



Lakes in the New Hampshire Legislature 2026 Update

Andrea LaMoreaux, President & Policy Advocate
NH LAKES Lakes Congress
June 5, 2026



New Hampshire House of Representatives

New Hampshire Legislature

- **House of Representatives: 400 members**
- **Senate: 24 members**
- Third-largest legislative body in the English-speaking world!
- Legislators are elected and serve for two year terms (a biennium)
- Meets in session January to June
- **2026 was the second year of the biennium (not a state budget year, finalizing legislation from 1st year, elections at the end of this year)**



New Hampshire Senate

Who's in the 2026 Legislature?

- House of Representatives: 400
 - 214 Republicans (simple majority)
 - 176 Democrats
 - 1 Independent
 - 9 vacancies

- Senate: 24
 - 16 Republicans (supermajority)
 - 8 Democrats



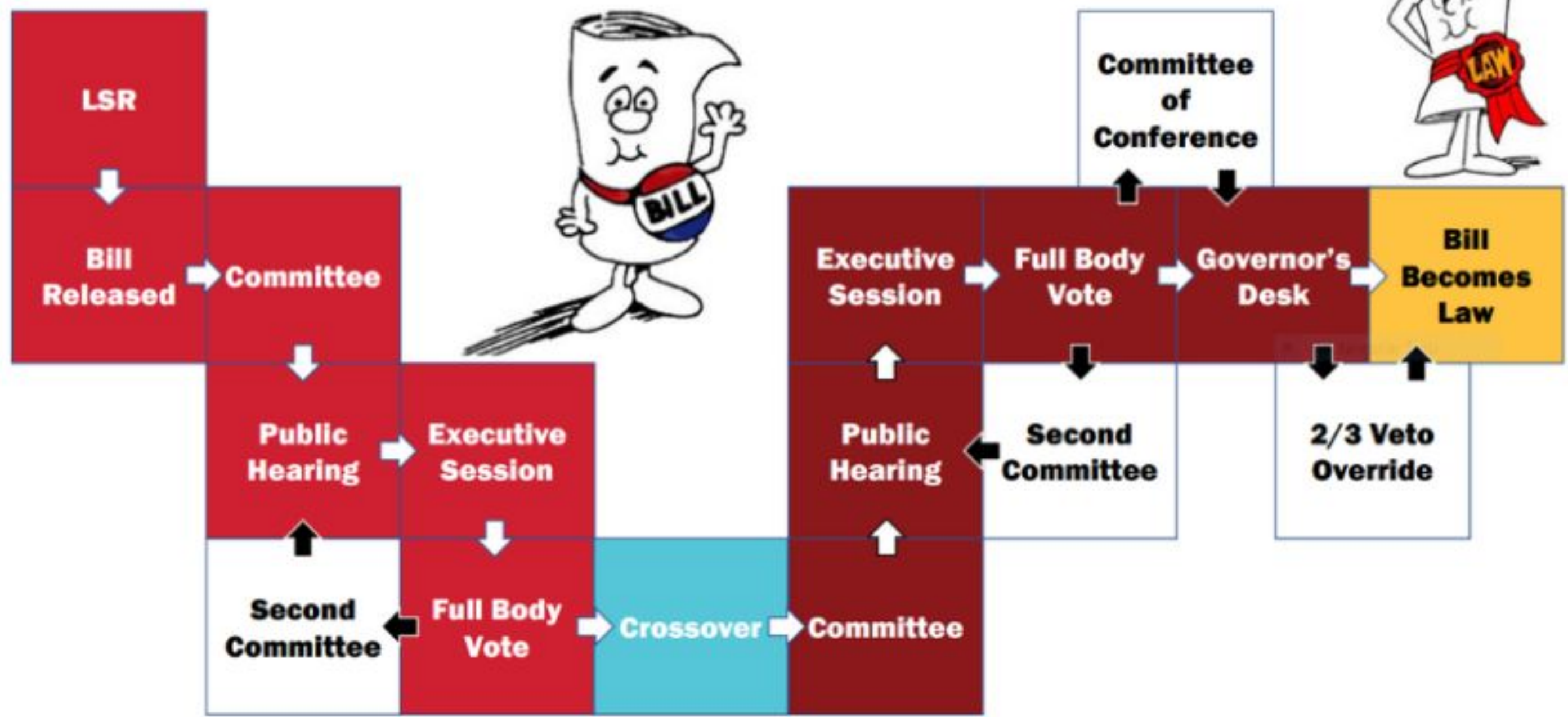
Approximately **1,300 bills** were considered during this second year of this 169th Session.



