



2024 Legislative Preview

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Agenda

NHMA's Legislative Policy Positions

The Balance of Power

Preview of the 2024 Session

How to Advocate to Policymakers

NHMA's Bill Tracker





NHMA's Legislative Policy Process

WE NEED YOU TO VOLUNTEER!



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2023-2024 Legislative Policy Positions

- Adopted September 2022 for the 2023-2024 Legislative Years
- 17 Specific Policy Areas, and 11 Principles
- No Major Shifts in Policies or Principles
 - Rewrites and clarifications
 - Adoption of policies related to key areas of legislative interest
- [Read NHMA's 2023-2024 Policies & Principles](#)

Where We Were & Are Now

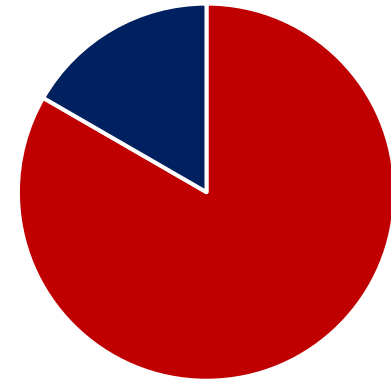
A Brief Overview of 2023 & Going Into 2024



2024 Balance of Power

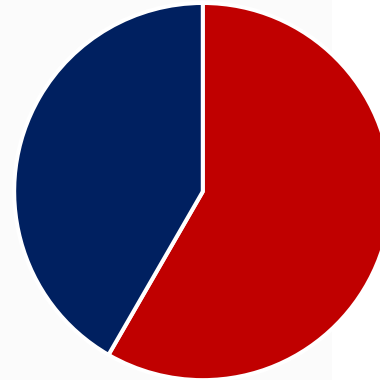
6- The Governor and 5 District Representatives
4 Republicans, 1 Democrat
<https://www.council.nh.gov/>

Executive Council



■ Republican ■ Democrat

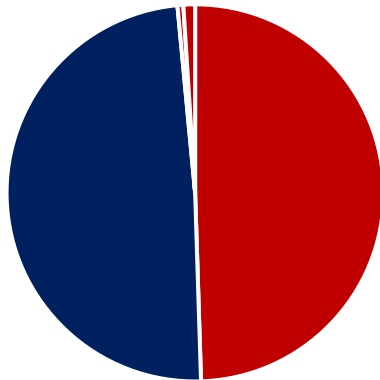
NH Senate



■ Republican ■ Democrat

24- 14 Republicans and 10 Democrats
<https://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/senate/>

NH House

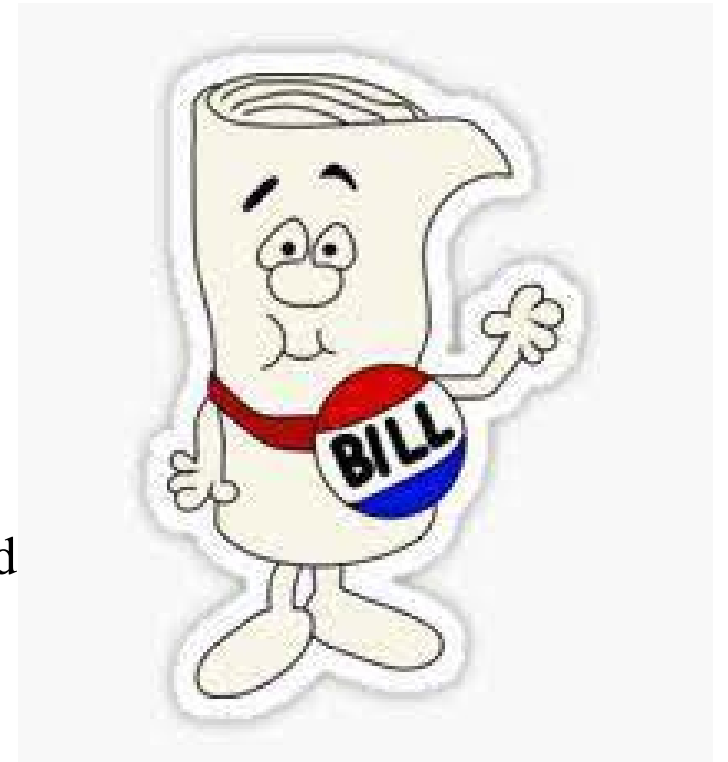


■ Republican ■ Democrat ■ Independent ■ Vacant

400; 198 Republicans, 195 Democrats, 3 Independents and 4 Vacant Seats
<https://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/house/>

