



Lakes & Legislation:

~~Preview~~ of the 2024 New Hampshire Legislative Session

January 10, 2024

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New Hampshire Legislature

- House of Representatives: 400 members
- Senate: 24 Senators
- Second largest legislature in U.S.
- Legislators are elected and serve for two year terms (a biennium)
- First year of biennium is a budget year
- Meets in session from approximately January to June





Approximately 1,400 bills will be considered during this 169th Session of the New Hampshire Legislature.



“How does a bill become a law in New Hampshire?”



***"I'm just a bill.
Yes, I'm only a bill.
And I'm sitting here on Capitol Hill."***



How a Bill Becomes a Law

Step 1: Introducing a Bill



- A Representative or Senator may sponsor a bill.
- They file a Legislative Service Request (LSR) to the office of Legislative Services (OLS).
- The LRS states the title only.
- This occurs in the fall prior to the session.



How a Bill Becomes a Law

Step 2: Bill Text Released



- The LSR becomes a bill once it is written by OLS and approved by the bill sponsor.
- If the sponsor is a representative, the bill starts in the House and becomes a House Bill (HB)
- If the sponsor is a senator, the bill starts in the Senate and becomes a Senate Bill (SB).
- The bill is assigned a number (HB#/SB#)
- This occurs during late-December/early-January.



How a Bill Becomes a Law

Step 3: Committee Assignment



The bill is assigned a committee based on its topic.



House Committee
(28 standing committees)



Senate Committee
(12 standing committees)

How a Bill Becomes a Law

Step 4: Public Hearing



- Every bill gets a hearing in New Hampshire!
- Hearings are announced at least 72 hours in advance through the House/Senate Calendar.
- At the public hearing, supporting and opposing testimony is heard from all interested parties.



How a Bill Becomes a Law

Step 5: Committee Deliberation



Committee deliberation is done in an executive session that the public may observe.

Committee votes on a recommendation for the bill:

- **Ought to Pass (OTP):** the bill should pass
- **Inexpedient to Legislate (ITL):** the bill should not pass
- **Ought to Pass as Amended (OTP-A):** the bill should not pass without an amendment added by the committee
- **Re-refer to Committee:** bill should be studied further in committee during the next legislative session (only occurs during 1st year of biennium)
- **Refer to Interim Study:** the bill should be studied further between legislative sessions (if this occurs during the 2nd year of biennium, the bill dies)



Second Committee: Sometimes a bill is sent to a second committee. This often happens if there is a fiscal note (FN), meaning a financial component to the bill.

How a Bill Becomes a Law

Step 6: Floor Vote



- The bill goes to the full House or Senate for a vote.
- A committee member presents the committee's decision.
- Floor debate may follow.
- After debate, the full body votes on the Committee's decision.



How a Bill Becomes a Law

Step 7: Crossover



- If the bill passes, it is sent to the other legislative body and the same process repeats.
- This occurs during late-March and early April.



How a Bill Becomes a Law

Steps 8 – 12: Process Repeats



- The bill is assigned to a committee in the other body.
- A public hearing is held.
- The committee votes on a recommendation.
- The bill is voted on by the full legislative body.
- Fewer bills need to be heard at this point as they did not pass and cross-over.



How a Bill Becomes a Law

Steps 8 – 12: Process Repeats – Amended Bills



If the bill passes, but includes a new amendment approved by the 2nd body, there are two options:

- 1st legislative body approves the amendment
- 1st legislative body does not approve and the bill goes to a Committee of Conference

If the legislators cannot agree, the bill dies.



How a Bill Becomes a Law

Step 13: Governor's Desk



If the bill passes, both bodies, it goes to the Governor.

The Governor has three choices:

- Sign the bill into law
- Allow the bill to become law without a signature
- Veto the bill

The Governor's veto may be overridden by a 2/3 majority vote in both houses.

If an override occurs, the bill becomes a law.





“What’s in store for our lakes this session?”



