



2025 Legislative Update at Crossover

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Agenda

NHMA's Legislative Policy Positions

The Balance of Power

Update of the 2025 Session

NHMA's Bill Tracker



2025-2026 Legislative Policy Positions

- Adopted Fall 2024 for the 2025-26 Legislative Years
- 16 Specific Policy Areas, and 12 Principles
- No Major Shifts in Policies or Principles
 - Rewrites and clarifications
 - Adoption of policies related to key areas of legislative interest
- [Read NHMA's 2025-2026 Policies & Principles](#)

2025 Balance of Power

Governor

Republican

<https://www.governor.nh.gov/>

Executive Council

4 Republicans, 1 Democrat

<https://www.council.nh.gov/>

Senate

16 Republicans and 8 Democrats

<https://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/senate/>

House of Representatives

220 Republicans, 177 Democrats, 1 Independent and 2 Vacant Seats

<https://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/house/>

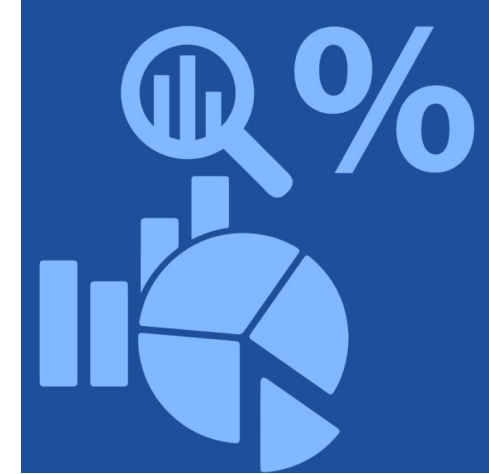
977 LSRs filed

More than 80
LSRs
withdrawn or
8.2% of all
bills filed.

362 bills
tracked by
NHMA

More than
35% of all
bills filed had
a municipal
component

Bill Data 2025



Crossover Status Report

Bills NHMA is Following:

- **Active—170**
- Killed—102
- Retained/Rereferred—65
- Tabled—23
- Indefinitely Postponed—2

Areas of Legislative Focus

- Zoning Mandates
- Town Meeting/Election Law
- Ambulance Reimbursement/Balance Billing
- Right-to-Know Law
- Other Bills to Watch
- Attempts to silence NHMA & local governments
- Risk Pools
- State Budget

Planning/Zoning/Land Use



NHMA has overarching concerns with multiple zoning mandates proposed this year, including:

- **Loss of Local Control**
- **Increased Administrative Burdens**
- **Infrastructure and Parking Strain**
- **Poorly drafted language that is ambiguous and/or conflicting with current law**
- **No state partnership/investment in addressing housing shortage with local government; all blame and responsibility focused on cities and towns**

Planning/Zoning/Land Use: Priority Bills



- SB 84, relative to zoning procedures concerning residential housing.
- SB 163, prohibiting local moratoria and limitations on building permits.
- SB 170, relative to development and related requirements in cities, towns, and municipalities.
- SB 188, allowing independent permitting and inspections, and allowing local governments to authorize licensed engineers and architects to perform building code inspections.
- SB 284, relative to the required maximum number of residential parking spaces.

Planning/Zoning/Land Use: Priority Bills



- HB 410, limiting local authority to adopt restrictions on the building and development of residential properties.
- HB 577, relative to modifying the definition of ADUs.
- HB 631, permitting residential building in commercial zoning.

Planning/Zoning/Land Use: More Bills

- SB 174, prohibiting planning boards from considering the number of bedrooms a given unit or development has during the hearing and approval process.
- SB 281, prohibiting municipalities from denying building or occupancy permits for property adjacent to class VI roads under certain circumstances.
- SB 282, relative to stairway requirements in certain residential buildings.
- SB 283, relative to the calculation of floor-area-ratios under local building ordinances.
- HB 296, relative to issuing building permits along private roads.
- HB 342, relative to the approval process for new construction.
- HB 457, relative to the occupancy of housing units.
- HB 685, permitting in all residentially zoned areas by right the construction of manufactured housing.
- SB 78, relative to the zoning board of adjustments appeal period.