The New Hampshire Legislative Process



newfutures»» How a Bill Becomes a Law

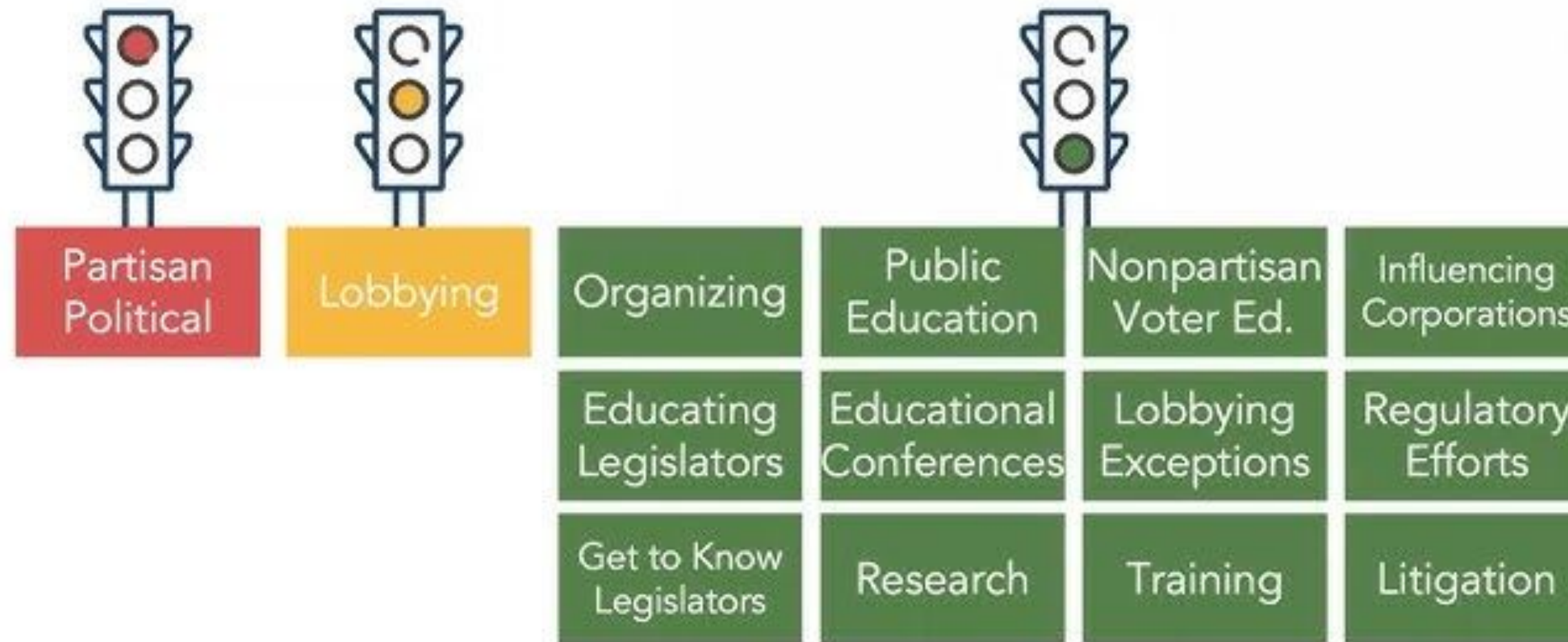




“So, how do we give our lakes a voice in the legislature?”



As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization we engage in ISSUE ADVOCACY



- We have registered lobbyists and we report our time to the State and IRS.
- We do not endorse parties or candidates or contribute to parties or candidates.
- We do not accept money from corporations.

Our Core Advocacy Issues



Shoreland & Wetland
Protection



Water Quality Restoration
& Protection



Aquatic Invasive Species
Prevention & Management

Related issues we've weighed in over the years...



Boater Education Certification

Dept. of Environmental Services Funding

Dept. of Fish & Game Funding

Dept. of Safety, Marine Patrol Funding

Ski Craft Restrictions

Wakesport Setbacks

Winnepesaukee Speed Limit



More: nhlakes.org/state-government

Your NH LAKES Advocacy Team



Andrea



Brea



Samantha

Registered Lobbyists



NH LAKES Public Policy & Advocacy Committee

Our Lake Advocates Network Partners



Ayers Lake Association
Berry Bay Association
Bow Lake Camp Owners Association
Cobbetts Pond Improvement Association
Contoocook Lake Area Preservation Association
Crystal Lake Association (Enfield)
Franklin Pierce Lake Association
Green Mountain Conservation Group
Halfmoon Lake Association
Harvey Lake Association
Horace Lake Landowners Corporation
Jenness Pond Shore Owners Association
Lake Kanasatka Watershed Association
Lake Massasecum Improvement Association
Lake Opechee Preservation Association
Lake Ossipee Alliance
Lake Sunapee Protective Association

Lake Winnepocket Conservation Association
Lake Winnepesaukee Alliance
Lake Sunapee Protective Association
Little Lake Sunapee Association
Mascoma Lake Association
Mirror Lake Association
Monomonac Property Owners Association
Newfound Lake Region Association
Northwood Lake Watershed Association
Otter Pond Protective Association
Pleasant Pond Association
Province Lake Association
Save Lake Sunapee Watershed Association
Silver Lake Association of Madison
Silver Lake Improvement Association (Hollis)
Spofford Lake Association
Squam Lakes Association

Swanzey Lake Protective Association
Three Ponds Protective Association
Tucker Pond Improvement Association
Washington Lake Association
Webster Lake Association
Wentworth Watershed Association
White Oak Pond Watershed Association
Winnisquam Watershed Network

Your Lake's Voice Matters!

Join the **Lake Advocates Network**

Lake associations from across the state are already participating, but many lake communities still don't have a voice at the table.

Now more than ever, your lake and your community need to be heard in the legislature.

That's why NH LAKES created the **Lake Advocates Network**—a grassroots coalition of lake associations across the state, each represented by a designated advocate. The network strengthens lake-friendly policy efforts at the state and local levels by amplifying local voices where they matter most.

The Lake Advocates Network helps protect and restore New Hampshire's lakes by:

- **Empowering** local communities with tools and support to advocate for lake-friendly policies.
- **Training** local leaders to take effective action and influence decisions that impact lake health.
- **Informing** statewide advocacy by connecting NH LAKES with local concerns and on-the-ground challenges.

See if your lake has a voice →



Dear Andrea,

This is the moment I've been waiting for—YOUR first opportunity to give your lake, and all our lakes, a voice during the 2026 New Hampshire Legislative Session!

This coming week, our lakes need YOU to stand up for SIX lake-friendly bills! These bills will help prevent harmful chemicals from contaminating our waters and provide critical funding to fight toxic cyanobacteria blooms.

Read to learn more, and then take action. Sign in online in support of these bills and share your story about why these initiatives are critical for restoring and preserving the health of your lake, and all of New Hampshire's lakes.

For an even greater impact, join me at the hearings. You do not need to testify in person—simply showing up in numbers makes a powerful statement. If you would like to testify, please contact me in advance so we can coordinate our talking points.

Advocacy is most effective when legislators hear directly from those who care the most. Whether or not you vote in New Hampshire, if you love one of our 1,000 lakes and ponds, our legislators want—and NEED—to hear from you.

