



## NHMA Priority Legislation

May 25, 2023

Position/Action	Bill/Section	Description
Support	HB 2, Amendment #2023-1756s	Appropriating \$20,000,000 for the purpose of providing additional funding for highway block grants and direct bridge aid. The additional funding proposed would ensure municipal infrastructure projects can move forward as inflation and materials costs continues to outpace the growth of the Highway Fund.
Support	HB 2, Amendment #2023-1665s	Add section to HB 2 establishing annual registration surcharges on electric (\$100) and plug-in hybrid (\$50) vehicles, with proceeds credited to the highway fund.
Support	HB 2, Amendment #2023-1903s	Fund the state's share of wastewater state aid grants at \$27.9 million and amends section 30 of HB 2 to state that any remaining funds not used for existing projects may be used to award new grants.
Support	HB 2, Amendment # 2023-1590s	The inclusion of <b>SB 230</b> , policy language which would appropriate \$30 million in the next biennium for both payments on existing grants and allow for the funding of new grants.
Support and respectfully request additional funding	HB 2, Amendment #2023-1815s	PFAS Response Fund at \$2 million FY 2023 (SB 138)
Support	HB 2, Amendment #2023-1990s	Amends Section 423 to appropriate \$1 million to the cyanobacteria mitigation grant and loan fund.
Support and respectfully request additional funding	HB 2, Amendment #2023-1776s	Adds SB 145 relative to establishing a NH Housing Champion Designation Program and making one appropriation of \$5 million in FY 23
Support and respectfully request additional funding	HB 2, Amendment #2023-1763s	Changes to InvestNH to remove grants and municipalities and add in loans and housing developers and reduces the appropriation from \$15 million to \$10 million .
Delete	HB 2, Sections 68-83	Remove funding for \$250 million proposal to roll back some of the 2011 pension reform through FY

		2033 with \$50 million in appropriations during next biennium for retirement contributions for certain Group II police and fire employees who were not vested prior to 2012 but would have been prior to 2013. The proposal also requires the state to pay the municipal cost estimated at \$3.2 million per year for the next 10 years, leaving local taxpayers to fund the remaining 10 years of this 20-year policy change.
Support	HB 2 Amendment #2023-1656s #2023-1485s #2023-1679s	Restore the state share of municipal employer pension costs: When the state established the New Hampshire Retirement System (NHRS), the law required the state to fund 35% of the municipal employer's costs for teachers, police, and firefighters, all of which are mandatory members of the NHRS. Reduction and then ultimate elimination of the state contribution in 2013 have created incredible strain on municipal budgets. <b>SB 114</b> would work to restore a small portion of these costs, at 5%, providing immediate tax relief.
Restore	HB 2, Section 334	Funding a one-time \$50 million payment to reduce the New Hampshire Retirement System (NHRS) unfunded actuarial accrued liability (UAAL), saving municipal employers \$105 million over the 20 years of the amortization schedule.
Request state fully fund	HB 2, Amendment #2023-1917s	Adds SB 57, relative to the reduction in the calculation of state retirement annuities at age 65. (Will be funded in employer rates by local taxpayers in FY 2026 & FY 2027 and beyond. NHMA opposes on cost basis only.
Support	HB 2, various sections	Appropriations related to increasing rates for shelter program and assisting cities and towns with housing expenses for homeless people.
Support	HB 2, Amendment #2023-1669s	Adds a \$663k appropriation in FY 23 for the Department of State to implement the online election information portal. Currently, SB 70 does not have an appropriation to the Department of State.
Delete	HB 2, Sections 256-259	Delete sections changing the authority and composition of the Assessing Certification Board so it can continue to function under last year's HB 1552.
Neutral, no impact on the distribution amount	No action requested	Per RSA 78-A:23, IV, Treasury has warrant authority to make statutory payments. Estimated meals and rooms tax distribution to cities and towns to remain level at \$121.1 million in FY 24 with a potential increase to \$123.5 million in FY 25.

Support	HB 1	Funds for the municipal bridge aid are estimated at \$6.8 million as set by law in 2014 (SB 367).
Support	HB 1	Funds reimbursements to municipalities involved in flood control compacts at \$830,000 each year.
Support	HB 1	Appropriating \$5 million each year for the Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP).
Support	HB 2, Section 134	The establishment of a State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program and funds \$1.2 million for FY 24 and \$1.6 million for FY 25 for the state match to a federal cybersecurity grant, which will provide direct grant assistance to cities and towns.

### **NHMA's Policy Position on Cannabis**

NHMA opposes legislation that authorizes the sale of cannabis unless the following requirements or conditions are included:

- The processing, manufacture, refinement or sale of cannabis products in any municipality shall only be permitted after the legislative body of that municipality has adopted the provisions of enabling state legislation permitting such activities--“opt-in,” not “opt out.” (See recommended language below)
- Legislation that legalizes the sale of cannabis must include provisions for adequate and sustained funding to municipalities to address the costs associated with legalization because municipalities will be the governmental entities that will have to directly deal with the impacts of legalization.
- Any legislation allowing for retail establishments for the sale of cannabis or cannabis products shall include a requirement for a host community agreement with the municipality in which a marijuana establishment is located, which may include provisions such as a community impact fee; a limit on the percentage of sales of total gross receipts that are related to cannabis sales; security measures for premises; agreements to fund police details when necessary; for crowd or traffic control; and termination of business provisions.

#### **Recommended opt-in language (currently found in SB 98, Amendment #1892h)**

Enactment of Municipal Ordinances.

I. The voters of any city or town shall vote on whether to allow cannabis establishments in the municipality at the biennial election held in November 2024. The wording of the question shall be substantially as follows: “Shall we allow the operation of cannabis establishments within this city or town?” and “Shall we allow the operation of a retail cannabis store in this city or town?” If a majority of the qualified voters present and voting in a municipality signal their approval of the operation of cannabis establishments, then cannabis establishments may start applying for approval on or after July 1, 2025. The recount of any local option vote, the procedures for holding such a recount, the declaration of the results of such a recount and the procedure for an appeal from such a recount shall be as provided in RSA 660:13-15. A municipality’s prohibition on cannabis establishments may not prohibit transportation through the municipality or deliveries within the municipality by cannabis establishments located in other jurisdictions.

II. In a municipality that voted to permit cannabis establishments, if the municipality has a zoning ordinance, it shall consider adoption of an innovative land use control pursuant to RSA 674:21, II specifying where a cannabis establishment will be a permitted use and further provide what, if any, conditions will be placed upon cannabis establishments. If a municipality has passed an innovative land use control relative to cannabis establishments, it shall notify the liquor commission within 90 days of passage. Municipalities without zoning ordinances or which have failed to pass an innovative land use control relative to cannabis establishments will be governed by the provisions of RSA 318-F and administrative rules relating to cannabis establishments enacted pursuant to RSA 541-A. No local ordinance may be less restrictive than the provisions of RSA 318-F or administrative rules enacted pursuant to RSA 541-A.

