

Legislative News Bulletin

NH Association of Conservation Commissions

54 Portsmouth Street, Concord, NH 03301

The NH Legislature is once again in session. NHACC is tracking a number of bills that may be of interest to Conservation Commissions. Please let me know if there is a bill that NHACC is not tracking that you feel is important!

Web Resources for following the legislative session:

A current House of Representatives calendar can be found at:

<http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/hcaljournals/>

A current Senate Calendar can be found at:

<http://gencourt.state.nh.us/scaljournals/>

To obtain the full text of a bill:

<http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/ie/billstatus/quickbill.html>

The NH Municipal Association publishes a legislative news bulletin which can be accessed through their website:

www.nhlgc.org

Thanks for all you do for conservation in New Hampshire!

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SAVE Saturday, November 3, 2007 for the NHACC Annual Meeting

Upcoming Hearings which may be of interest :

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7

ENVIRONMENT AND AGRICULTURE, Room 303, LOB

10:00 a.m. **HB 207**, establishing a commission to study and make recommendations on the expansion of the New Hampshire Agricultural Innovation Program.

11:00 a.m. **HB 204**, relative to the sale of unpasteurized milk.

MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT, Room 301, LOB

10:00 a.m. **HB 255**, establishing a committee to study the implementation and use of growth management ordinances.

11:00 a.m. **HB 256**, relative to the duties and powers of town treasurers.

2:30 p.m. **HB 320**, relative to the tax exemption for solar energy systems.

RESOURCES, RECREATION AND DEVELOPMENT, Room 305, LOB

9:00 a.m. Subcommittee work session on **HB 183-FN-A-LOCAL**, relative to the acquisition of a certain tract of land in the towns of Peterborough, Sharon, and Temple as a state reservation, and making an appropriation therefore.

10:00 a.m. **HB 252-FN**, relative to exemptions from the permitting process for excavating and dredging.

10:30 a.m. **HB 319**, relative to wetlands mitigation. This bill would restrict mitigation requirements to the size of constructed or restored wetlands to the size of the area permitted for fill.

11:15 a.m. **HB 392**, relative to the use of property held by the state of New Hampshire under an easement specifying low impact recreational use only.

1:00 p.m. **HB 485**, exempting tidal waters from the general rules for vessels operating on water.

2:30 p.m. Executive session on **HB 219**, relative to the membership of the wetlands council, **HB 438**, re-

naming a certain island in Blackey's Cove in Lake Winnepesaukee and **HB 464**, relative to Silver Lake in Belmont and Tilton.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENERGY, Room 304, LOB

- 10:00 a.m. **HB 427**, relative to construction and demolition debris.
 11:00 a.m. **HB 295**, relative to the definition of biomass and biomass fuel.
 1:00 p.m. **HB 428**, relative to prohibiting the combustion of construction and demolition waste.

WAYS AND MEANS, Room 202, LOB

- 10:30 a.m. **HB 376-FN-A**, distributing certain meals and rooms tax revenues to the fish and game fund.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8

ENVIRONMENT AND AGRICULTURE, Room 104, LOB (Please note room change.)

- 10:00 a.m. Subcommittee work session on **HB 172-FN**, establishing the position of state meat inspector.
 11:00 a.m. Subcommittee work session on **HB 163**, relative to the definition of "slaughterer."
 11:30 a.m. Subcommittee work session on **HB 208**, relative to the definition of swine as a nuisance.
 1:00 p.m. Information meeting on dairy pricing.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENERGY, Room 304, LOB

- 9:30 a.m. Subcommittee work session on **HB 310**, allowing municipalities to regulate wind turbines used for home energy production.
 10:30 a.m. Subcommittee work session on **HB 447**, relative to net energy metering.
 1:30 p.m. Subcommittee work session on **HB 427**, relative to construction and demolition debris, **HB 428**, relative to prohibiting the combustion of construction and demolition waste and **HB 295**, relative to the definition of biomass and biomass fuel.

WAYS AND MEANS, Room 202, LOB

- 10:45 a.m. **HB 354**, establishing a committee to study the feasibility of establishing ecological consumption taxes as a source of revenue for the state.

ATVs:

SB 157 This bill establishes a commission to study the barriers to the establishment of all-terrain vehicle trails on public and private lands.

HB 392 This bill prohibits the use of certain motorized vehicles on property held by the state of New Hampshire under an easement specifying low impact use only.

Boating:

HB 188 This bill excludes watercraft where the operator and a passenger sit side by side from the definition of ski craft.

SB 198 This bill requires milfoil stickers for out-of-state boats

HB 485 exempting tidal waters from the general rules for vessels operating on water.

HB 453 establishing a committee to study the feasibility of merging marine patrol and fish and game department law enforcement staffing and resources.

Current Use:

HB 294 This bill allows current use taxation of land under certain farm buildings.

Farms:

HB 39 repeals the penalty provision in discretionary preservation easements.

HB 198 This bill clarifies the tax collection procedure for land with a discretionary easement. The bill also clarifies the adjustment of the penalty applied to proceeds from tax-deeded property.

HB 239 FN-A relative to appropriating funds to the barn preservation fund matching grants program.

HB 294 This bill allows current use taxation of land under certain farm buildings.

HB 407 establishing a dairy stabilization fund for dairy farmers

HB 462 relative to site plan review of agricultural operations.

Fish and Game:

SB 191 This bill increases the amount of general funds which may be deposited into the nongame species account in the fish and game fund. The bill also removes a provision requiring certificates of participation for donors to the account.