Thank you for being a voice for New Hampshire's lakes,



Andrea LaMoreaux
President and Policy Advocate
alamoreaux@nhlakes.org

P.S: Please share this urgent call to action with your friends, neighbors, and family members who also love our lakes.

We issue timely, informative and easy to follow calls to action to our general community throughout the session.

Sign up at: nhlakes.org
(scroll to the bottom of the page)



The 2026 New Hampshire Legislative Session is active, and **six lake-friendly bills** need your support this week. Here's how you can help:

Use the [Online Testimony Submission Form](#) to enter your support, with the opportunity to provide personal testimony about why these initiatives are critical for restoring and preserving the health of your lake, and all of NH's lakes.

- **Step 1:** Fill out your personal information
- **Step 2:** Select the date of the hearing for the specific bill
- **Step 3:** Select the bill. This step will vary; see the examples included below for each bill.



Advocacy Alert!

Please share this widely with your friends and neighbors.

Below is an important update from our partners at NH LAKES about a bill that is being heard next week, which LSPA is also supporting.



We encourage our Lake Advocates Network partners to share our calls to action with their community!



MEETING RESOURCES

House

[House Sign-in Form and Online Testimony Submission](#)
[View House Online Testimony Submissions](#)
[House Remote Sign In/Submit/View Testimony Directions \(PDF\)](#)

Senate

[Senate Remote Sign In](#)
[Senate Remote Sign In Directions \(PDF\)](#)

Step 1. Personal Information

All fields required

First

Last

Town

State

Email Address

Step 2. Select Date of the Hearing

< January 2024 >

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	
	3	4	5	6	7	8

Step 3. Select Bill

* Required fields

Select the Committee *

Choose the Bill *

I am *

I'm Representing *

Indicate Your Position on this Bill *

I Support this Bill I Oppose this Bill I'm neutral on this Bill
 Testimony is for non-germane amendment

Step 4. Upload Remote Testimony (Optional)

Attach document below by clicking the Choose File button and selecting your file (PDF Format Only - 2MB Maximum file size)

Choose File No file chosen

OR

Type your testimony Below

Step 5. Final Review

Attention: Information and testimony submitted on this form is entered in to the public record for each piece of legislation and will be considered public records subject to disclosure under the Right To Know Law. Do not submit any personal information you do not wish to disclose publicly. The sign-in sheet will close for purposes of registering your opinion at 11:59 p.m. the day of the hearing.

We encourage our community to sign in on-line in support or opposed to bills and include a statement or upload a letter of testimony.

Numbers and personal stories can make a BIG impact on legislators.

www.gencourt.state.nh.us



We encourage attendance at hearings, and for an even bigger impact, we encourage our community to testify!

Tips on testifying:

nhlakes.org/contact-your-representatives



Bills that didn't make it across finish line in 2026...



2026 Legislative Session: Priority Bills

Water Quality Restoration and Protection



HB 1020: Proclaiming Lake Winnepesaukee the official state lake of New Hampshire

- **Prime Sponsor:** Rep. Maggiore (North Hampton)
- **What:** This bill was the idea of a 4th grade class
- **NH LAKES Position:** **SUPPORT**
- **Hearing:** House Resources, Recreation & Development
- **Committee Recommendation:** **Inexpedient to Legislate (10-6)**
- **House Vote:** **Inexpedient to Legislate (Voice Vote)**



2026 Legislative Session: Priority Bills

Water Quality Restoration & Protection



HB 1607-FN: Relative to the use and storage of salt

- **Prime Sponsor:** Rep. Rosemarie Rung (Merrimack)
- **What:** Requires DES to develop and issue regulations that specify proper storage and management practices for ice control chemicals for snow and ice control
- **Impact:** Protect ground and surface water quality; Estimated increase state expenditures (\$10k-\$100K annually) and increase local expenditures (\$10K-\$500k)
- **NH LAKES Position:** **SUPPORT**
- **Hearing & Work Sessions:** House Public Works and Highways, 1/13, 1/27, 2/3
- **Committee Recommendation:** Ought to Pass with Amendment (15-0)
- **House Vote:** **2/12 - Lay on Table (188-166 Roll Call); 3/12 - Remove from Table (156-194 Roll Call)**



2026 Legislative Session: Priority Bills

Water Quality Restoration & Protection



HB 1810-FN: road salt fee to support certified winter road maintenance practices

- **Prime Sponsor:** Rep. Will Darby (Nashua, Ward 8)
- **What:** Establishes new road salt fee and mitigation program (\$4/ton fee) on bulk road salt, road salt mix, and brine sold in NH. Fees to be deposited into new Road Salt Mitigation Fund providing grants to state agencies, municipalities, and businesses to implement salt reduction best management practices.
- **Impact:** Estimated revenue at \$1.6 million annually
- **NH LAKES Position:** **SUPPORT**
- **Hearing & Work Sessions:** House Ways & Means 1/12, 1/28
- **Committee Recommendation:** **Inexpedient to Legislate**
- **House Vote:** **Inexpedient to Legislative (177-156 Roll Call)**



2026 Legislative Session: Priority Bills

Water Quality Restoration & Protection



HB 1614-FN: Restricting the use of coal tar based sealant products containing levels of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons

- **Prime Sponsor:** Rep. Allison Knab (Stratham)
- **What:** Starting Jan. 2027, individuals and businesses would be banned from selling or applying these carcinogenic coal tar sealants on driveways and parking lots. These products are toxic to aquatic life.
- **Impact:** Protect aquatic life, minimal financial impact, alternatives are available
- **NH LAKES Position:** **SUPPORT**
- **Hearing:** Feb. 11, House Commerce and Consumer Affairs
- **Committee Work Session:** Feb. 18
- **Committee Recomm.:** **Interim Study (15-0, Consent Calendar)**
- **House Vote:** **Interim Study (Voice Vote)**