Town Meeting/Election Law

- HB 138, relative to tax impact notation on warrant articles with multi-year tax impacts.
- HB 284, requiring tax impact statements on municipal warrant articles.
- HB 200, relative to the procedure for overriding a local tax cap.
- HB 228, relative to petitioned articles at annual or special town meetings.
- HB 613, relative to enabling local political subdivisions to vote and set a reduced default budget option.
- SB 217, relative to public notice of historic tax rates and tax impacts of proposed projects.
- HB 67, relative to agreements with the secretary of state for the use of accessible voting systems.
- HB 274, relative to the verification of voter rolls annually.
- SB 221, relative to the verification of the checklist.
- HB 554, relative to the placement of political advertising on municipal property.
- SB 45, clarifying the placement of advertising signs on state -owned property.



Ambulance Billing

- HB 316, relative to reimbursement for ground ambulance services.
- SB 245, prohibiting surprise ambulance billing and regulating ground ambulance reimbursement.
- SB 130, establishing a commission to study delivery models for emergency medical services in the state of New Hampshire.

The elimination of balance billing coupled with inadequate reimbursement rates could negatively impact municipal ambulance services

Right-to-Know Law

HB 66, relative to material subject to disclosure under right to know law.

HB 80, allowing a public body member's presence at a meeting by electronic or other means of communication only if physical presence is unavoidable.



Other Bills to Watch

- SB 291, relative to the religious use of land property tax exemption.
- HB 123, relative to yield taxes on property enrolled or registered for the purpose of generating carbon offset credits.
- HB 143, relative to the issuance of no trespass orders on municipal or school district property.
- HB 168, relative to including municipal public works facilities as eligible capital facilities for the assessment of impact fees.
- HB 467, defining "social districts" and enabling municipalities to create social districts.

Anti-Lobbying, Anti-Speech Bills

Thanks to the efforts of local, county and school officials and other groups supporting them, two bills introducing sweeping restrictions on lobbying by any associations that receive public funds failed to make it out of the House.

- **HB 314**, (Retained in Committee)
- **HB 456**, (Indefinitely Postponed)

Risk Pools: SB 297



New regulations and oversight of risk management pools:

New Mandate: Municipalities must establish a non-lapsing reserve fund (minimum 1% of contributions, rebuilding to 4% if used) to stay in health pools; Unclear consequences for members if reserve fund appropriations are not approved by legislative bodies.



New Responsibilities: Pool members are financially liable for past losses upon leaving a risk pool and must agree to cover future losses.



Potential loss of options: The state's largest risk pool has stated it would cease operations if SB 297 passes, which would create massive uncertainty and possible cost increases for municipalities forced to obtain new coverage.



NHMA opposes SB 297 because it contains provisions that will affect city and town expenses and change the terms of membership with risk pools

State Budget

The Budget passed by the House on April 10 has several provisions affecting cities and towns, including a change to the meals and rooms tax disbursement and cuts to or elimination of some state programs that municipalities rely upon.

Meals and Rooms Tax

- Flat appropriation of \$137M/year for FY 26-27, replacing the 30% share; Municipalities lose estimated \$11M over two years

Housing and Infrastructure

- No new funding for Housing Champions, InvestNH, or State Aid Grant (SAG) for wastewater projects
- Regional planning commissions lose state funding
- Elimination of Housing Advisory Board

State Budget

Other Impacts



Granite Advantage Changes

Increased costs for participants, affecting local welfare budgets



Repeal of Revenue Sharing (RSA 31-A)

Permanent elimination, making future reinstatement challenging



Other

Limiting authority for local health officers
Statewide DEI ban adds contract review costs for municipalities
Eliminating vehicle inspections will cost municipalities almost \$350k per year

State Budget

Retirement

- NHRS Group II Retirement changes affect approximately 1,500 pre-July 2011 active police and fire personnel (one-quarter of current active population)
- Governor proposes funding these retirement changes with anticipated video slot revenue; \$27.5M annual state appropriations through 2034 included in the budget
 - *Note: House Finance voted to redirect most slot revenue to the Education Trust Fund*
- Removal/repeal of state retirement funding will lead to skyrocketing local employer contribution rates

State Budget: Next Steps

Budget is with the Senate Finance Committee.

