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NHACC February Legislative Update

1 message

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Legislative Update February 2025.

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New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions

Legislative Update

At NHACC, we work to make sure your voice is heard in Concord. We have a board legislative committee to review bills and make recommendations on upcoming legislation. We coordinate with partners working on similar issues. We testify in the legislature to ensure conservation commissions are represented. We are tracking several proposed bills that would affect water and wildlife.

NHACC is Opposed to Senate Bill 55

[Senate Bill 55](#) will reduce the amount of money going into Land Use Change Tax. This bill provides temporary exemptions from the land use change tax for qualifying housing projects. NHACC is opposed to this bill and sent in written testimony to ask the committee to vote Inexpedient to Legislate on this bill. The committee has not voted on this bill yet so you still have time to contact your senator and let them know your concerns. View the [testimony from NHACC here](#)

Bills impacting Wildlife

The bills listed below will be heard at House Fish and Game and Marine Resources at the Legislative Office Building 307 on Wednesday February 12.

[HB 573](#): – Using General funds (up to \$200K) and authorizing an additional \$1 fee for boat registration. Funds will be for for Search and Rescue

[HB 589](#): – Prohibiting Wanton waste/Killing Contests

[HB 655](#): – Increased penalties for F&G violations

[HB 202](#): – Relative to the duties of the fish and game commission; advisory only

If you would like to register in support or *opposition* to a bill, [click here](#).

- **Step 1:** Enter your name, town, and email address
- **Step 2:** Select date of hearing
- **Step 3:** Select committee from the drop down menu
- Select "I am a member of the public" and "I am representing myself."
- Indicate Your Position on this Bill
- **Step 4:** Upload your testimony (optional)
- **Step 5:** Submit!

Additional bills to watch

[HB123](#) This bill enables municipalities to collect tax on standing wood or timber on land that has been enrolled in the carbon sequestration registry. This bill will impact landowners who do not want to cut trees and would like to get paid to store carbon on their land. A public hearing for this bill is scheduled at the Municipal & County Government committee on Feb. 10 at 1:00 pm in the Legislative office building 301–303.

[HB171](#) This bill establishes a moratorium on the issuance of permits for new landfills. The Department of Environmental Services, shall not issue any permit to construct or operate a new landfill facility in New Hampshire. This bill is being discussed by the House Environment & Ag. Committee at work session on 02/11/2025 10:00 am, in the Legislative Office Building 301–303.

[HB174](#) This bill increases the maximum weight of a utility terrain vehicle to 3,500 pounds unladen dry weight. This bill applies to state property, which is about 200 miles of trail. However, it will impact every landowner whose property connects with state trails. The House Resources, Recreation and Development Committee voted **Ought to Pass** on HB174.

[HB 246](#) This bill directs the state conservation committee to implement the

conservation district climate resilience grant program and making an appropriation therefor. NHACC supports the creation of a state climate resilience grant program to help our farmers prepare for an unpredictable climate. New Hampshire has seen increasing storms and extreme weather events over the last decade. Drought, floods, and higher temperatures are impacting local farms who are not fully prepared to handle these intense storms. This bill was introduced to House Finance Committee and was discussed at a Work Session on Feb. 5.

[HB332](#) This bill allows for the establishment of a village district to protect and remediate surface waters. This bill helps to protect water quality by allowing multiple municipalities surrounding a lake to form a village district in an area around the lake to protect and restore lake health. Unlike a general town government, a village district is a special, limited-purpose form of government established to address a particular need within a community. The House Resources, Recreation & Development Committee voted Inexpedient to Legislate.

[HB422](#) This bill increases the penalty that the NH Department of Environmental Services may levy upon any person who violates the Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act from \$5,000 to up to \$15,000 per violation. The House Resources, Recreation and Development voted Inexpedient to Legislate.

To view additional bills that NHACC is watching, download [Bills2Watch](#).

Remember!

As individuals or as a commission, you can write letters to your state legislators. If you are writing or providing testimony as a commission, make sure you have discussed the issue in a commission meeting and voted to respond as a commission. Document in the meeting minutes the approved response and who will be designated to speak, or write on behalf of the commission.

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