



Lakes Legislative Update 2025

Andrea LaMoreaux, President & Policy Advocate, NH LAKES
Lakes Congress, June 5, 2025



New Hampshire House of Representatives

New Hampshire Legislature

- House of Representatives: 400 members
- Senate: 24 Senators
- Third-largest legislative body in the English-speaking world
- Legislators are elected and serve for two-year terms (a biennium)
- First year of biennium is a budget year (*that's this year!*)
- In session from January - June



New Hampshire Senate

Who's in the 2025 Legislature?

- House of Representatives: 400
 - 221 Republicans
 - 177 Democrats
 - 1 Independent
 - 1 Vacancy
- Senate: 24
 - 16 Republicans (supermajority)
 - 8 Democrats



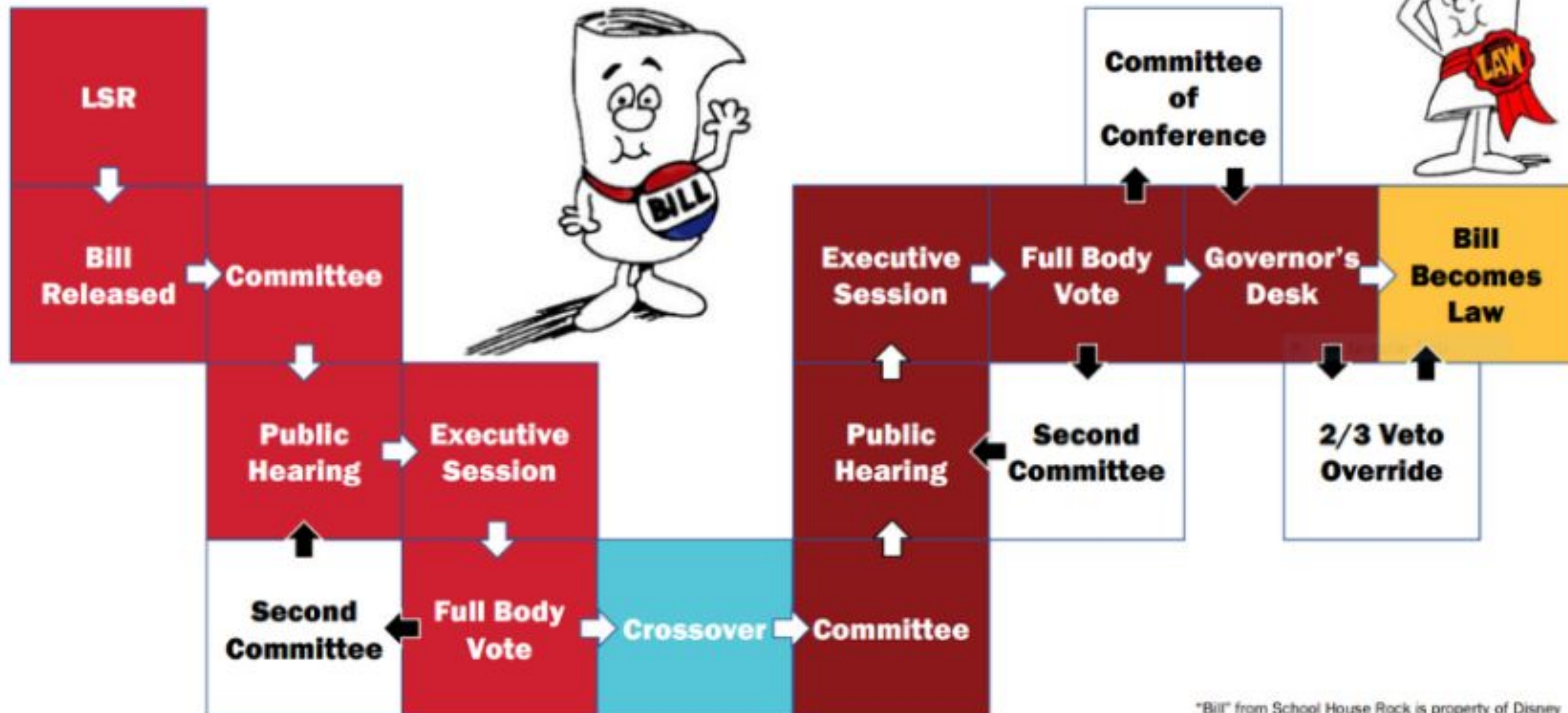
Approximately 1,155 bills were considered during this first year of the 169th Session (830 House, 325 Senate)



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



new**futures**>>>



*Bill" from School House Rock is property of Disney

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.



Legislative Office Building

How a Bill Becomes a Law

Step 3: Committee Assignment



The bill is assigned a committee based on its topic.