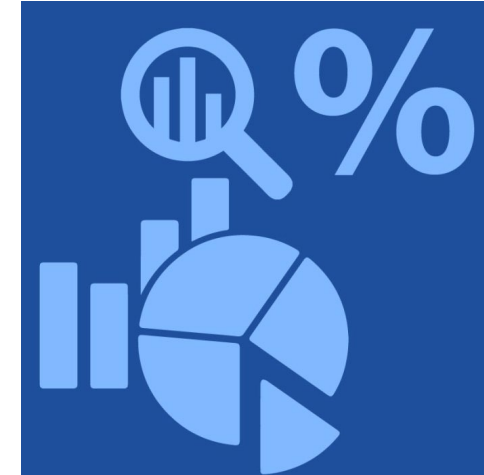
Process for NH Legislation

- Legislative session begins each January
- Bills are introduced and assigned a number (LSR)
- LSR's are published to the public
- Bills are to assigned committees and a public hearings is scheduled and
- Committees act on bills and make a recommendation
- Full Body (House or Senate) act on bills put through committee
- Bills are crossed over between House/Senate (typically in March)
 - Process of public hearings, committee recommendations and full body (House or Senate) votes repeats
- Bills that pass both House and Senate are sent to Governor's office
- Governor can veto/enact bills



[A Guide to Legislative Advocacy for Local Officials](#)

Bill Data 2023



1,187 LSRs filed –
More than any
prior election year.

More than 50 LSRs
withdrawn or 4.2%
of all bills filed –
more than a dozen
with a municipal
component.

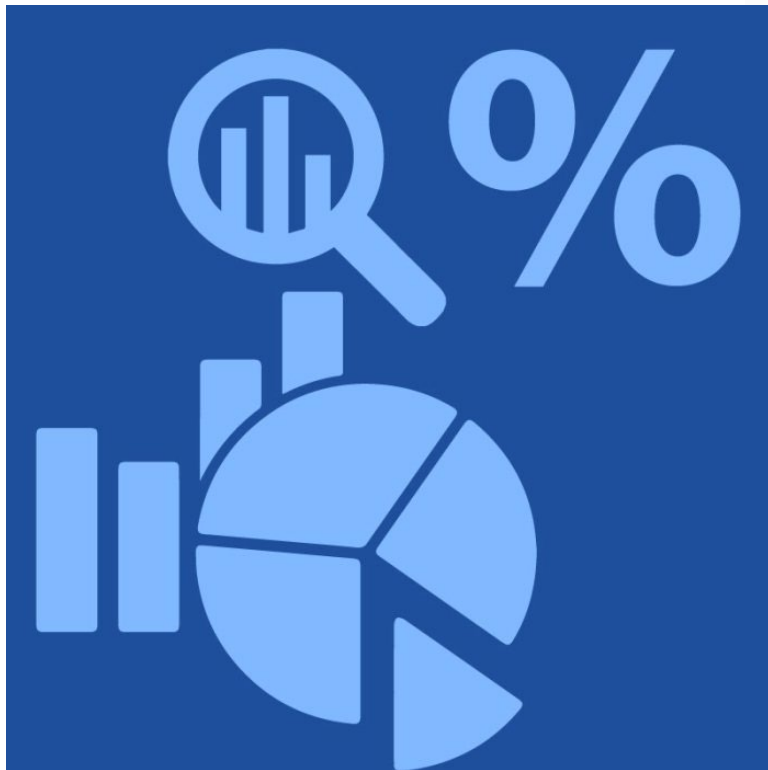
387 bills tracked by
NHMA.

Almost 30% of all
bills filed had a
municipal
component.

57 bills tracked by
NHMA became
law, a record low.

**More than 300 bills were retained
and acted upon this week,
a record high.**

Bill Data 2024



1035 LSRs Filed

Several dozen LSRs with a municipal component withdrawn, so far.