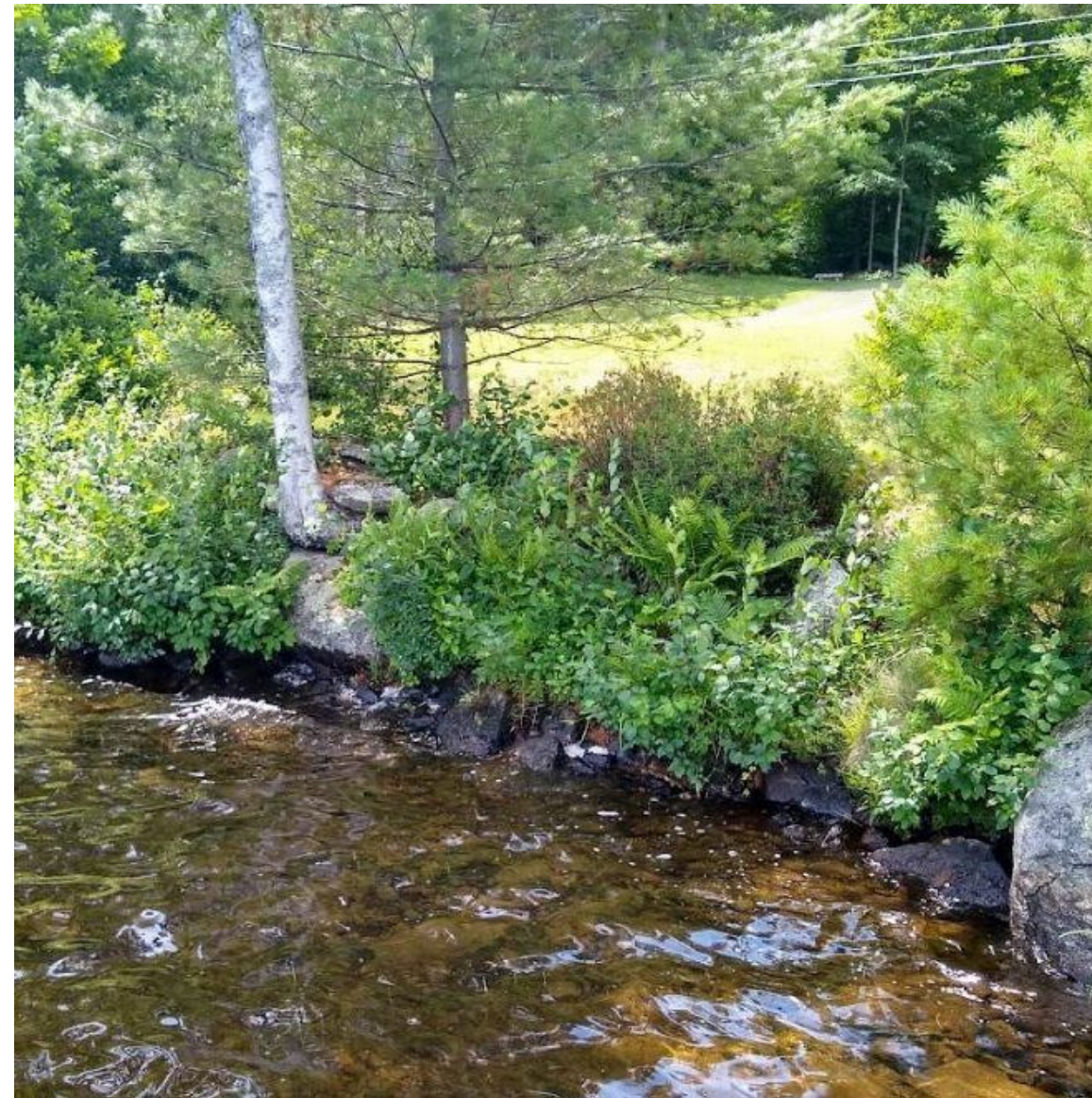


We are mobilizing a statewide network of lake advocates to stand up for our lakes and give them a voice in the New Hampshire Legislature.

