



2024 State House Crossover Update



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Agenda

NHMA's Legislative Policy Positions

The Balance of Power

Update of the 2024 Session

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](#)

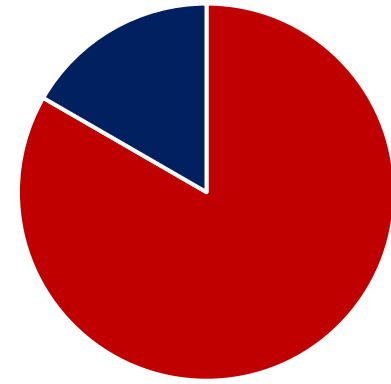
Where We Were & Are Now

A Brief Overview of 2023 & Developments in 2024

2024 Balance of Power

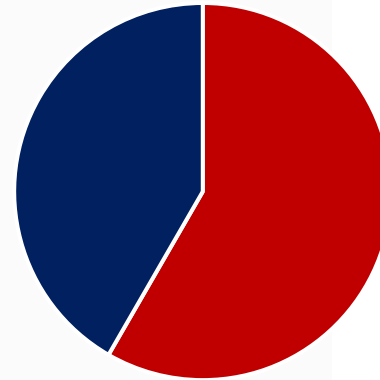
6- The Governor and 5 District Representatives
4 Republicans, 1 Democrat
<https://www.council.nh.gov/>

Executive Council



■ Republican ■ Democrat

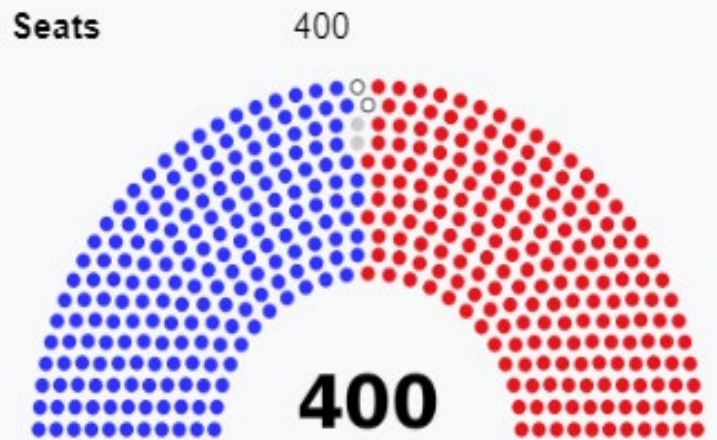
NH Senate



■ Republican ■ Democrat

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

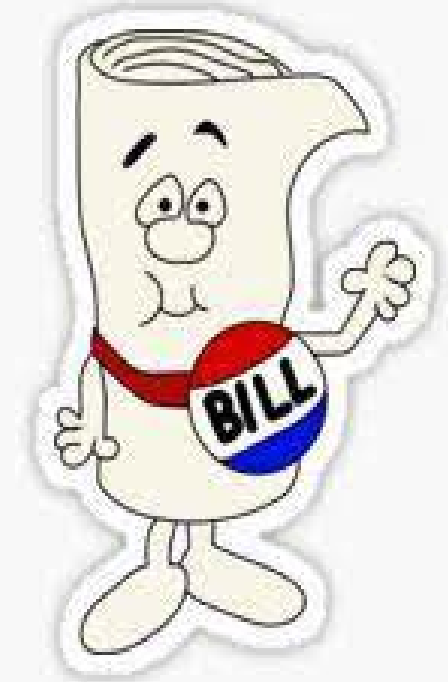
NH House



400; 201 Republicans, 195 Democrats, 2 Independents and 2 Vacant Seats
<https://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/house/>

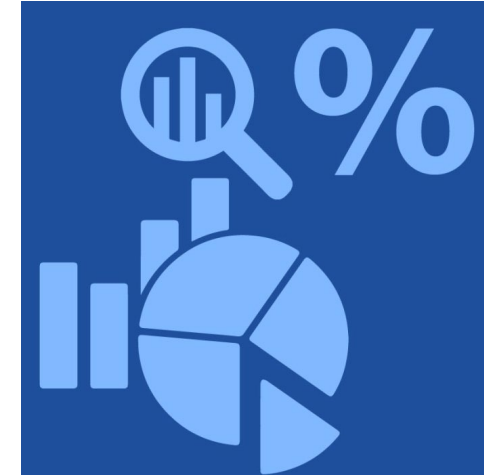
Process for NH Legislation

- 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 held
- Committees act on bills and make a recommendation
- Full Body (House or Senate) acts 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.