House Committee
(26 committees)



Senate Committee
(13 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.
- Hearings can be watched online in real time or after the fact.



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.



New Hampshire House of Representatives

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.



New Hampshire State House

How a Bill Becomes a Law

Steps 8 – 12: Process Repeats



- *Fewer bills need to be heard at this point as they did not pass and cross-over.*
- 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 body.



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.

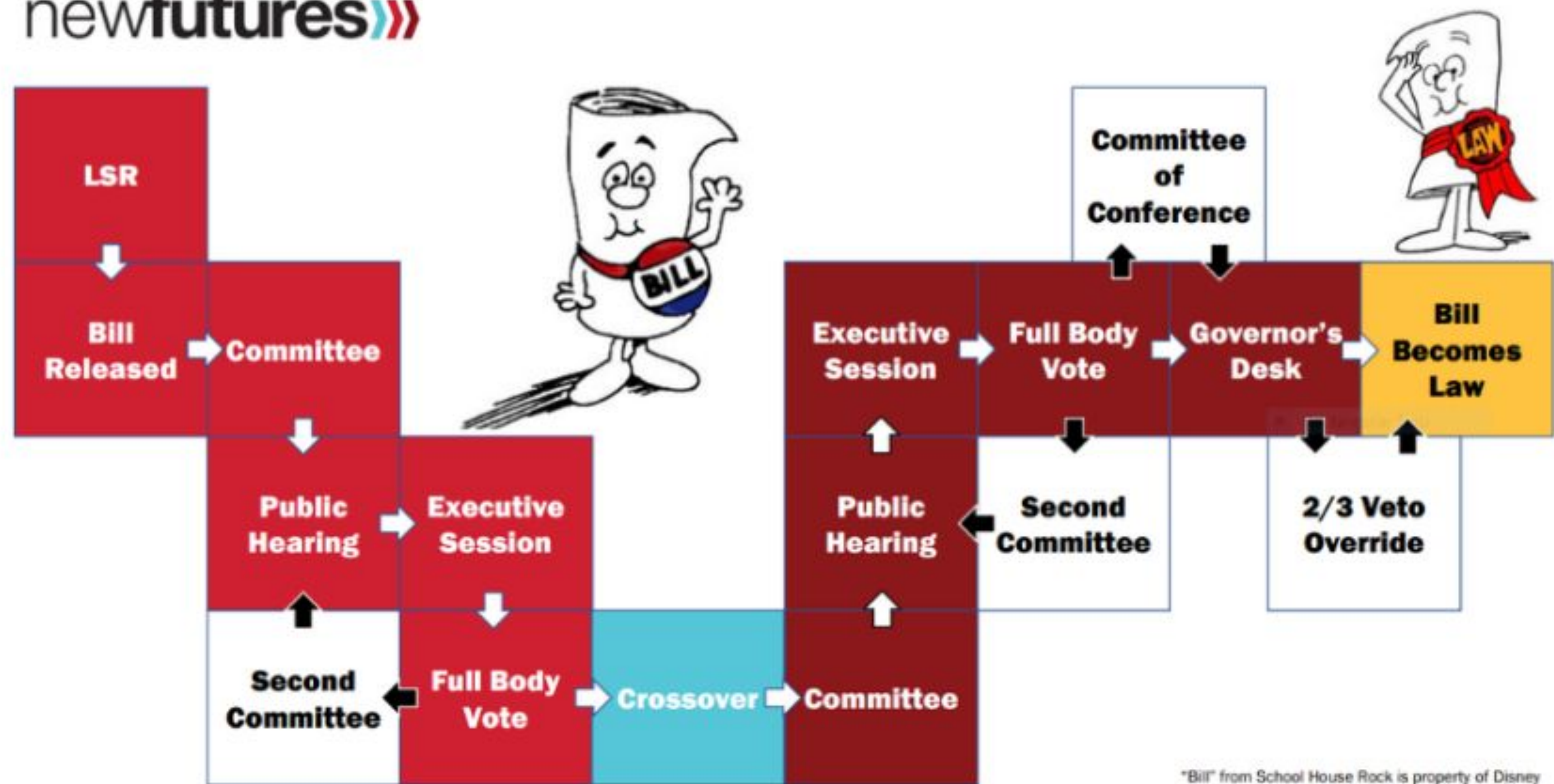
If an override occurs, the bill becomes a law.