Our Core Advocacy Issues



**Aquatic Invasive Species
Prevention & Management**



**Shoreland & Wetland
Protection**



**Water Quality Restoration
& Protection**

2024 Legislative Session: Priority Bills

Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention & Management



HB 1304, relative to vessel registration and boat fee decals

- Brings New Hampshire into federal compliance with collecting boat registration fees
- Protects federal funding for Marine Patrol
- Provides NH with a way to collect fees to support critical programs, including for aquatic invasive species prevention and management
- NH LAKES Position: **SUPPORT**
- Hearing: House Transportation Committee, 1/9/24



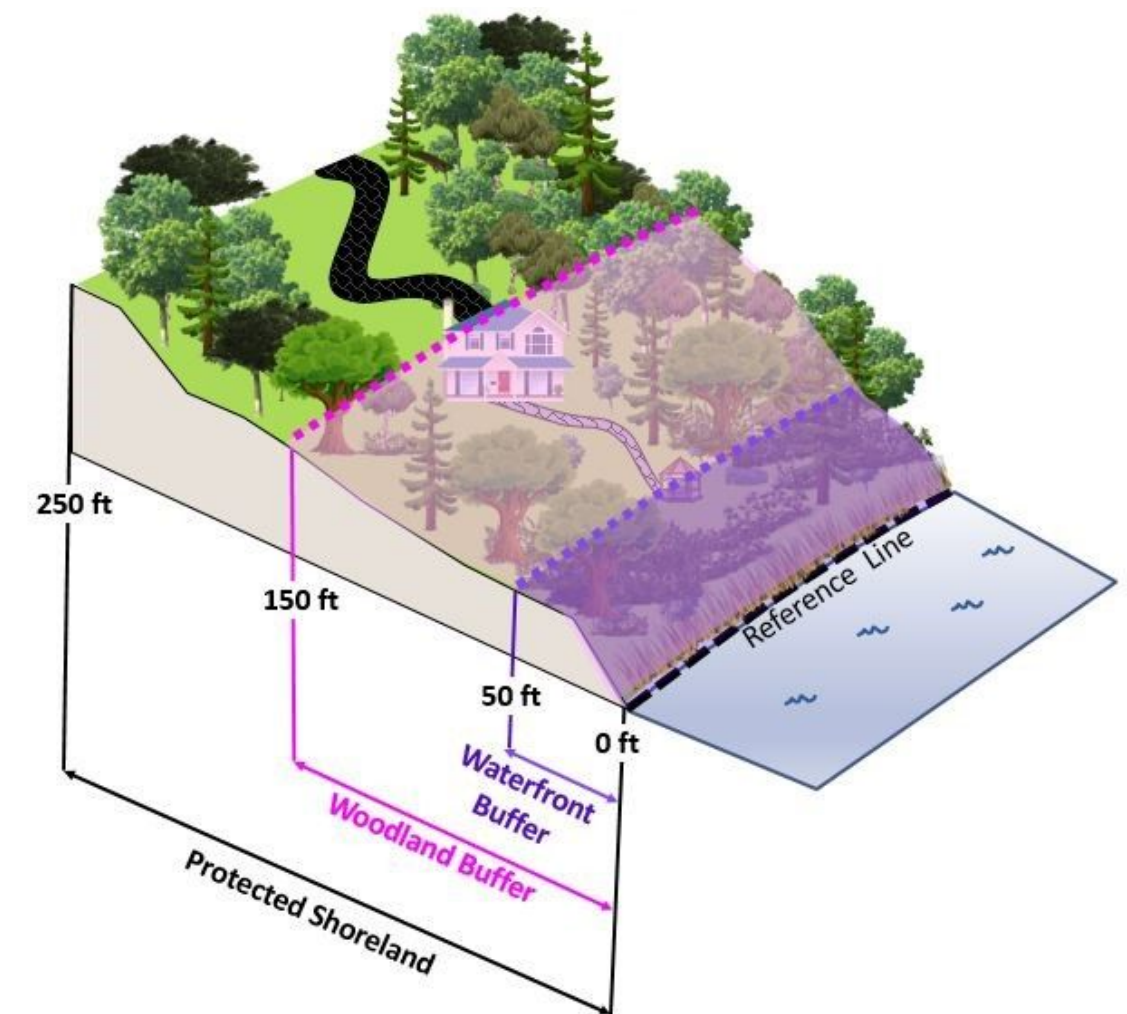
2024 Legislative Session: Priority Bills