More than 440 bills tracked by NHMA. Almost 45% of all bills filed have a municipal component.

Conversations going with dozens of legislators and lobbyists about their bills and bill ideas.

Legislature's Likely Focuses This Year

- Political Issues: (It is an election year, after all!)
- Holdover Bills: Particularly Group II Retirement, but also Privacy/Disclosure/RTK Bills
- Constituent Issues: Many municipally-focused bills were either brought to lawmakers' attention by local officials or individual constituents that have identified what they perceive as a problem that requires statutory fix.
- Collaborative Efforts to Address Issues: Planning, Zoning, & Land Use
 - Particularly Housing-Related Issues – Plenty of Negotiations Going on Behind the Scenes
- Some Focus on NHMA's Policy Positions: But Not as Much as Pre-Mid-2000s.

Three to Remember

- **HB 1479**, relative to prohibiting the use of federal, state, or local funds for lobbying activities. (Oppose) (House Legislative Administration) (Hearing: Not Yet Scheduled)
- **HB 1002**, relative to fees for records under the right-to-know law. (Support) (Hearing: January 17, 9:00 A.M. in House Judiciary)
- **SB 398**, appropriating additional funds to the department of transportation for existing municipal bridges. (Support) (Hearing: January 16, 1:30 PM in Senate Finance)

Anti-Lobbying Bill: HB 1479

- Asking Members to Write Letter to House Committee **Opposing**.
 - As the only organization that provides municipalities with legislative advocacy services, NHMA is a voluntary and member-driven organization that relies on local funds appropriated through the legal, transparent, local budget process and the bill dilutes the authority of town voters by depriving them of membership in NHMA.
 - Organizations like ours deliver valuable services outside our legislative advocacy. We provide training and educational opportunities, often with state partners, to ensure their members understand the law and best practices. Undermining their ability to exist would mean local officials will not receive explanations of the effects of legislation on themselves and their constituents and must try to make public policy without all the information they need.
 - NHMA is far from the only advocate that is threatened because many local officials and employees are members of professional organizations that provide advocacy services in their areas of expertise.

Member Requests



- **HB 1254**, relative to an optional local public safety assessment on certain room occupancies. (Conway)
- **HB 1052**, relative to the format of excavating and dredging permit applications. (Moultonborough)
- **HB 1092**, creating a period for the placing of and removal of political advertising on public property. (Strafford)
- **HB 1250**, enabling the creation of certain village districts. (Sunapee)

Election Law: 61 Bills

- SB 453, making an appropriation to the statewide voter registration system. (Support)
- HB 1264, relative to the definition of accessible voting systems. (Working On)
- HB 1557, requiring the secretary of state to enter into a membership agreement with the Electronic Registration Information Center. (Support)

Planning / Zoning / Land Use: 69 Bills



- **HB 1215**, relative to subdivision regulations on the completion of improvements and the regulation of building permits. **(Oppose)**
- **HB 1291**, relative to accessory dwelling unit uses allowed by right. **(Oppose)**
- **HB 1371**, relative to allowing the land use master plan to include a section on waste reduction. **(Support)**