In Summary:



new**futures**>>>



"Bill" from School House Rock is property of Disney

Your NH LAKES Advocacy Team



Andrea

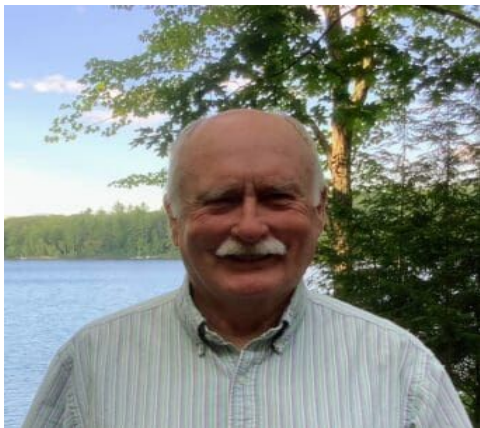


Brea



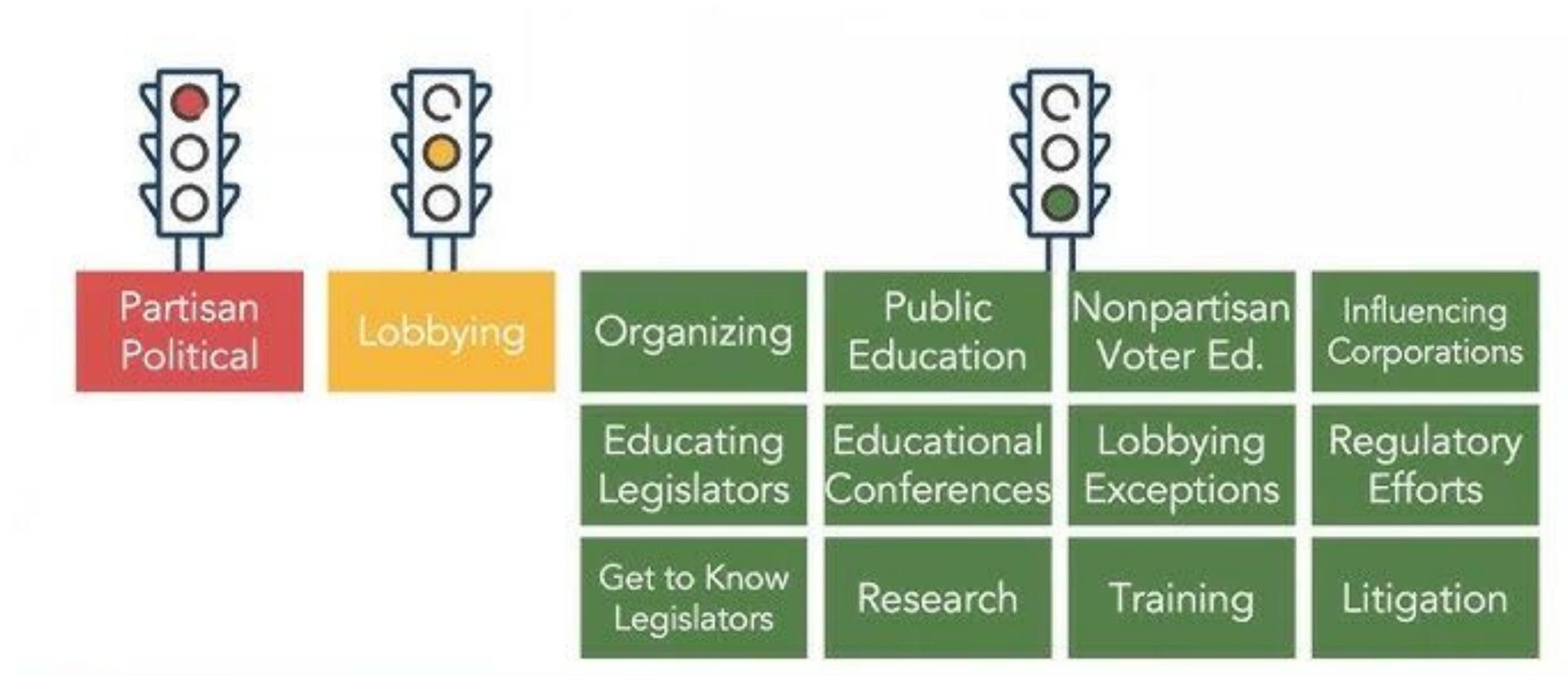
Samantha

Registered Lobbyists



NH LAKES Public Policy & Advocacy Committee