Key Dates:

Thursday, June 5: Deadline to ACT on all House bills.

Thursday, June 12: Deadline to FORM Committees of Conference.

Thursday, June 19: Deadline to SIGN Committee of Conference Reports.

Thursday, June 26, 2025: Deadline to ACT on Committee of Conference Reports.

What Can I Do?

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

Fast Democracy Bill Table – www.nhmunicipal.org

ALL BILLS

NHMA SUPPORTS

NHMA OPPOSES

Bills by Topic:

MUNICIPAL MANAGERS, ADMINISTRATORS, SELECT BOARDS AND COUNCILS

PLANNING / ZONING / LAND USE

RIGHT-TO-KNOW

STATE AID

MUNICIPAL BUDGET

PROPERTY TAX

RETIREMENT

EDUCATION FUNDING

TAX COLLECTORS

TRUSTEE OF THE TRUST FUND

HUMAN RESOURCE PROFESSIONALS / LABOR LAW

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

LIBRARIES

LOCAL WELFARE ADMINISTRATION

MODERATORS AND OTHER ELECTION OFFICIALS

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

ENERGY

PUBLIC HEALTH

PUBLIC SAFETY

PUBLIC WORKS

FINANCE - ALL BILLS

SOLID WASTE

TOWN AND CITY CLERKS



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Property Tax



1-33 of 33

 NH 2024 HB 202



Title: relative to property tax abatements.

Support



Janigian



Piemonte

The bill establishes a method to equalize market value for purposes of calculating property tax abatements.

Applicable NHMA Policy: NHMA supports legislation that allows municipalities to manage property tax levies in a manner that stabilizes tax rates and ensur

NHMA's Position: Support.

 Tracking

 NH 2024 HB 433



Title: providing that property tax exemptions granted prior to a home sale shall not be applied to the new homeowner.



Post



Harvey-Bolia



Bill Boyd

 Tracking

 NH 2024 HB 456



Title: relative to collecting road tolls on the output of separately metered electric vehicle chargers.

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NH 2023 LSR 2023-0081
relative to the operation of the state

Laurel Stavis

Track Bill

NH 2023 LSR 2023-0081
relative to the transfer of property

Joshua Adjutant

Track Bill

NH 2023 LSR 2023-0081
enabling municipalities to

Ellen Read

Track Bill

NH 2023 LSR 2023-0081

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Questions?





Thank you!

NHMA Advocacy Team

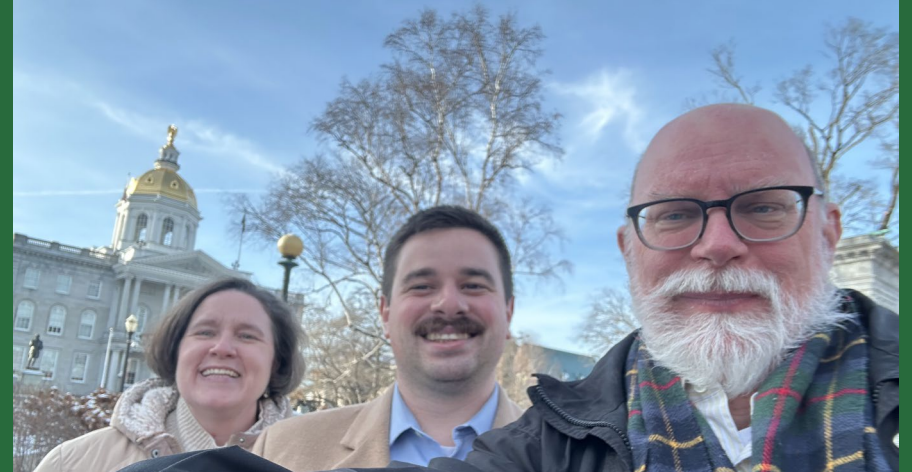
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The New Hampshire Municipal Association is a nonprofit, non-partisan association working to strengthen New Hampshire cities and towns and their ability to serve the public as a member-funded, member-governed and member-driven association since 1941. We serve as a resource for information, education and legal services.

NHMA is a strong, clear voice advocating for New Hampshire municipal interests.