2026 Legislative Session: Priority Bills

Water Quality Restoration & Protection



HB 1655-FN: Establishing a funding source for maintaining state owned dams

- **Prime Sponsor:** Rep. Will Darby (Nashua, Ward 8)
- **What:** Establishes new funding mechanism for maintaining state owned dams. Municipalities to assess \$100 annual fee for property with direct waterfront access and \$50 for deeded access.
- **Impact:** Could generate \$3 Million annually; \$16 Million is needed annually
- **NH LAKES Position: OPPOSED.** A comprehensive funding solution must be found.
- **Hearing:** Jan. 21, House Resources, Recreation and Development
- **Committee Recomm; Ought to Pass with Amendment (10-6, Roll Call),** Amendment addressed Dept. of Revenue Administration fee collection
- **House Vote: Ought to Pass with Amendment (208-146, Roll Call)**
- **Second Committee:** House Ways and Means, Without Recommendation
- **Full House: 3/26 - Lay on the Table (187-161, Roll Call)**



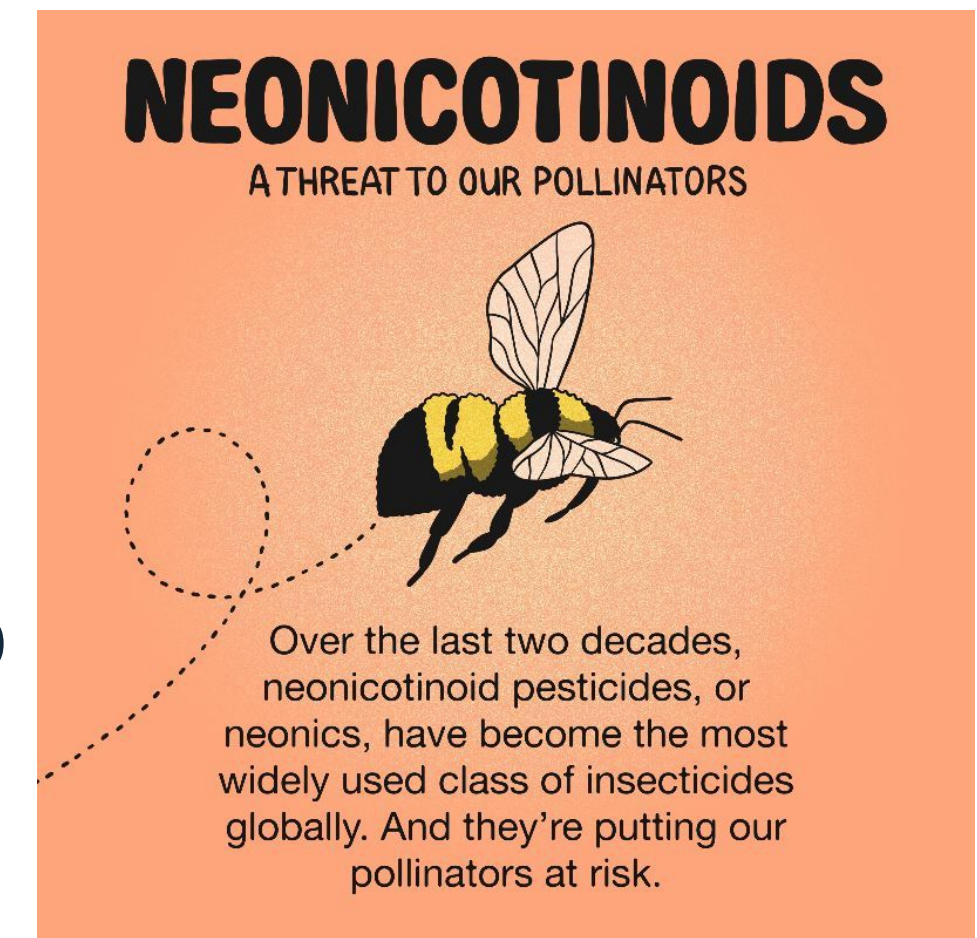
2026 Legislative Session: Priority Bills

Water Quality Restoration & Protection



HB 1086-FN: Prohibiting the sale of certain agricultural seeds treated with neonicotinoids

- **Prime Sponsor:** Rep. John MacDonald (Tuftonboro, Wolfeboro)
- **What:** Prohibits sale or use of corn, wheat, or soybean seeds if seeds treated with neonicotinoids.
- **Impact:** “Neonic” insecticides commonly contaminate surface waters, harming aquatic life, and possibly creating conditions that favor cyanobacteria blooms
- **NH LAKES Position:** **SUPPORT**
- **House Environment & Agriculture:** **Ought to Pass with Amendment creating a study committee (13-2)**
- **House Vote:** **Ought to Pass with Amendment (Voice Vote)**
- **Second Committee:** House Criminal Justice and Public Safety, **WAIVED**
- **Senate Energy & Natural Resources:** **Inexpedient to Legislate (3-2)**
- **Full Senate:** **Inexpedient to Legislate (Voice Vote)**