NH LAKES is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization

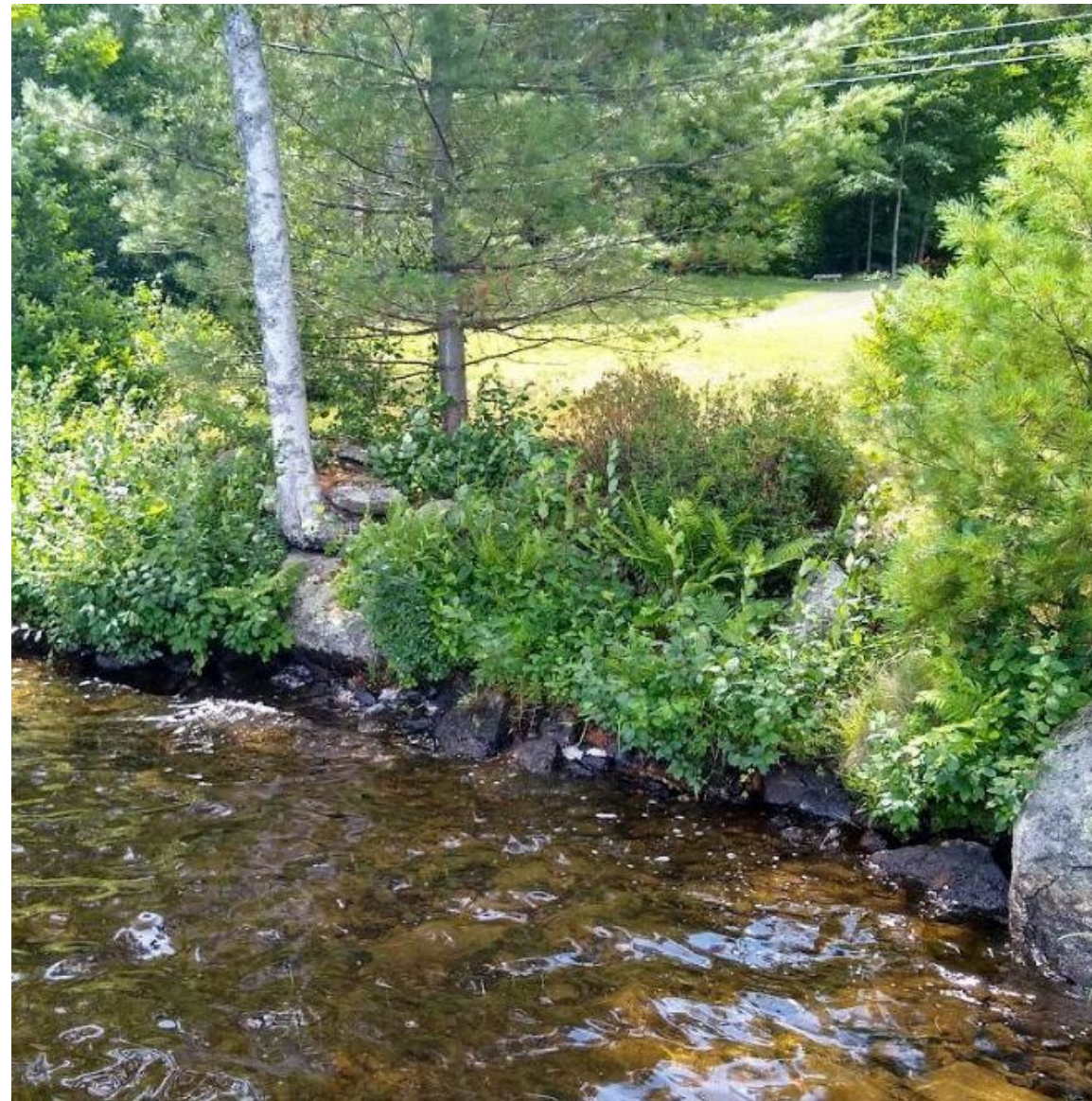


- We engage in issue advocacy and have registered lobbyists.
- We do not endorse parties or candidates or contribute to parties or candidates.
- We do not accept money from corporations.

