hampshire Municipal Association

THE SERVICE AND ACTION ARM OF NEW HAMPSHIRE MUNICIPALITIES

LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN

Legislative Bulletin 9

2026 Session

February 27, 2026



[Live Bill Tracker](#)
[Bill Hearings Schedule](#)

In this issue:

- Action on Anti-NHMA Bills
- House and Senate in Session Next Week
- Committee to Act on Manufactured Housing Mandate
- Hearings on Grab Bag of Municipal Bills
- Whither Perpetual Tax Cap Bill?
- Update on Retirement System Bills
- Quick Hits: Updates on Other Bills NHMA is Following
- Legislative Policy Proposals Welcome
- How to Make Your Voice Heard
- Follow Bills That Matter to You Online

Action on Anti-NHMA Bills

A House committee voted Wednesday to recommend [HB 1359](#) and [HB 1360](#)—a pair of bills taking aim at NHMA’s ability to advocate and at member municipalities’ ability to govern the

organization—as **inexpedient to legislate** on identical 9-1 votes.

But don't pop the champagne yet. Despite the overwhelming vote, both bills will be on a future (TBD) House regular calendar, meaning **they will be voted on separately, and floor amendments could be introduced.** In fact, a committee member referenced a potential amendment to **HB 1360** at Wednesday's executive session.

This is why **we need everyone who cares about local government having a collective voice at the State House to reach out to their [local House members](#)** to impress upon them the value NHMA provides and to **ask them to support the ITL motion and oppose any last-minute amendments or moves to table either bill.** Tell your local House members—who are probably already sick and tired of voting on yet another anti-NHMA bill—that these bills need to die, plain and simple.

For more on **HB 1359** and **HB 1360**, see the [January 23 Bulletin](#).

House and Senate in Session Next Week

Senate

The House and Senate will each meet on **Thursday, March 5**. Here are some bills NHMA is watching:

SB 441, on the consent calendar as ought to pass as amended (OTP-A), enables municipalities to request a hearing regarding the residency of an assisted person in cases where there is disagreement on which municipality has financial responsibility for local welfare. NHMA **opposes** the bill in favor of a forthcoming amendment to **HB 348** that includes more comprehensive language on this issue.

SB 527, on the regular calendar as OTP-A, would allow written notices from state agencies to municipalities to be sent via electronic mail unless the town or city clerk notifies the state agency that it objects to emailed written notices. Each state agency using email for written notices must maintain an up-to-date list of email addresses for each town or city clerk and a list of those towns or cities that object to emailed notices. NHMA **supports** a floor amendment to this bill that makes minor clarifications.

House

HB 1134, on the regular calendar as OTP-A, is a technically flawed bill that mandates appropriations for warrant articles shall accumulate in the order in which articles are approved at an annual meeting or in the order in which articles appear on an official ballot for purposes of determining when a warrant article will trigger an override vote of a local tax or budget cap. NHMA **opposes**. Contact your [local House members](#) and **ask them to oppose this bill.**

Committee to Act on Manufactured Mandate

On **Tuesday, March 3, beginning at 10:00 a.m. in Government Place (GP) Room 231**, the [House Housing Committee](#) has executive sessions on more than two-dozen bills, including **HB 1357**, which would allow manufactured housing in all residential zones. NHMA **opposes** this bill and **encourages members to [contact the committee](#)** before the executive session to share their opposition to this one-size-fits-all mandate.

Members can also **contact the committee and ask them** to back a pair of bills **supported** by NHMA dealing with accessory dwelling units (ADUs): **HB 1540**, which establishes uniform requirements for ADUs and provides municipalities with authority and guidance for zoning,

permitting, and environmental protections, and [HB 1026](#), which gives municipalities the option to prohibit accessory dwelling units associated with manufactured housing.

Hearings on Grab Bag of Municipal Bills

On **Tuesday, March 3, beginning at 9:15 a.m. in State House (SH) Room 122-123**, the [Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee](#) is holding public hearings on a quartet of bills already passed by the House:

- [HB 164](#) (9:15 a.m.), which authorizes the state archives to create and maintain a website for the retention and public access of local electronic records and specifies that electronic municipal records may be stored on the website. NHMA **supports**.
- [HB 348](#) (9:30 a.m.), which outlines optional criteria municipalities may use to determine residency of individuals seeking general welfare assistance. NHMA **supports**.
- [HB 244](#) (9:45 a.m.), which recodifies and makes technical updates to the state building and fire codes. NHMA **supports**.
- [HB 173](#) (10:00 a.m.), which prevents amendments to a petitioned warrant article that eliminate its subject matter or change the purpose of the article. NHMA **opposes**.

Municipalities can use the Senate [remote sign-in sheet](#) to indicate whether you are supportive of a bill, opposed, or neutral. Written testimony, if any, can be submitted via the “Email Entire Committee” link found on the [committee page](#).

Whither Perpetual Tax Cap Referendum?

Still no action this week (and nothing currently scheduled next week) on the non-germane amendment to [HB 1300](#), a proposal **opposed** by NHMA that would create biennial local tax cap referendums for every city, town, county, and school district in New Hampshire. The original draft amendment, deemed a “work in progress,” mandates a biennial local property tax limitation ballot question for each state general election held in November of even-numbered years. The question would read: “For the next 2 fiscal years, shall the total property taxes levied by this [town/city/school district/county] be limited so they may not increase faster than inflation plus new taxable property growth?”

For the cap to take effect, it must be approved by a 3/5 majority in an individual jurisdiction. The votes will be counted separately for towns and cities, counties, and school districts. The bill does not impact the statewide education property tax. The same question will appear every other year in perpetuity, beginning this November, based on the effective date of the proposed amendment. Divorcing this ballot question from local elections and town meetings makes it easier to confuse voters as to what they are actually voting for. It also hamstring municipalities from authorizing long-term capital projects or labor agreements due to the threat of a future cap.