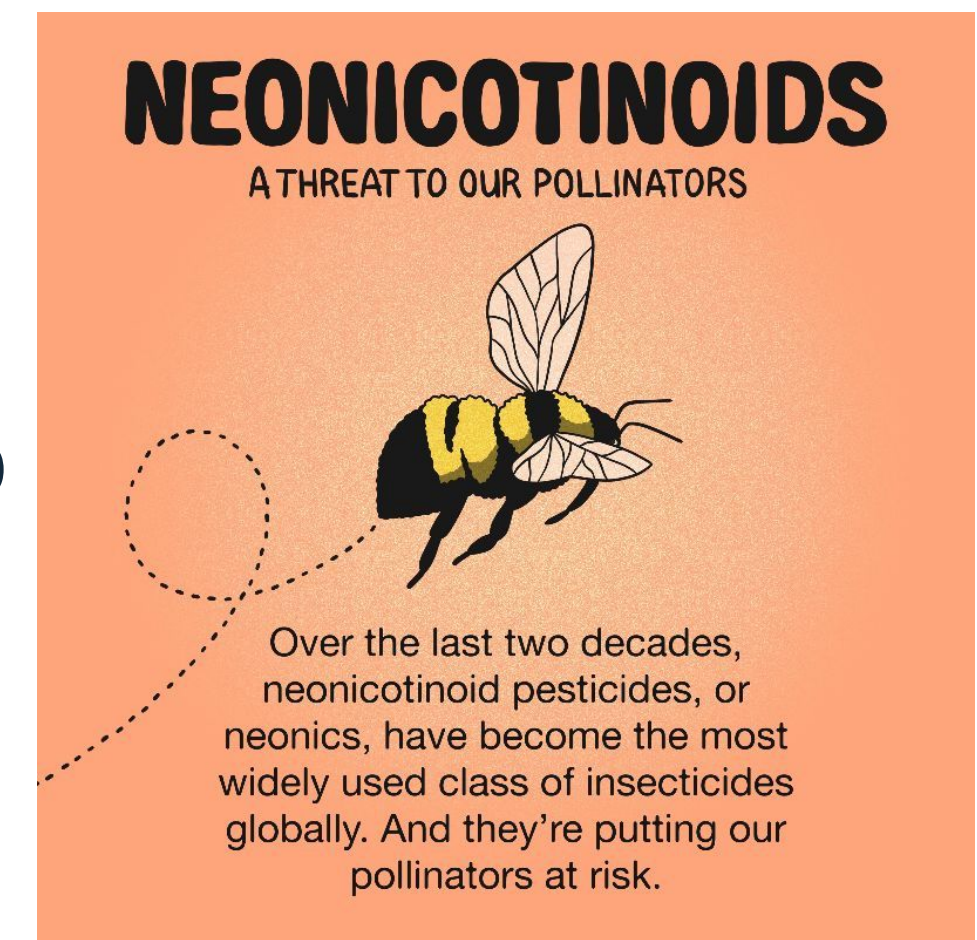
2026 Legislative Session: Priority Bills

Water Quality Restoration and Protection



HB 1431-FN: Restricting the use of neonicotinoid pesticides

- **Prime Sponsor:** Rep. John MacDonald (Tuftonboro, Wolfeboro)
- **What:** Reclassify these pesticides so that they can only be applied by state-certified applicators and sold by licensed dealers. Non-agricultural use will be prohibited. Department of Agriculture to develop an education program. Establishes penalties for violation.
- **House Environment & Agriculture Recomm.:** **Feb. 3, Ought to Pass with Amendment (13-2) (pesticide control board to develop rules on proper application)**
- **House Vote:** **Feb. 19, Ought to Pass with Amendment (Voice Vote)**
- **Second Committee:** House Criminal Justice and Public Safety, WAIVED
- **Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee:** **Interim Study (5-0)**
“The bill would take authority away from the Pesticide Control board and is not necessary.”
- **Senate Vote:** **Interim Study (Voice Vote)**



2026 Legislative Session: Priority Bills

Water Quality Restoration and Protection



HB 1301-FN: Increasing certain mooring fees and directing such funds to the cyanobacteria mitigation and grant fund

- **Prime Sponsor:** Rep. John MacDonald (Tuftonboro, Wolfeboro)
- **What:** Increases fee from \$25 to \$50, with \$25 to be deposited into fund
- **Impact:** Could generate up to \$120K/yr (mooring permits required on 8 lakes)
- **NH LAKES Position:** **Support**
- **House RR&D.:** **Ought to Pass with Amendment**
- **House Vote:** **Ought to Pass with Amendment (Voice Vote)**
- **House Ways & Means:** **Ought to Pass with Amendment (18-0, CC)**
- **Full House:** **Ought to Pass (Voice Vote)**
- **Senate Ways and Means:** **Inexpedient to Legislate (4-0, CC)**
- **Full Senate:** **Inexpedient to Legislate (Voice Vote)**



2026 Legislative Session: Priority Bills

Water Quality Restoration and Protection



HB 1477: Permitting and regulation of anchored seasonal floating platforms on public waters

- **Prime Sponsor:** Rep. John MacDonald (Tuftonboro, Wolfeboro)
- **What:** Establishes new permit program for anchored seasonal platforms and annual fee of \$50, \$25 of which would go to the cyanobacteria mitigation loan and grant fund and \$25 to Dept. of Safety to administer program
- **Impact:** Revenue unknown; Could cost \$150-\$175K to implement program
- **NH LAKES Position:** **Support**
- **Committee Recomm:** **RR&D, Ought to Pass with Amendment (11-0)**
- **House Vote:** **Ought to Pass with Amendment, Division Vote (284-47)**
- **House Finance:** **Inexpedient to Legislate (14-11, Roll Call)**
- **Full House:** **Lay on Table (160-178), ITL (172-180 RC), Ought to Pass (VV)**
- **Senate Ways and Means:** **Inexpedient to Legislate (3-1, Roll Call)**
- **Full Senate:** **Inexpedient to Legislate (Voice Vote)**