Our Core Advocacy Issues



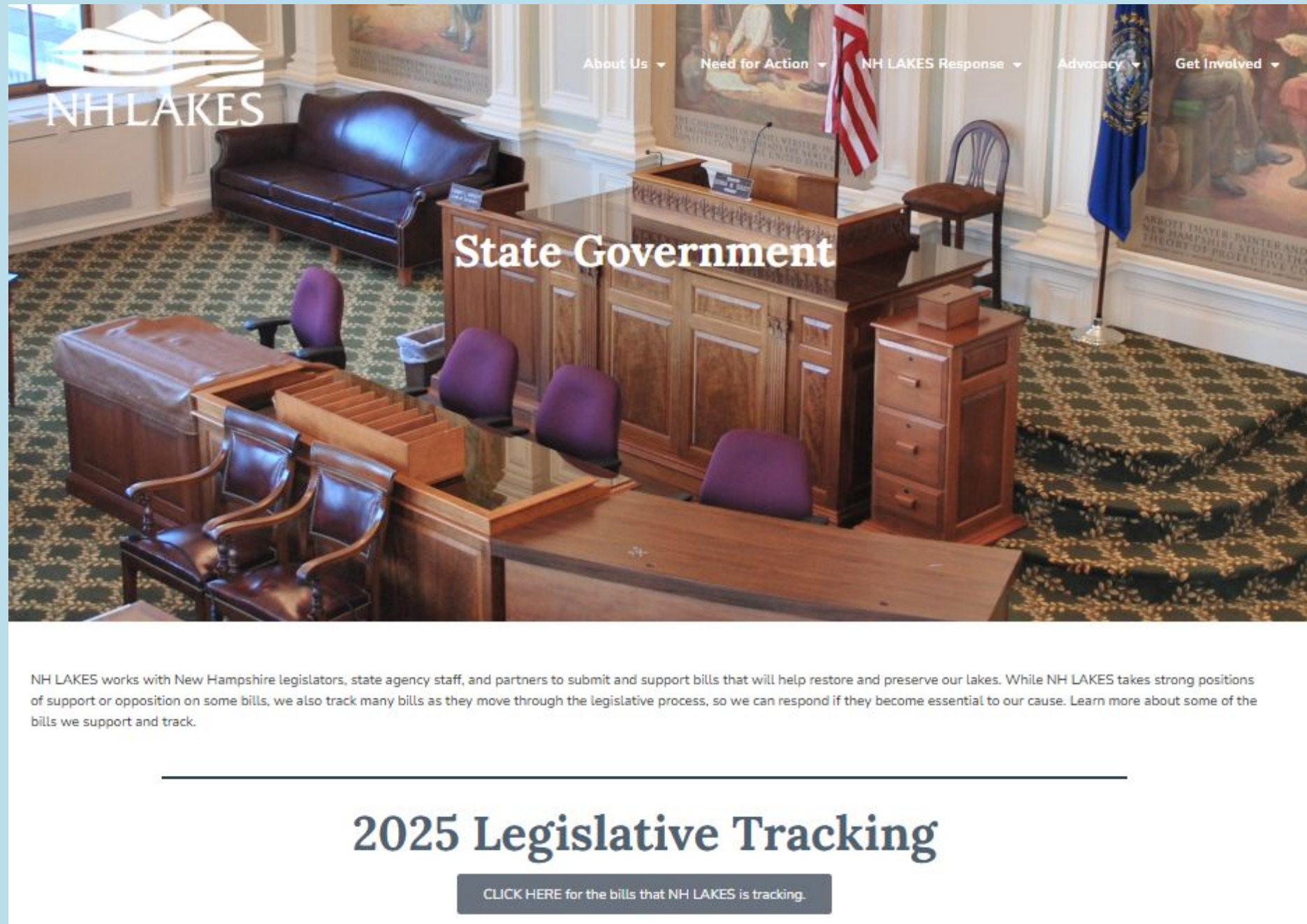
Aquatic Invasive Species
Prevention & Management



Shoreland & Wetland
Protection



Water Quality Restoration
& Protection



December 2024:

The NH LAKES Public Policy and Advocacy Committee identified 10 priority bills for NH LAKES to actively engage on this session.

Some of these bills NH LAKES helped legislators develop during summer/fall 2024.