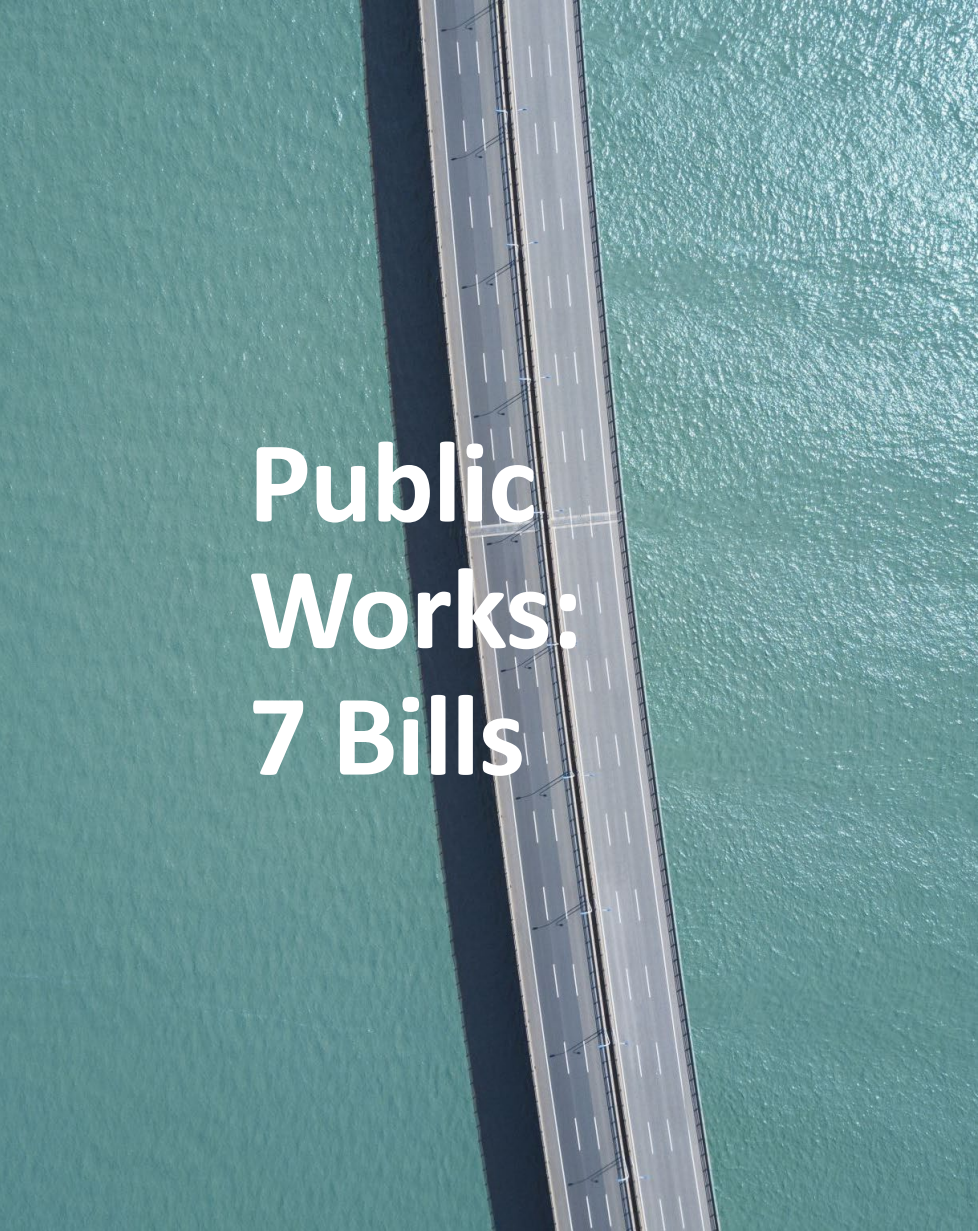
NHMA's Focus on Lowering Costs for Housing



- SB 364, relative to establishing a historic housing preservation tax credit and making an appropriation to the Invest NH fund. (Support)
- HB 1086, relative to public notice of zoning board of adjustment hearings. (Support)
- HB 1359, relative to appeals of certain zoning decisions by abutters. (Support)
- HB 1483, allowing subdivision regulations concerning water supply. (Support)

Right-to-Know Law: 14 Bills

- HB 1002, relative to fees for records under the right-to-know law. (Support)
- HB 1461, relative to live-streaming all properly noticed meetings and hearings of elected and appointed municipal bodies. (Oppose)
- HB 1696, relative to electronic record requests under the right-to-know law. (Neutral)
- HB 1708, relative to local records retention. (Support)



Public Works: 7 Bills

- **HB 1217**, relative to an exception to allow the state or a municipality to use video monitoring to identify the cause of damage to historic covered bridges. (Support)
- **HB 1457** establishing penalties for driving over covered wooden bridges in vehicles that exceed posted limits and for vehicular damage to covered wooden bridges. (Support)
- **HB 1550**, authorizing municipalities to reduce speed limits seasonally. (Support)

Retirement System- 20 Bills

<u>HB 1279</u>	Title: relative to payment by the state of a portion of retirement system contributions of political subdivision employers.
<u>HB 436</u>	(NEW TITLE) making an appropriation to the New Hampshire retirement system to pay down the unfunded accrued liability.
<u>SB 309</u>	Title: relative to the vesting period for members of the state retirement system.
<u>HB 1647</u>	Title: relative to the calculation of group II retirement benefits in the retirement system.
<u>HB 1211</u>	Title: relative to part-time employment of a retirement system retiree.
<u>HB 1673</u>	Title: relative to average final compensation for certain group II members.
<u>HB 1451</u>	Title: relative to mandatory overtime and the calculation of base rate of compensation.