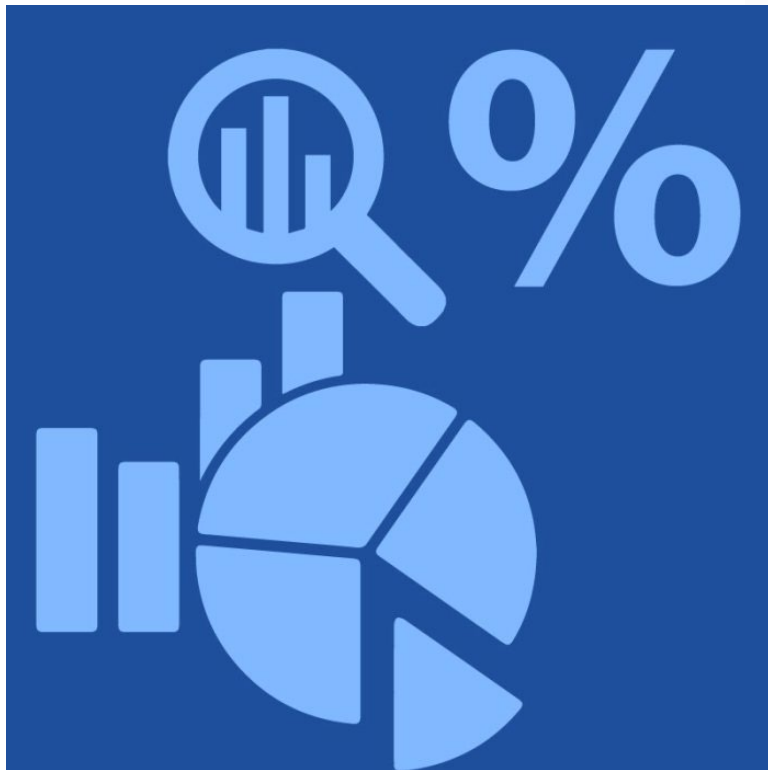
More than 50 LSRs
withdrawn or 4.2%
of all bills filed –
more than a dozen
with a municipal
component.

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 in in January
2024- a record high.**

Bill Data 2024



1035 LSRs Filed

Several dozen LSRs with a municipal component withdrawn.

More than 453 bills tracked by NHMA.
Almost 45% of all bills filed have a municipal component.

Amendments (including non-germane language) and replace all language is common on dozens of bills this session.

Legislature's Focuses This Session

- 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.

A few to Remember

- **HB 1479**, relative to prohibiting the use of federal, state, or local funds for lobbying activities. (Oppose) Indefinitely Postponed- [Roll Call 211-129](#) (Killed)
- **HB 1640**, relative to qualified immunity standards (Oppose) Tabled (Killed)
- **HB 1002**, relative to fees for records under the right-to-know law. (Support) Passed The House as Amended - [Roll Call 268-106](#) – In Senate Judiciary
- **SB 406**, making an \$2.5 million appropriation to the department of health and human services to increase rates for shelter programs. Passed the Senate with Amendment