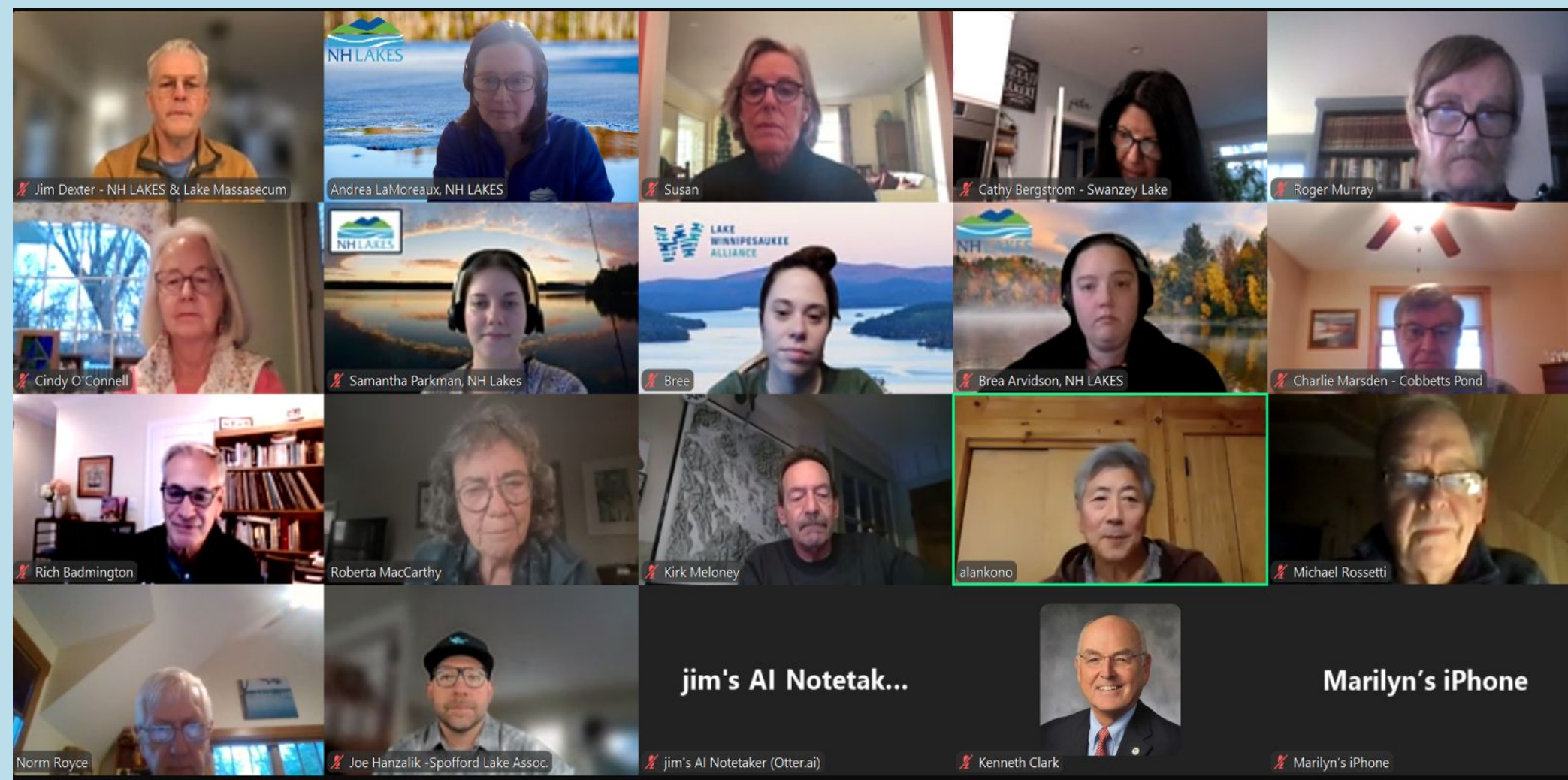
And, we identified 30 additional bills to monitor.

View our tracking sheet: nhlakes.org/state-government/



January - May 2025:

Together, with our Lake Advocates Network, NH LAKES mobilized a statewide community of lake advocates to stand up for our lakes and give them a voice in the New Hampshire Legislature!



January - May: We testified at 14 public hearings, signed in at many more, and attended several Executive Sessions



House Committees

- Criminal & Public Justice
- Resources, Recreation & Development
- Transportation



Senate Committees

- Commerce
- Energy & Natural Resources
- Judiciary
- Transportation

2025 Recap: Lake-Friendly Bills Voted 'Inexpedient to Legislate'



(for now...)

2025 Legislative Session: Priority Bills “Killed”

Watershed & Shoreland Protection



HB 332, allowing for the establishment of village district to protect and remediate surface waters

- *Enables* multiple municipalities surrounding a lake to *voluntarily* form a village district in an area around the lake to protect and restore lake health.
- One governing body around the lake dedicated to protecting and improving lake health could result in consistent ordinances and approaches
- NH LAKES Position: **Support**
- **Result:** Voted ‘Inexpedient to Legislate’ along party lines
 - House Resources, Recreation and Development Committee (9-7)
 - Full House of Representatives (196-171)
 - Concerns about additional government, additional taxes/fees