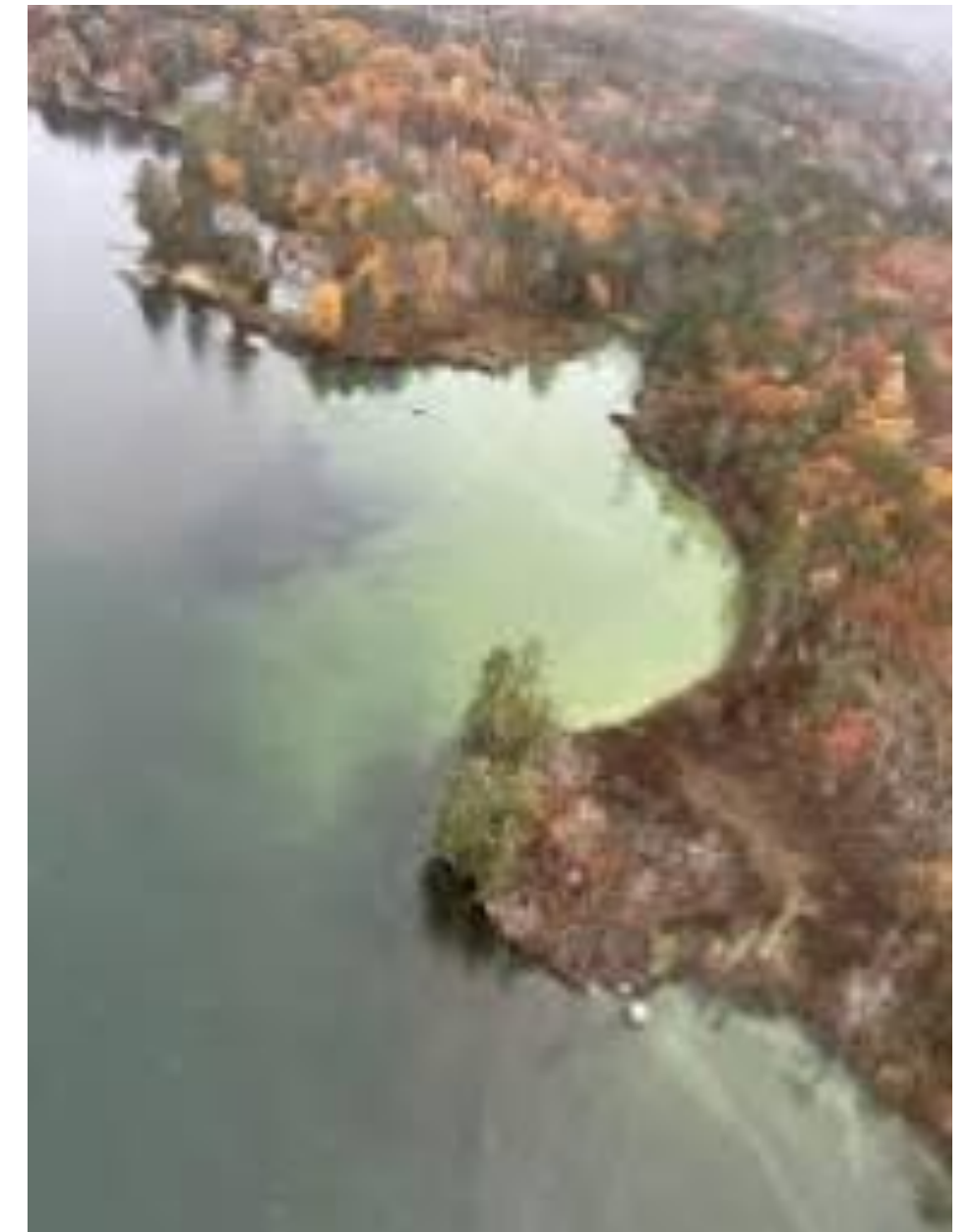
2026 Legislative Session: Priority Bills

Water Quality Restoration & Protection



SB 493: relative to cyanobacteria and other water quality issues

- **Prime Sponsor:** Sen. David Watters (District 4)
- **What:** Enabling legislation to allow village districts to be formed by vote to engage in cyanobacteria mitigation and water quality protection
- **Impact:** Would allow village districts to cross municipal boundaries to address these issues and vote to raise revenue, apply for grants, and share expenses
- **NH LAKES Position:** **SUPPORT**
- **Senate Energy and Natural Resources Comm:** **Interim Study (3-2)**
- **Full Senate:** **Interim Study (Voice Vote)**



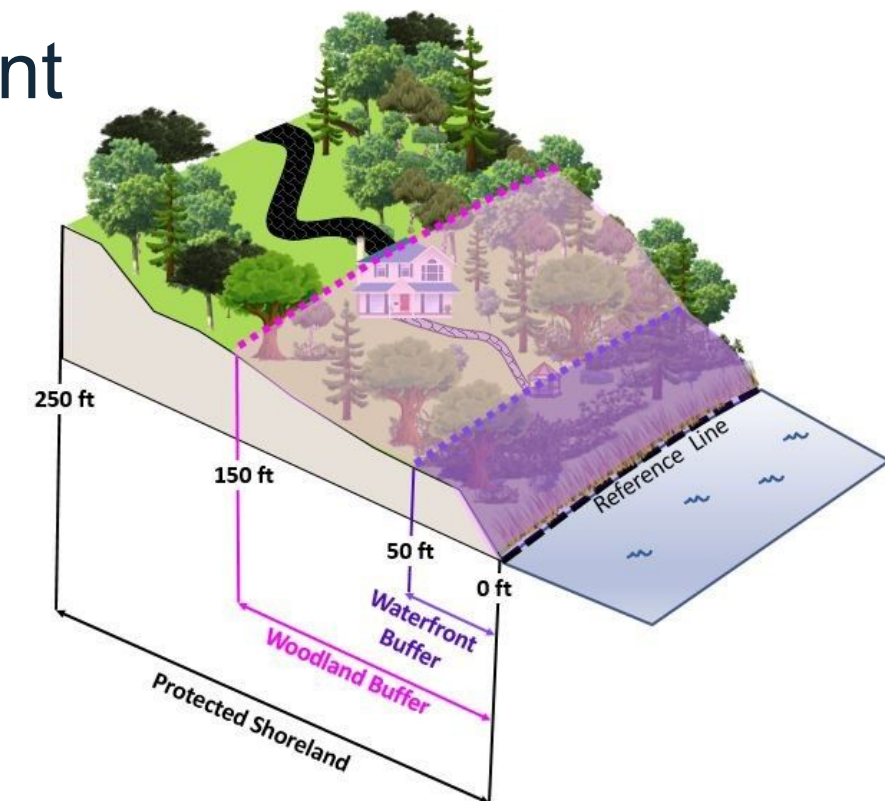
2026 Legislative Session: Priority Bills