Member Requests

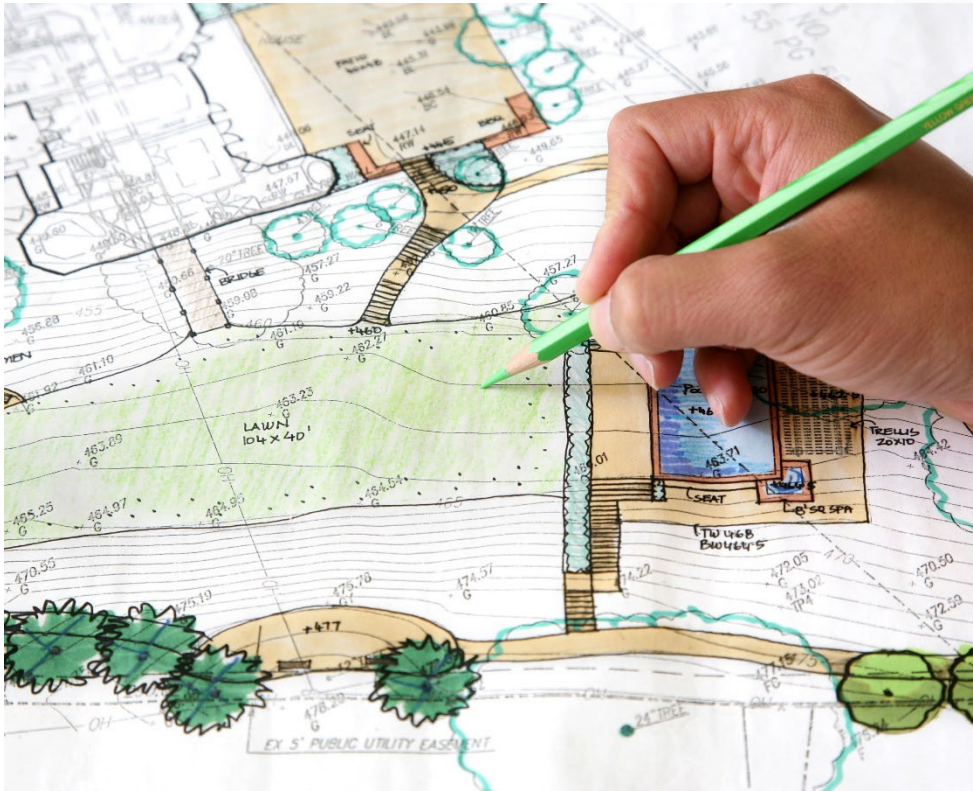


- **HB 1254**, relative to an optional local public safety assessment on certain room occupancies. (Conway) **Indefinitely Postponed** - Roll Call 195-171 - **Killed**
- **HB 1052**, relative to the format of excavating and dredging permit applications. (Moultonborough) **Passed the House – In Senate Election Law**
- **HB 1250**, enabling the creation of certain village districts. (Sunapee) **Inexpedient to Legislate - Roll Call 184-180**
- **HB 1223**, creating local options for games of chance. **In Senate Ways and Means.**
- **SB 472**, (New Title) relative to historic horse racing licensing, establishing operations of games of chance for the benefit of the host community, and relative to charitable gaming dates for municipalities and charitable organizations. **In House Ways and Means.**

Election Law: 61 Bills

- SB 453, making an appropriation to the statewide voter registration system. (Support) In House Finance, public hearing 4/17 at 1:00pm
- HB 1264, relative to the definition of accessible voting systems. (Support) In Senate ELMA.
- HB 1557, requiring the secretary of state to enter into a membership agreement with the Electronic Registration Information Center. (Support) **Indefinitely Postponed** - [Roll Call](#) 189-185

Planning / Zoning / Land Use: 69 Bills



- **HB 1215**, relative to subdivision regulations on the completion of improvements and the regulation of building permits. In Senate ELMA
- **HB 1291**, relative to accessory dwelling unit uses allowed by right. **(Oppose) In Senate Commerce**
- **HB 1371**, relative to allowing the land use master plan to include a section on waste reduction. **(Support) In Senate ENR.**
- **SB 538**, relative to zoning procedures concerning residential housing. **(Support) In Senate ENR.**
- **HB 1281**, relative to zoning restrictions on residential rental property. **Tabled House. (Killed).**
- **SB 527**, study committee relative to student and municipal work-force housing. In House Special Committee on Housing

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) (Interim Study)
- HB 1086, relative to public notice of zoning board of adjustment hearings. (Support) (ITL)
- HB 1359, relative to appeals of certain zoning decisions by abutters. (Support) In Senate ELMA
- HB 1483, allowing subdivision regulations concerning water supply. (Support) (Interim Study)

Right-to-Know Law: 14 Bills

- HB 1002, relative to fees for records under the right-to-know law. (Support) In Senate Judiciary
- HB 1069, relative to material subject to disclosure under the right-to-know law. (Oppose) In Senate Judiciary
- HB 1696, relative to electronic record retention. (Support) In Senate ELMA.



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) In Senate Transportation.
- **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) In Senate Transportation.
- **HB 1550**, authorizing municipalities to reduce speed limits seasonally. (Support) In Senate Transportation.