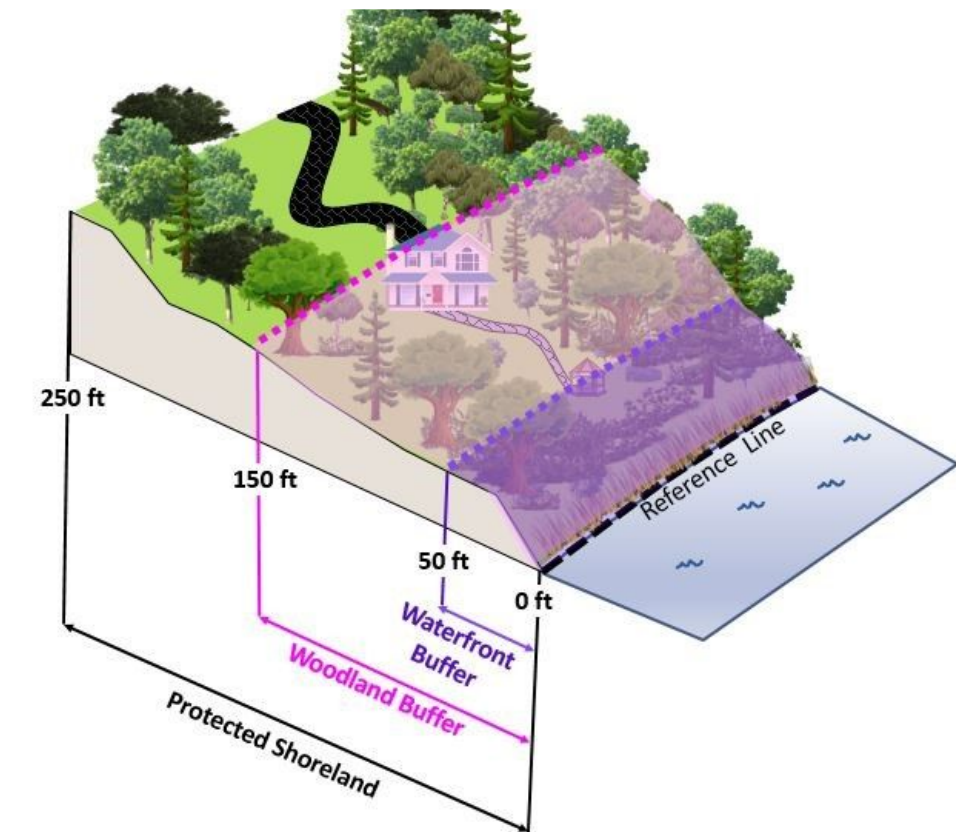
2025 Legislative Session: Priority Bills

Shoreland & Wetland Protection



HB 422-FN, increasing penalties for the Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act

- Increases the penalty that the NH Dept. of Environmental Services *may* levy for violations the Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act from \$5,000 to *up to* \$15,000 per violation.
- Increasing fines may serve as an increased deterrent for people to knowingly violate the Act. The fines have not increased with inflation.
- NH LAKES Position: **SUPPORT**
- **Result:** Voted 'Inexpedient to Legislate' along party lines
 - House Resources, Recreation and Development Committee (9-7)
 - Full House of Representatives (196-175)



2025 Legislative Session: Priority Bills

Water Quality Protection & Sustainable Use



HB 397, establishing a multi-agency task force chaired by the Dept. of Safety

- Creates a multi-agency task force to identify solutions to increase law enforcement presence and patrols on New Hampshire waterways.
- There are various challenges/barriers within and among state agencies to provide a consistent and adequate law enforcement presence on our lakes.
- NH LAKES Position: **Support**
- **Result:**
 - Sailed through Criminal Justice & Public Safety Committee and Full House
 - Senate Judiciary Committee voted it “Inexpedient to Legislate” along party lines (3-2) and Senate concurred on a voice vote



2025 Recap: One lake-friendly bill started off with smooth sailing but got sent back to port



2025 Legislative Session: Priority Bills

Water Quality Restoration and Protection



HB 105, creating a “Love NH Lakes” license plate

- This special license plate would feature a loon and be available at \$30/yr
- Proceeds would go to the NH Dept. of Environmental Services Cyanobacteria Mitigation Loan and Grant Fund to help lake associations and other groups reduce pollution fueling cyanobacteria blooms.
- There is no sustainable funding source for the fund.
- NH LAKES Position: **SUPPORT**
- **Result:**
 - Sailed through House Transportation Committee and Full House
 - Senate Transportation re-referred it back to House Transportation





And, there were some wins for the future of our lakes!



2025 Legislative Session: Priority Bills

Water Quality Restoration & Protection



HB 416-FN, prohibiting the intentional disposal of yard waste into surface waters

- Prohibits the intentional disposal of yard waste (leaves, grass clippings, garden debris) into surface waters and provides a penalty for doing so.
- This prohibition would heighten awareness among those who manage yards around lakes, helping to foster a culture of lake preservation. Yard debris dumped into lakes adds nutrients.
- NH LAKES Position: **SUPPORT**
- **Result:**
 - Passed House Criminal Justice & Public Safety, and the full House
 - Amended slightly by Senate Energy & Natural Resources, and passed by full Senate
 - Goes back to the House to concur with the amendment and then to the Governor



2025 Legislative Session: Priority Bills

Water Quality Restoration & Protection



SB 299, relative to penalties for contractors violating Shoreland Protection Act

- Imposes penalties on contractors who supervise or perform work in violation of Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act
- Under current law, NHDES can only impose a penalty if a violation is not restored within a year after notification.
- It helps protect the health of our lakes and protect property owners from inadvertently hiring contractors who break the law.
- NH LAKES Position: **SUPPORT**
- **Result:**
 - Passed Energy & Natural Resources and Full Senate
 - Passed the House Resources, Recreation & Development and Full House
 - On its way to the Governor!