Shoreland & Wetland Protection



HB 1103, relative to revising the penalties for the shoreland protection act

- Removes impediments to the Department of Environmental Services ability to seek penalties and fines for proven violations of the act
- Does not change the fees for penalties
- NH LAKES Position: **SUPPORT**
- Hearing: Resources, Recreation & Development
1/17/24, 1:00pm, Legislative Office Building, Room 305



2024 Legislative Session: Priority Bills

Shoreland & Wetland Protection



HB 1229, relative to purchase and sale of property abutting public waters

- Requires buyers, lessees, and transferees of shoreland property to acknowledge a minimum requirements document for compliance with the shoreland water quality protection act
- Buyers, lessees, and transferees must sign to acknowledge they have read and understood the document
- NH LAKES Position: **SUPPORT**
- Hearing: Resources, Recreation & Development, TBD



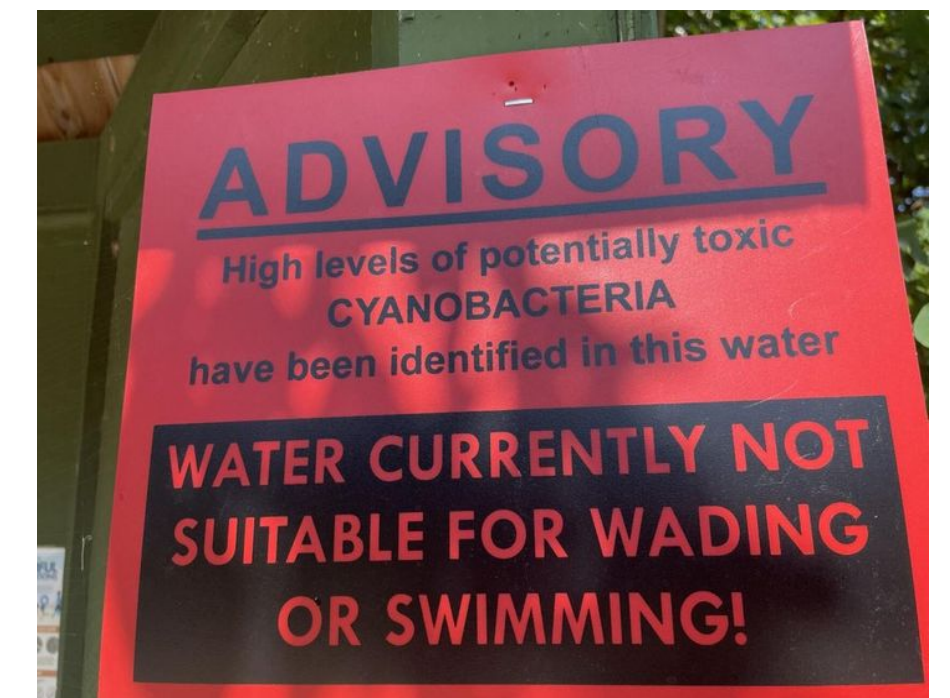
2024 Legislative Session: Priority Bills

Water Quality Restoration & Protection



HB 1143, including control of cyanobacteria blooms under the New Hampshire clean lakes program

- Allows the Department of Environmental services to monitor, manage and reduce the risk of cyanobacteria blooms
- Directs the department to reduce, control, and prevent the nutrient inputs which cause cyanobacteria blooms
- NH LAKES Position: **SUPPORT**
- Hearing: Resources, Recreation & Development - TBD