Shoreland Protection



HB 1540: Establishing uniform requirements for accessory dwelling units and providing municipalities with authority and guidance for zoning, permitting, and environmental protections

- **Prime Sponsor:** Rep. David Fracht (Enfield)
- **What:** Restores a municipality's right to decide whether or not to allow detached ADUs in the Protected Shoreland and whether ADUs are allowed by right or by conditional use permit or special exception there.
- **Impact:** Discretionary approval by towns could help prevent over development near lakes causing erosion, nutrient pollution, and water quality degradation
- **NH LAKES Position:** **Support**
- **House Housing Committee:** **Ought to Pass with Amendment** (to address ADUs are subject to municipal health ordinances, 17-0 Consent Calendar)
- **Full House:** **Ought to Pass with Amendment (Voice Vote)**



2026 Legislative Session: Priority Bills

Shoreland Protection



NEW HB 1540: relative to municipal health ordinances and accessory dwelling units.

- **What:** Clarifies that municipalities retain authority to enforce local health ordinances related to septic safety and maintenance when regulating accessory dwelling units.
- **NH LAKES Position: Support**
- **Senate Commerce Committee: OTP (5-0, Consent Calendar)**
 - Note: Amendment to allow municipalities with the option to permit ADUs by special exception or conditional use permit within the 250-foot Protected Shoreland Area was introduced and voted Inexpedient to Legislate
- **Full Senate:** Removed from Consent Calendar, **voted Ought to Pass with a non-germane amendment (Voice Vote)**
- **(Second New Title):** Relative to municipal health ordinances and accessory dwelling units and relative to on-premises licences for licensed barbershops and salons.



2026 Legislative Session: Priority Bills

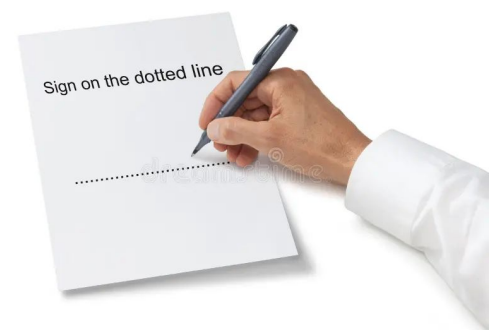
Shoreland Protection



NEW HB 1540: Relative to municipal health ordinances and accessory dwelling units and relative to on-premises licences for licensed barbershops and salons.

- **House:** Did not concur with Senate Amended HB 1540.
- **Committee of Conference:** four House members and three Senate members met to resolve differences between the House and Senate versions of the bill
- **Outcome:** Committee agreed to drop the barbershop/salon amendment, but...

The Committee of Conference Chair did not sign off on the report, so the bill didn't pass.



2026 Legislative Session: Priority Bills

Water Quality Restoration & Protection



HB 1649: Prohibiting certain tax dollars from being donated to nonprofit organizations

- **Prime Sponsor:** Rep. Lorie Ball (Salem)
- **What:** Restricts direct financial donations to nonprofits from local government budgets. Allows two exceptions by permitting funds to go to nonprofits through competitive grants, and by allowing nonprofits to contract through standard bidding processes.
- **Impact:** Jeopardizes funds that towns donate to local lake associations and NH LAKES for water quality management and restoration and invasive species management and prevention
- **NH LAKES Position:** **OPPOSED**
- **Hearing:** Jan. 23, House Municipal and County Government
- **Committee Recomm.:** **Inexpedient to Legislate (18-0, Consent)**
- **House Vote:** **Feb. 19, Inexpedient to Legislate (Voice Vote)**



Bills that made it across the finish line...



2026 Legislative Session: Priority Bills

Water Quality Restoration and Protection



HB 1148: Adding cyanobacteria and algae blooms to the study of exotic aquatic weeds and species committee

- **Prime Sponsor:** Rep. Tanya Donnelly (Salem)
- **What:** Requires existing stakeholder committee to examine factors contributing to blooms and relationship between invasive plants, nutrients, and blooms
- **Impact:** Committee members expertise will aid NH Dept. of Environmental Services in mitigating blooms
- **NH LAKES Position:** **Support**
- **House RR&D Committee:** **Ought to Pass (13-0, Consent)**
- **House Vote:** **Feb. 19, Ought to Pass (Voice Vote)**
- **Senate Energy & Natural Resources:** **Ought to Pass (5-0, Consent)**
- **Senate Vote:** **Ought to Pass (Voice Vote)**
- **Next Stop:** **Signed by Governor!**



2026 Legislative Session: Priority Bills

Water Quality Restoration & Protection



SB 594-FN: relative to certain agitators being removed from bodies of water

- **Prime Sponsor:** Sen. Regina Birdsell (District 19)
- **What:** Eliminates the use of certain agitators where temporary docks have been removed from bodies of water, and strengthens requirements for warning signage, requiring “DANGER, THIN ICE” signs to be readable from at least 200 feet (currently 150 feet)
- **Impact:** Commonsense to protect both public safety and lake health
- **NH LAKES Position:** **SUPPORT**
- **Committee Recomm.:** **Senate E&NR Ought to Pass (5-0)**
- **Senate Recomm.:** **Ought to Pass (Voice Vote)**
- **House:** **RR&D, Ought to Pass (15-0, Consent Calendar)**
- **Full House:** **Ought to Pass (Voice Vote)**
- **Next Stop:** **Waiting to be signed by Governor!**



2026 Legislative Session: Priority Bills

Water Quality Restoration & Protection



SB 598: Establishing the cyanobacteria mitigation loan and grant fund task force

- **Prime Sponsor:** Sen. Mark McConkey (District 3)
- **What:** 9-member task force to investigate potential long-term sustainable funding options. Recommendations due November 2026.
- **Impact:** Sen. McConkey hopes to raise \$1-\$2 million annually
- **NH LAKES Position:** **SUPPORT**
- **Senate Energy & Natural Resources:** : **Ought to Pass with Amendment (to include a rep. of a river assoc. AND a lake assoc.) (5-0, Consent Calendar)**
- **Full Senate:** **OTP-A, Voice Vote**
- **House RR&D Committee:** **Ought to Pass (15-0, CC)**
- **Full House:** **Ought to Pass (Voice Vote)**
- **Next Stop:** **Waiting to be signed by Governor!**