Property Tax & Exemptions and Credits

- HB 1254 relative to an optional local public safety assessment on certain room occupancies
- SB 383 relative to local tax caps.
- HB 1034 relative to enabling municipalities to adopt a homestead property tax exemption.
- HB 1106- relative to net asset limits under the elderly property tax exemption.
- HB 1040 relative to including interest in an abated property tax refund at the rate determined by the department of revenue administration.

State Aid & Meals and Rooms

SB 364 relative to establishing a historic housing preservation tax credit and making an appropriation to the Invest NH fund

SB 398 appropriating \$ 40 million in additional funds to the department of transportation for existing municipal bridges and roads

SB 394 relative to the cyanobacteria mitigation loan and grant fund

HB 1466 relative to providing disaster relief funding to municipalities after a natural disaster

SB 492 relative to wastewater engineering

HB 1422- relative to the rates of the business profits tax, business enterprise tax, communications service tax, and meals and rooms tax.

HB 1515 relative to the meals and rooms tax rate

Of Particular Interest to Town Administration: 52 Bills

- SB 533, relative to physical quorums at public meetings. (Support)
- HB 1332, relative to prohibiting electric vehicles from parking in parking garages. (Oppose)
- HB 1544, relative to indemnification for municipalities adopting policies to address homelessness. (Support)
- HB 1549, relative to policies that municipalities are preempted from enacting. (Oppose)

Fast Democracy Bill Table Reorganization

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

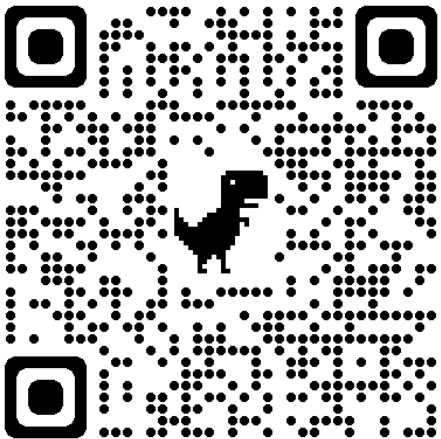


Check Out Our Bill Tables

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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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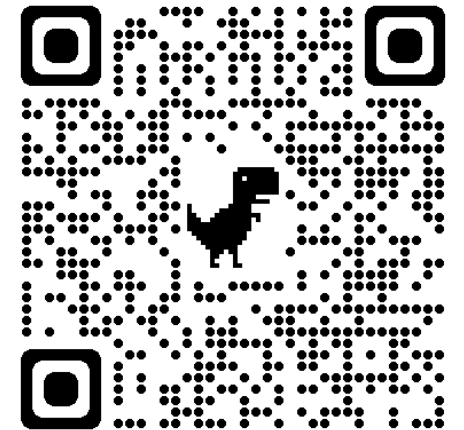
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Questions?

Upcoming Workshop

2024 Town & School (SB2 Town Meeting) Moderators Hybrid Workshop

9:00 am - 1:30 pm, Saturday, January 13, 2024. Join NHMA and NHSBA as they review the law governing the annual meeting and the role of the moderator at town, village district and school district meetings. \$70 in person and \$55 virtual attendance.

REGISTRATION OPEN!



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Upcoming Webinar

Creating Inclusive Spaces and About the ADA/ABA Accessibility Guidelines for the Public Right-of-Way Webinar

12:00 noon - 1:00 pm, Wednesday, January 10. Join Steven Mifsud of Direct Access as he explores how cities and towns can innovate beyond the ADA to create inclusive spaces and details the new Public-Right-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines and what they mean to you.

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

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NHMA's Municipal Marketplace

Check Out New Online Municipal Marketplace!

Browse our online guide to municipal products and services. Thank you to these business and organizations who support New Hampshire's municipal governments.

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Thank you!

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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.