

Text of Warrant Articles: A Guide for Municipalities



*A Advisory of the New Hampshire Municipal Association
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Summary of Changes Pursuant to [2026 Chapter Law 92 \(HB 1309\)](#)

Amendments RSA 39:2, requiring warrant articles to state the intent and effect, without commentary or ambiguity:

[2026 Chapter Law 92](#) (HB 1309) amends RSA 39:2 to require warrant articles to clearly state the intent and effect of each warrant article without “commentary or ambiguity”. Since the law already required “the subject matter of all business to be acted upon at the town meeting to be distinctly stated in the warrant,” it is unclear exactly what additional obligation this new language imposes on towns.

The entire purpose of distinctly stating the subject matter of all business to be acted upon at the town meeting in the warrant is to place the voters on notice of what the warrant intends to accomplish. It was already prohibited to incorporate extraneous information into the text of a warrant article that could blur the subject matter or mislead voters. This new amendment appears to require additional information to be inserted into warrant articles describing the “intent and effect” of the article. Municipalities should take care when drafting warrant articles to be as concise as possible, and to avoid any speculation or opinion-based language. If the intent of the warrant article is unclear after stating the subject matter, a single clarifying sentence may be necessary along the lines of: “The intent of this article is to...”. The effect of a warrant article can be harder to define or predict, and it is difficult to determine how this should be done without adding “commentary.” In many cases, the effect should be clear based on the subject matter and intent. If the subject matter is a fire truck, and the intent is to raise and appropriate funds to purchase a fire truck, then the effect is going to be acquiring a fire truck. If the effect involves a tax impact, that is also already included in the warrant article.

However, if the intended effect of a warrant article does not appear clear after stating the subject matter and intent, again, a concise sentence without any opinion-based language may be necessary to clarify.

Effective Date: July 27, 2026; Statute Amended: RSA 39-2