It has been more than five weeks since this amendment was unveiled, generating significant print, TV and radio coverage, and it’s unlikely that it will just fade away—although we can hope.

Update on Retirement System Bills

It has been one of the lightest years for bills dealing with the New Hampshire Retirement System—only seven—in at least a decade.

Two of three bills dealing with NHRS retirees working for participating employers remain with the [House Executive Departments and Administration \(ED&A\) Committee](#): [HB 1014](#), which

exempts certain retirees from the 28-day waiting period for part-time employment, and [HB 1439](#), which modifies the application of penalties in cases in which a retiree exceeds the annual limit on hours worked; the third bill on this topic, [HB 1459](#), was killed earlier this month.

The House also killed [HB 1170](#), a state-funded cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for Group II (Police and Fire) retirees only, and [HB 1585](#), banning environmental, social, and governance-related investment strategies.

[HB 1471](#), described as a cost-neutral “cleanup bill” to address some ambiguous language included in the major pension changes enacted last year, remains with ED&A.

The Senate this month killed [SB 601](#), an NHMA-supported bill that would have established a state contribution of 7.5% of local employer retirement contributions for teachers, police officers and firefighters.

Quick Hits

Updates on other important bills we are following:

Sludge application moratorium: The [House Environment and Agriculture Committee](#) had a work session this week on [HB 1275](#), which creates a fund for farmers who have experienced losses or incurred costs due to the presence of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in soil, water, or agricultural products. A draft amendment was discussed that would eliminate a five-year moratorium on the land application of sludge and biosolids for agricultural use contained in the original bill. NHMA currently **opposes** the bill because of the moratorium, which would deprive municipal wastewater utilities of a major pathway of biosolid management and lead to higher costs and operational challenges. The committee is expected to take final action on the bill next week.

Battery Stewardship: [House Finance Division I](#) will hold a work session on [HB 1602](#) at **10:00 a.m. on Friday, March 13, in GP Room 230**. The bill, **supported** by NHMA and passed the House last week, would create a manufacturer-funded battery recycling program run through a third-party stewardship organization. The goal of the bill is to transfer the burden and costs associated with disposing batteries from municipalities, which are typically responsible for the waste stream, onto manufacturers. The concept is similar to the paint stewardship program created in [HB 451](#), which was approved by the House and Senate and will be sent to the Governor. [Contact members of Division I](#) in advance of the work session and **ask them to support HB 1602**.

Legislative Policy Proposals Welcome

NHMA has a member-driven process by which it establishes the legislative policy positions to guide staff advocacy activities over the coming legislative biennium.

For the past several weeks we have been recruiting volunteers to serve on our three legislative policy committees—**and this is our last call**. These committees will review existing policies as well as legislative policy proposals submitted by local officials and make recommendations on those policies, which will go to the **NHMA Legislative Policy Conference in September**.

If there is a law affecting municipal government that you think needs to be fixed, or if you have an idea for how the functions of local government might be improved with legislation, this is **your opportunity to propose a change**. To share your proposal, complete this [Legislative Policy Proposal Form](#). Include a brief (one or two sentence) policy statement, a statement about the municipal interest served by the proposal and an explanation that describes the nature of the problem or concern from a municipal perspective and discusses the proposed action that is being advocated to address the problem. Mail to NHMA, [25 Triangle Park Drive, Concord, NH 03301](#); or e-mail to governmentaffairs@nhmunicipal.org no later than the close of business on **April 17, 2026**.

Learn more about NHMA's 2027-2028 Legislative Policy Process in this [Questions and Answers fact sheet](#).

If you are a municipal official in a city or town and are interested in **servicing on one of the policy committees**, please contact the advocacy staff at: governmentaffairs@nhmunicipal.org. For more information on what the committees are and how they work, see the [February 6 Bulletin](#).

How to Make your Voice Heard

If a bill is of importance to your municipality, it's always best to make your case—for or against—in person. Every Friday, NHMA posts a [Bill Hearings Schedule](#) for the upcoming week. However, if you can't make it to Concord, you can use the Legislature's online portal to put your position on the hearing record.

The House has an [online testimony submission system](#) that allows you to indicate your position on the bill with an option to attach testimony. If you want to email all the members of a House committee, you will have to copy their email addresses individually from the [committee page](#).

The Senate has [a remote sign-in sheet](#) where you can indicate whether you are supportive of a bill, opposed, or neutral. Written testimony can be submitted via the "Email Entire Committee" link found on the [Senate committee page](#).

If you have time to follow along, livestreams of [House](#) and [Senate](#) sessions and committee meetings are available on YouTube. Prior sessions and committee meetings are also archived.

Finally, if you just want to contact your local legislators, there are [Contact a Senator](#) and [Contact a Representative](#) links on the [General Court](#) website.

Note: For any readers who print these emails out, all of the above links can be found on the General Court website at: <https://gc.nh.gov/>

Follow Bills That Matter to You Online

In addition to our weekly Legislative Bulletin, NHMA provides members access to FastDemocracy, an online bill tracking platform, for efficient, real-time updates to legislative activity of interest to members. Visit our online [Bill Tracker](#) page to learn more and feel free to subscribe to weekly or daily updates on subjects and bills of interest.

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NHMA Events Calendar 2025 Final Legislative Bulletin

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

Layout & Communications:
Miranda Blaikie, Communications Coordinator

New Hampshire Municipal Association
25 Triangle Park Drive
Concord, NH 03301
Tel: 603.224.7447
Email: governmentaffairs@nhmunicipal.org
Website: www.nhmunicipal.org

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Review Board Calendar

Non-Public Session