2024 Legislative Session: Priority Bills

Water Quality Restoration & Protection



HB 1113, relative to shoreland septic systems

- Currently, prior to the sale of developed waterfront property within 200 feet of the water, a site assessment must be completed
- Bill amends this to 250 feet and if system is not approved by the state or is older than 20 years old, it must be evaluated by a septic designer
- If found in failure, the state and local health officer must be notified, and system is required to be replaced prior to sale
- NH LAKES Position: **SUPPORT**
- Hearing: Resources, Recreation & Development
1/17/24, 2:00pm, Legislative Office Building, Room 305



2024 Legislative Session: Priority Bills

Water Quality Restoration & Protection



HB 1293, relative to the use of certain fertilizers using phosphorus

- No lawn fertilizer sold at a retail store can include phosphorus unless for establishing a new lawn, for lawn repair, or if soil test indicates phosphorus is needed
- Application prohibited during/before heavy rain, and on saturated or frozen ground
- Includes setbacks from storm drains
- A retailer selling phosphorus fertilizer must post certain signage about impacts to water resources
- NH LAKES Position: **SUPPORT**
- Hearing: Environment & Agriculture, 1/8/2024



2024 Legislative Session: Priority Bills

Water Quality Restoration & Protection



HB 1301, relative to wakesurfing on public bodies of water

- Enables a group of 25 or more residents or property owners of a town in which a lake, pond, or river is located to petition the NH Department of Safety to restrict or prohibit wakesurfing on the lake, pond, or river, or portion of the waterbody
- Is consistent with the petition and public hearing process for other uses on our lakes
- NH LAKES Position: **SUPPORT**
- Hearing: Resources, Recreation & Development, 1/10/24, 10am





NH LAKES works with New Hampshire legislators, state agency staff, and partners to submit and support bills that will help restore and preserve our lakes. While NH LAKES takes strong positions of support or opposition on some bills, we also track many bills as they move through the legislative process, so we can respond if they become essential to our cause. Learn more about some of the bills we support and track.

2024 Legislative Tracking

[CLICK HERE](#) for the bills that NH LAKES is tracking this session.

And, we're monitoring and weighing in on many more bills related to lakes, too!

Visit our website for our legislative tracking sheet:

nhlakes.org/state-government



“So, how can I help give our lakes a voice in the legislature this session?”





Dear Andrea,

The 2024 New Hampshire Legislative Session has started off very quickly for our lakes, and they already need your help! **Three of our priority lake-related bills will be heard in the House of Representatives early next week.**

These bills deal with fertilizer use around our lakes, wakesurfing on our lakes, and funding for exotic aquatic weeds and species prevention and management, and other critical programs.

Below are simple steps you can take to let our legislators know how critical it is they support these bills. They are waiting to hear from you!

Please sign in online in support of these bills, share your letters of support with me, and let me know if you plan to testify in person so we can coordinate.

And please share this email with your lake community and others. By making our voices heard, we will help ensure New Hampshire becomes a place where all our lakes are clean and healthy, and caring for them is a way of living, doing business, and governing.

Working together to protect the lakes we all love,

Andrea LaMoreaux, President & Policy Advocate
alamoreaux@nhlakes.org



P.S. Take action TODAY! Sign-in numbers and personal stories matter and make a difference.

THESE THREE BILLS NEED YOUR URGENT SUPPORT!

Sign up to receive our timely *Advocacy Alert* enews.

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



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 \(PDF\)](#)

Sign in on-line in support or opposed to bills and include a statement or upload your letter of testimony.

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

www.gencourt.state.nh.us



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	9	10

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)

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.

Sign in on-line in support or opposed to bills and include a statement or upload your letter of testimony.

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

www.gencourt.state.nh.us



Attend hearings, and consider testifying!

If you plan to attend a hearing, please let me know so we can coordinate and I can let you know what to expect.

Tips on testifying:

nhlakes.org/contact-your-representatives



By advocating for our lakes, you will help ensure New Hampshire becomes a place where all lakes are clean and healthy, and caring for them is a way of living, doing business, and governing.

Thank you!