

New Hampshire Municipal Association

THE SERVICE AND ACTION ARM OF NEW HAMPSHIRE MUNICIPALITIES

LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN

Legislative Bulletin 24

2024 Session

June 14, 2024



Live Bill Tracker

The Session Ends...

The House and Senate both met on Thursday and finished their work for the [2024](#) legislative session. With some notable exceptions, both chambers approved the committee of conference reports, so most of the results described in last week's *Legislative Bulletin* remain unchanged. Many bills are now on their way to the governor, and will be signed into law—or, in some cases, may be vetoed or become law without his signature—over the next two months or so. We will publish our *Final Legislative Bulletin*, summarizing all new laws of municipal interest, by mid-August, depending to some extent on how quickly the bills get signed.

If you are wondering when a particular law will take effect, look at the “effective date” section at the end of the bill. Many bills state a firm effective date, such as January 1, 2025. Others state that they will become effective “upon passage,” or 30 or 60 days after passage. For this purpose, “passage” means signature by the governor. So, if a bill states that it will take effect 30 days after passage, and the governor signs it on July 7, the effective date is August 7.

The legislature will meet one more time, probably in late September or early October to consider bills that have been vetoed by the governor. It takes a two-thirds vote by each chamber to override a veto. We do not anticipate a veto of any bills NHMA has followed closely—but, as we have said many times before, anything can happen.

...But There's No Time to Slow Down

Given that the legislative session ends in mid-June (end of June in budget years), and the next one does not get underway until January, the government affairs staff are sometimes asked: What do you do all summer? Maybe we take three-month vacations or spend the summer working as house painters, landscapers, or lifeguards. Not quite.

Among other things, we will produce our *Final Legislative Bulletin*; oversee NHMA's legislative policy process (see separate article); monitor study committees and commissions; work with legislators on next session's bills and begin planning legislative initiatives for next year; and catch up on other administrative matters that have not gotten our full attention over the last five months. In addition, the government affairs staff have significant non-legislative duties, including responding to legal and finance questions from our members, giving presentations to various groups, participating in webinars and workshops, and assisting in planning NHMA's annual conference. And finally, yes—we do take some vacation time.

As we move into the fall, we will start to contact legislators (once we know who they are, or at least who they are likely to be) to discuss legislation for 2025 and look to understand state budget priorities. After the elections, we will shift into full gear, preparing for the excitement of another legislative session!

Final Action on Bills

[HB 1370](#), the election “hotline” bill, was killed by the House yesterday. (Officially, it was tabled, but as the session ended today, it is dead).

[HB 1400](#), the parking minimum mandate and land use omnibus bill, was passed yesterday. It is now headed to the governor.

Below is a table listing what happened with everything else of municipal interest.

Bill	Title	Last Action	Latest Version
HB 318	Title: (Third New Title) relative to bail commissioners, the standards applicable to and the administration of bail, and making an appropriation.	Sent to governor	Version adopted by both bodies
HB 458	Title: (New Title) reestablishing the commission to study the assessing of power generation.	Sent to governor	Version adopted by both bodies
HB 463	Title: (New Title) relative to the establishment of an election information portal and makes an appropriation therefor.	Died	As Amended by the Senate
HB 1069	Title: (New Title) relative to material subject to disclosure under the right-to-know law.	Died	As Amended by the Senate
HB 1079	Title: (Second New Title) relative to critical incident stress management team members and establishing a rural and underserved area educator incentive program for higher education and making an appropriation therefor.	Sent to governor	Version adopted by both bodies
HB 1091	Title: relative to the financing of political campaigns.	Sent to governor	Version adopted by both bodies
HB 1195	Title: relative to allowing school districts to approve different apportionment methods for school administrative unit costs.	Sent to governor	As Amended by the Senate
HB 1197	Title: (New Title) relative to criminal background checks and relative to insurance coverage for intrauterine insemination.	Sent to governor	Version adopted by both bodies

HB 1202	Title: (New Title) relative to the issuance of permits for the alteration of driveways exiting onto public ways and relative to the definition of disability or special needs under the child care scholarship program.	Sent to governor	As Amended by the Senate (2nd)
HB 1215	Title: (Second New Title) relative to development approvals and appeals, and allowing the town of Hampton to discontinue a particular highway in order to lease that property.	Died	As Amended by the Senate
HB 1223	Title: (New Title) creating local options for games of chance.	Died	As Amended by the Senate
HB 1292	Title: (New Title) relative to coverage of children under the state retiree insurance plan and relative to federal immigration enforcement.	Died	As Amended by the Senate
HB 1313	Title: relative to access to the voter checklist by candidates.	Sent to governor	Version adopted by both bodies
HB 1369	Title: relative to the verification of voter rolls every 4 years.	Died	As Amended by the Senate
HB 1370	Title: (New Title) relative to eliminating voter identification exceptions.	Died	As Amended by the Senate
HB 1380	Title: (New Title) relative to brew pub licenses, relative to insurance cost-sharing calculations, and relative to receipt of pharmaceutical rebates by insurers and pharmacy benefits managers.	Sent to governor	Version adopted by both bodies

HB 1386	Title: relative to prohibiting the disposal of lithium-ion batteries in solid waste landfill facilities, composting facilities, or incinerators.	Sent to governor	Version adopted by both bodies
HB 1400	Title: (Third New Title) relative to residential parking spaces, landlord-tenant law, unauthorized occupant evictions, and zoning procedures concerning residential housing.	Sent to governor	Version adopted by both bodies
HB 1521	Title: (New Title) relative to recovery houses.	Died	As Amended by the Senate
HB 1600	Title: (New Title) establishing a committee to study the aggregation of electric customers by municipalities and counties.	Sent to governor	As Amended by the Senate
HB 1633	Title: relative to the legalization and regulation of cannabis and making appropriations therefor.	Died	As Amended by the Senate
HB 2024	Title: (Third New Title) relative to the state 10-year transportation improvement plan; relative to adding a speed limit of 45 miles per hour on rural highways; relative to disability pensions for public safety employees who are victims of violence; and making a capital appropriation to the department of corrections toward the replacement of the New Hampshire state prison for men.	Sent to governor	As Amended by the Senate
SB 84	Title: (Second New Title) repealing certain task forces, study committees, and study commissions , repealing the John G. Winant memorial commission and making the maintenance of the memorial a duty of the joint legislative	Died	As Amended by the House

	historical committee, and establishing a committee to study the appeals process administered by the environmental councils established under RSA 21-O.		
SB 407	Title: (New Title) establishing a ground ambulance cost reporting program and a study by an independent actuarial and accounting expert of the cost of providing ground ambulance services in the state.	Sent to governor	As Amended by the House
SB 499	Title: relative to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and the Summer EBT program and making appropriations therefor and relative to providing disaster relief funding to municipalities after a natural disaster.	Sent to governor	As Amended by the House
SB 534	Title: relative to campaign finance.	Died	As Amended by the House

Legislative Policy Process Update

The first phase of NHMA’s 2025-26 legislative policy process has been completed. The three legislative policy committees, comprising over 50 local officials from 44 municipalities, spent several weeks reviewing existing legislative policies and new proposals. They have made their recommendations, which will be sent to all member municipalities later this month. We will ask municipal governing bodies to review the recommendations, establish positions on them, and appoint a delegate to vote at the NHMA Legislative Policy Conference on Friday, September 27, 2024 at 9:00 am. Members will also have an opportunity to submit policy floor proposals, which are due by Friday August 9.

NHMA Events Calendar
2023 Final Legislative Bulletin
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