HB 411 This bill establishes a committee to study the absorption of the fish and game department by other state agencies.

LCHIP

There are several legislative service requests dealing with the LCHIP funding issue. None of these have bill numbers assigned to them yet. The following LSR has the most promise of bringing a stable funding source to the program. More details will be available very soon!

LSR 1143 relative to a surcharge on recording documents with the register of deeds to fund the land and community heritage investment program.

I 93:

HB 403 establishes the Interstate 93 widening commission.

Planning & Zoning:

HB 42 This bill requires zoning ordinances to encourage preservation or restoration of stone walls.

SB 208 This bill amends the standard for court review of planning and zoning decisions of zoning boards of adjustment, local legislative bodies, and planning boards.

HB 255 This bill establishes a committee to study the implementation and use of growth management ordinances.

HB 331 This bill prohibits the withholding of a building permit after an application has been accepted prior to the first legal notice of a proposed change in a subdivision, building code or zoning ordinance.

HB 335 This bill defines an unnecessary hardship for a zoning variance as an application of the ordinance that denies the landowner a reasonable and economically viable use of a property and one that has no fair and substantial relationship between the public purposes of the ordinance and its application to the property. This bill also provides that a variance shall not injure the rights of others.

HB 390 This bill requires regional planning commissions to develop guidelines to assist local land use boards in determining whether a development has potential for regional impact. This bill also requires applicants to pay plan review costs incurred by regional planning commissions.

HB 462 relative to site plan review of agricultural operations.

Renewable energy:

SB 99 relative to the terms for payment in lieu of taxes for renewable generation facilities.

HB 295 This bill defines biomass and biomass fuel.

HB 310 This bill allows municipalities to regulate wind turbines used for home energy production.

HB320 This bill limits the amount of the annual property tax exemption for solar energy systems to the cost of the installation of the system.

HB 447 Modifies eligibility for net energy metering and excess generation credits and eliminates the authority of the public utilities commission to adopt a surge testing requirement.

Right to Know:

HB 82 This bill clarifies communications outside a meeting for the purposes of RSA 91-A.

HB 152 Relative to increasing the time to have minutes available for public access

Shoreland Protection Act:

HB 383 relative to waterfront buffer and woodland buffer requirements in the comprehensive shoreland protection act.

Recycling:

HB 201-FN-A, relative to recycling and reconstituting the recycling market development steering committee.

Seacoast:

HB 216 This bill establishes a commission to study the causes, effects, and remediation of siltation in the Great Bay Estuary.

Sludge:

HB 384 This bill repeals the authority of the department of environmental services regarding sludge and biosolids and establishing a committee to study new sludge legislation.

HB 414 This bill allows the sale of class A sludge in bulk agricultural fertilizer bags.

Solid Waste:

HB 98 relative to the situation of landfills on land owned by municipalities

HB 427 relative to construction and demolition debris.

HB 428 relative to prohibiting the combustion of construction and demolition waste.

Transportation:

CACR 4 relating to: funding for public transportation. Providing that: revenues from the operation of motor vehicles or the sale or consumption of motor vehicle fuel may be used for public transportation.

HB 153 requires design standards and manuals relating to bridge construction promulgated by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials to be adopted by reference and applied by the commissioner of transportation.

HB 317 requires improvements to state highways by developers to meet the same design and permitting standards as improvements that are financed federally or by the state.

Water:

HB 61 This bill designates segments of the Ammonoosuc River for protection under the New Hampshire rivers management and protection program.

SB 111 permitting a dam to be constructed on Lake Ivanhoe in the town of Wakefield

SB 158 This bill requires the department of environmental services to certify that certain activities that result in discharge to or withdrawal from surface waters comply with New Hampshire water quality standards.

HB 321 This bill makes changes to the nomination process for including a river or river segment in the rivers management and protection program.

HB 457 allowing municipalities to restrict lawn watering during declared droughts.

HB 460 This bill permits public utility water companies that acquire land to install and maintain facilities and extract water for public drinking water supply needs.

Water, Large Groundwater Withdrawals:

HB 318 This bill amends certain statutes pertaining to large groundwater withdrawals to make them consistent with other large groundwater withdrawal statutes.

HB 458 This bill exempts replacement or redundant wells from the large groundwater withdrawal permitting process.

Wetlands:

HB 219 relative to the membership of the wetlands council (adds Farm Bureau and Timberland Owners Association to the Council).

HB 252 this bill would remove the exemption for temporary/seasonal dock permitting if they occur in the vicinity of a designated prime wetland.

HB319 relative to wetlands mitigation.

Miscellaneous:

SB 68 This bill makes an appropriation to the department of environmental services to implement the New Hampshire estuaries project's comprehensive conservation and management plan.

HB 91 The bill adds a registration fee for employers of lobbyists. This bill changes the registration fee for lobbyists who register solely to represent a nonprofit entity.

HB 165 establishing a committee to study the feasibility of carbon reduction incentives

HB 168 This bill expands the wildflower establishment program to allow maintenance as well as planting of shrubs, trees, and wildflowers and removes the requirement that the wildflowers be native.

HB 183 relative to the acquisition of a certain tract of land in the towns of Peterborough, Sharon, and Temple as a state reservation, and making an appropriation therefore.

HB 354 establishing a committee to study the feasibility of establishing ecological consumption taxes as a source of revenue for the state.

HB 474 This bill adds an exclusion for septic and sewage treatment facilities in the property tax exemption for the value of water and air pollution treatment facilities.