2025 Legislative Session: Priority Bills

Water Quality Restoration & Protection



HB 167, Prohibiting the sale of ski, boat, and board waxes that contain intentionally added per and polyfluorinated alkyl (PFAS) substances

- PFAS, referred to as "forever chemicals," are synthetic substances known for their persistence in the environment and the human body and have been linked to negative health impacts.
- Putting them on our boats and recreational gear introduces them directly into our water.
- PFAS-free waxes are readily available.
- NH LAKES Position: **SUPPORT**
- **Result:**
 - Passed by the House Commerce and Consumer Affairs and Full House.
 - Passed by the Senate Energy & Natural Resources and Full Senate
 - Signed by Governor Ayotte on May 14! Takes effect in 60 days.





State Government



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.

2025 Legislative Tracking

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

For results of more bills, visit our website for our legislative tracking sheet:

nhlakes.org/state-government

The outlook for future lake health is concerning.
We must step up and do more, before it's too late.





Advocacy Alert
Give Your Lake a Voice
March 21, 2025

Dear Lake Friend,

You have another opportunity to take action and stand up for our lakes!

On Tuesday, March 25, the Senate Transportation Committee will hold a public hearing on [HB 105](#) to establish a "Love NH Lakes" license plate. **While this bill sailed through the New Hampshire House of Representatives, we cannot take its passage through the Senate for granted.**

This special license plate would feature a loon on a lake and be available for \$30 annually. Proceeds from the plate's sale would provide grants and loans through the Cyanobacteria Mitigation Loan and Grant Fund to help lake associations reduce the pollution fueling cyanobacteria blooms.

Thanks to your advocacy, the Cyanobacteria Mitigation Fund was created by the Legislature in 2023. However, the initial monies allocated to the fund have nearly been spent. **There is NO sustainable funding source to replenish this fund over the long term.**

Cyanobacteria blooms are increasing in our lakes and, when toxic, can make people, pets and wildlife seriously ill. Recurring and prolonged cyanobacteria blooms reduce shoreline property values and negatively impact tourism and the economy.


We must make it loud and clear to the Senate Transportation Committee that this is a common-sense approach to secure sustainable funding to help defend lake health, public health, and the health of the state economy and local economies.

Our lakes are counting on you to take action NOW. Read on to find out how.

Working together to protect the lakes we all love,

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

P.S. Please cc me on your emails to the committee and let me know if you plan to attend the hearing on Tuesday!



**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 online 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

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.



Attend hearings and testify!

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



Lake Advocates Network Partners:

- Berry Bay Association
- Cobbetts Pond Improvement Association
- Crystal Lake Association (Enfield)
- Franklin Pierce Lake Association
- Green Mountain Conservation Group
- Lake Kanasatka Watershed Association
- Lake Opechee Preservation Association
- Lake Sunapee Protective Association
- Lake Winnepocket Conservation Association
- Lake Winnepesaukee Alliance
- Little Lake Sunapee Protective Association
- Monomonac Property Owners Association
- Newfound Lake Region Association
- Northwood Lake Watershed Association
- Ossipee Lake Alliance
- Otter Pond Protective Association
- Save Lake Sunapee Watershed Association
- Silver Lake Assoc. of Madison
- Spofford Lake Association
- Squam Lakes Association
- Swanzey Lake Protective Association
- Three Ponds Protective Association
- Tucker Pond Improvement Association
- Wentworth Watershed Association
- White Oak Pond Association
- Winnisquam Watershed Network

**Choose a representative
from your group to serve
on the NH LAKES
Lake Advocates Network!**

Help Build a Bipartisan Coalition of Lake-Friendly Leaders & Legislators!



- 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.





Serve in a municipal office!

- Planning Board
- Zoning Board
- Conservation Commission



**Run to serve in the
New Hampshire Legislature!**

Other things YOU & YOUR Group Can Do to Advocate for the Lakes You Love



- Invite your state representatives and municipal leaders to your meetings and events.
- Include your state representatives and municipal leaders to your newsletter mailing lists.
- When your state representatives and municipal leaders stand up for clean and healthy lakes, recognize and thank them!
- **Hold your representatives and municipal officials accountable for their votes and decisions.**





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.