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. Passed the House
<u>HB 436</u>	(NEW TITLE) making an \$50 million appropriation to the New Hampshire retirement system to pay down the unfunded accrued liability. In Senate Finance
<u>SB 309</u>	Title: relative to the vesting period for members of the state retirement system. Cost- \$1.2 million to state employers/ \$2.1 million to municipal employers annually - Interim Study
<u>HB 1647</u>	Title: relative to the calculation of group II retirement benefits in the retirement system. \$53 Million upfront cost to the state- \$4.6 Million cost to employers annually- Passed as Amended by House.
<u>HB 1451</u>	Title: relative to mandatory overtime and the calculation of base rate of compensation. In Senate Executive Departments and Administration – NHRS Estimated \$8- 15 Million annually

Property Tax & Finance Related Bills

- SB 383, relative to local tax caps. Hearing in the House this week.
- HB 1187, relative to lease agreements for equipment building improvements. Passed the House as amended.
- SB 553, relative to the NH Public Investment Pool. Hearing in the House this week.
- HB 1709, (New Title) establishing the forest carbon commission. Ought to Pass
- HB 1034, relative to enabling municipalities to adopt a homestead property tax exemption. **Inexpedient to Legislate**
- HB 1106, relative to net asset limits under the elderly property tax exemption. **Inexpedient to Legislate**
- HB 1040, relative to including interest in an abated property tax refund at the rate determined by the department of revenue administration. **Interim Study**
- HB 433, providing that property tax exemptions granted prior to a home sale shall not be applied to the new homeowner. **Inexpedient to Legislate**
- HB 1246, relative to allowing for payment of wages in gold or silver. **Inexpedient to Legislate**
- HB 1674, relative to establishing the New Hampshire legal tender act and establishing a state bullion depository. **Interim Study**

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 - **Interim Study**

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

SB 394, appropriating \$1 million the cyanobacteria mitigation loan and grant fund- **Pending Ought to Pass in Senate.**

HB 1466, relative to providing disaster relief funding to municipalities after a natural disaster- **Passed the House**

SB 492, relative to wastewater engineering- **Passed the Senate**

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

HB 1515 relative to the meals and rooms tax rate- **Inexpedient to Legislate**

Ambulance Service Billing

- SB 407, relative to direct pay for ambulance services. Passed the Senate as amended
- HB 1081, relative to direct insurance payments to ambulance providers. Passed the House
- SB 409, relative to reimbursement for non-transport ambulance services under the state Medicaid plan. Passed the Senate as amended
- HB 1568, relative to Medicaid reimbursement for non-transport emergency medical services calls. Passed the House
- HB 373, relative to prohibiting balance billing for ambulance services. Inexpedient to Legislate

Of Particular Interest to Town Administration: 52 Bills

- **SB 63**, (New Title) relative to the adoption of public health ordinances by municipalities. (Oppose) In House Municipal and County Gov't
- **HB 1332**, relative to prohibiting electric vehicles from parking in parking garages. (Oppose) (ITL)
- **HB 1544**, relative to indemnification for municipalities adopting policies to address homelessness. (Support) (Interim Study)

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



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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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Questions?

Upcoming Workshops and Complimentary Webinars

REGISTRATION OPEN: Right-to-Know Law Workshop on Meetings and Records

9:00 am - 2:30 pm, Wednesday, April 17, 2024. Join NHMA attorneys who will discuss the requirements for holding a proper public meeting, as well exceptions to the meeting requirement, and address the handling of governmental record matters arising under the RTK Law.

REGISTRATION OPEN!

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Upcoming Workshops and Complimentary Webinars



FREE LOCAL OFFICIALS TRAINING - May 7th Registration Open!

9:00 am - 4:00 pm, Tuesday, May 7, 2024. Free workshop for newly-elected and seasoned municipal officials and employees of member municipalities.

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

[REGISTRATION OPEN!](#)

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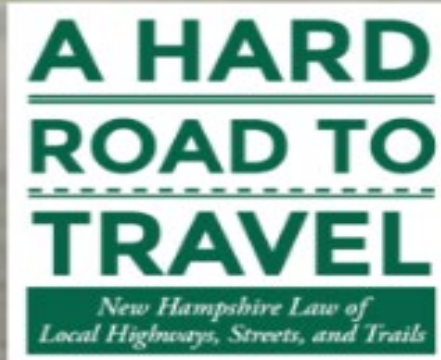


Upcoming Workshops and Complimentary Webinars

Join us for 2024 Hard Road to Travel Workshop

9:00 am - 1:30 pm, Thursday, May 9, 2024. \$70 for in-person and \$55 for virtual attendance. Join NHMA's attorneys who will help local officials understand some of the more complicated areas of highway law.

REGISTRATION OPEN!



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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.