2026 Legislative Session: Wins for Lakes!



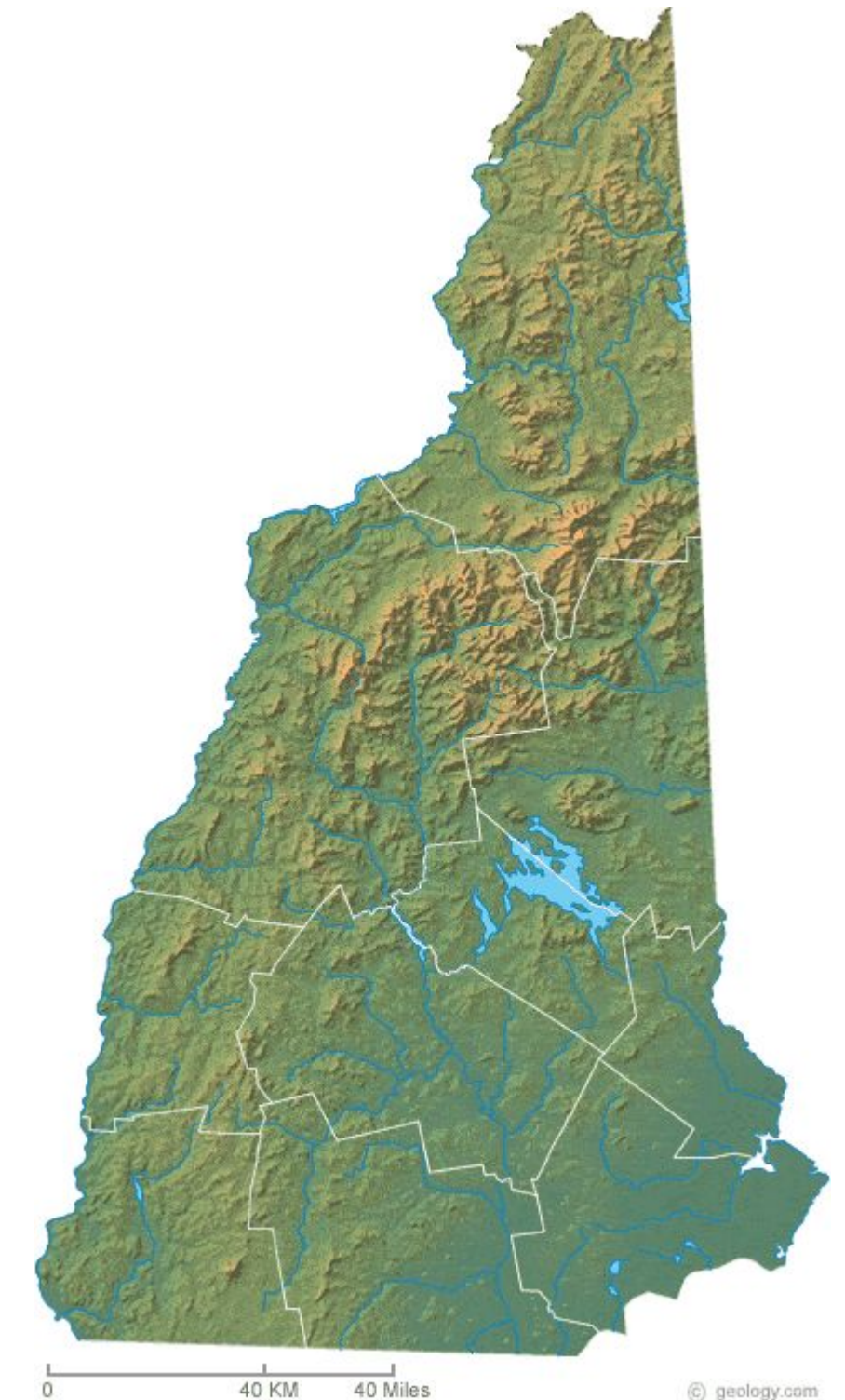
- Protected municipal funding for lake management & protection
- Increased awareness of freshwater salt pollution
- Increased awareness of the impact of Neonicotinoids, spurring on rulemaking with the NH Pesticide Board to restrict use on turf and to regulate other uses
- Strengthened protections against illegal winter agitator use
- Expanded stakeholder involvement in cyanobacteria research
- Created a task force to identify long-term funding sources for the Cyanobacteria Mitigation Loan and Grant Fund
- Strengthened relationships with legislators and stakeholder groups
- More local lake associations advocating for lakes!



2026 Legislative Session: Challenges



- Party leadership priorities and expectations
- Mischaracterization of “fees” as “taxes”
- Misinformation: “Floating rafts reduce cyanobacteria blooms.”
- Relatively small group of lake-minded legislators
- DES rarely taking positions on bills
- Housing crisis
- Private property right concerns
- Property tax concerns
- Budget constraints



What's Next?



- **Now:** Preparing for 2027 Session!
- **June 3 - 12:** Filing period to run for legislature
- **Late-Summer - Fall:** Cyanobacteria funding task force
- **Summer - November 4:** Vote Like Your Lakes Depend On It campaign!



Help us cultivate a bipartisan coalition of Lake-Friendly Legislators (and municipal leaders)!



- Our lakes need a group of informed and active citizens giving our lakes a voice at the state and local levels.
- And, we need a coalition of concerned and supportive leaders to initiate, support, and protect lake-friendly policy at the state and local levels.





It doesn't matter if you vote red or blue if the lake turns green...





Our vision is a New Hampshire where all our lakes are clean and healthy and caring for them is a way of living, doing business, ***and governing.***