

May 27, 2026



Legislative Update

SARAH BURKE COHEN



1

The information and materials presented in NHMA's events is accurate as of the date of the presentation. NHMA's training events do not constitute legal advice. For legal advice, city and town officials may contact Legal Services at legalinquiries@nhmunicipal.org or their own municipality's legal counsel. Please refer to [NHMA's Legal Services FAQ](#) for details about how our service works. For Government Finance Advice, please contact financeinquiries@nhmunicipal.org.

2

Our Vision

NHMA is known as the premier source of information and support needed for town and city officials to effectively serve the public.

Our Mission

NHMA supports effective municipal government by leveraging the collaborative strengths of New Hampshire cities and towns through education, training, advocacy, and legal services.

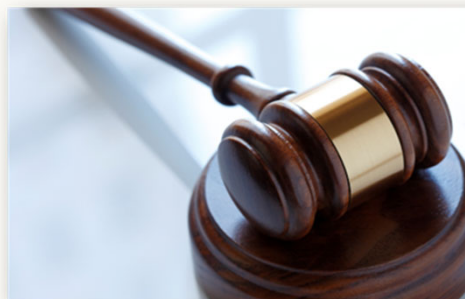
Our History

The New Hampshire Municipal Association, Inc. (NHMA) is a nonprofit, non-partisan membership organization of municipalities. Founded in 1941 for the purpose of exchanging information to facilitate more efficient and effective local government, NHMA was reorganized in July 2003 under the umbrella of the New Hampshire Local Government Center (LGC). At that time all services provided to municipalities by NHMA were assumed by LGC except legislative advocacy, which remained in NHMA LLC, a separate subsidiary of LGC. In the fall of 2012 all "traditional municipal league services" including legislative advocacy, legal advisory services, training programs, and educational publications, were consolidated under NHMA with oversight by the NHMA Board of Directors. Currently, NHMA, Inc. operates as a totally separate, independent organization from the former LGC risk pools (HealthTrust, Inc. and Property Liability Trust, Inc.) with a board comprising only elected and appointed municipal officials elected by NHMA members.

3

AGENDA

- **Status Report**
- **Hot Topics**
- **Updates on Key Bills**
- **Stay Engaged**



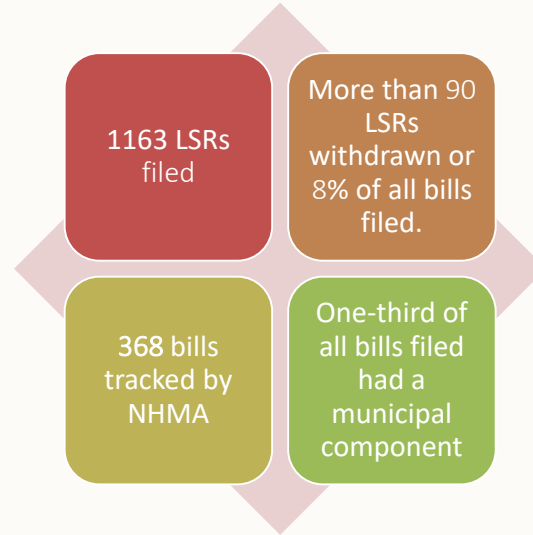
4



Status Report

Bills NHMA is following:

- Total—368
 - Support—92
 - Oppose—125
- Active—91
- Killed/Interim Study—240
- Tabled—17
- Signed into law—17



As of 5/18/26



Balance of Power

| |
|--|
| Governor Republican https://www.governor.nh.gov/ |
| Executive Council 4 Republicans, 1 Democrat https://www.council.nh.gov/ |
| Senate 16 Republicans and 8 Democrats https://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/senate/ |
| House of Representatives 214 Republicans, 178 Democrats, 1 Independent and 7 Vacant Seats https://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/house/ |

Hot Topics in 2026



- Public Employee Electioneering
- No Trespass Orders
- Anti-Lobbying Bills

7

Municipal Operations/Finance

HB 488: Relative to limiting conflicts of interest and concentrations of power for municipal board and committee members. - ***Inexpedient to Legislate***

HB 1150: Requiring disclosure of complaints to public employees within 5 business days. - ***Inexpedient to Legislate***

HB 1214: Relative to public libraries. - ***Inexpedient to Legislate***

HB 1224: Relative to the default budget for official ballot town meetings. - ***Inexpedient to Legislate***

HB 1649: Prohibiting certain tax dollars from being donated to non-profit organizations. - ***Inexpedient to Legislate***

HB 1788: Holding state contracts with DEI provisions to be void as a matter of law and establishing a right of action for citizens where public entities or state agencies engage with contracts with DEI provisions. - ***Referred to Interim Study***

8



Municipal Operations/Finance

Pending in Legislature (as of 5/18/26)

HB 1064: Expands municipal liability, increases damage caps, and mandates indemnification of employees. - **Interim Study (Senate)**

SB 409: Relative to the penalties for the offense of disobeying an officer **and** relative to liability of governmental units. - **OTP-A (House)**

HB 1109: Relative to notice requirements regarding public employee suspensions and investigations. - **OTP-A (Senate)**

HB 1184: Relative to issuing no trespass orders. - **OTP-A (Senate)**

Waiting for Governor (as of 5/18/26)

HB 164: Authorizes the state to create and maintain a website for electronic records and allows municipalities to store electronic records on the website.

9



Town Meeting/Elections

Pending in Legislature (as of 5/18/26)

HB 340: Updates the statute regarding electioneering by public employees.

Waiting for Governor (as of 5/18/26)

HB 1309: Relative to town meeting warrants.

10



Right to Know

HB 1032: Creating an exception to physical attendance and quorum requirements under the right-to-know law for individuals with disabilities and individuals caring for a household member with disabilities. - **Miscellaneous (inactive)**

HB 1233: Relative to the minutes of non-public sessions. - **Inexpedient to Legislate**

SB 626: restricting right-to-know requests to persons domiciled or maintaining a permanent residence in New Hampshire and requiring proof of domicile or residency to file right-to-know requests. - **Tabled (Senate)**

11



Anti-Lobbying

HB 314: Prohibiting the use of federal, state, or local funds for lobbying activities. - **Inexpedient to Legislate**

HB 1359: Relative to municipal association lobbying dues. - **Miscellaneous (inactive)**

HB 1360: Establishing a legislative commission on municipal association oversight. - **Miscellaneous (inactive)**

12



Other Bills of Interest to NHLTA

HB 1256: Removing the authority of the state librarian to award scholarships to students attending graduate library schools. - **OTP (House & Senate)**

HB 1442: Permitting classification of individuals based on biological sex under certain limited circumstances. - **OTP-A (Senate)**

HB 1447: Restricting the use of certain public and private facilities on the basis of sex and establishing that such restriction does not qualify as discrimination. - **Tabled**

HB 1565: Relative to the penalty for false reports of suspected abuse and neglect made to the division for children, youth, and families, relative to owner's project manager services for school building aid projects, and relative to long-term care eligibility and making an appropriation therefor. - **OTP-A (Senate)**

SB 460: Prohibiting tier III criminal offenders from being present in designated child safety zones absent a legitimate purpose. - **Committee of Conference**

13

Connect With Us

Legislative Bulletin

NHMA's weekly *Legislative Bulletin* is published every Friday during the session, with a final edition in late summer.

Members can subscribe to the emailed Bulletin through our member portal at:

<https://nhmunicipal.weblinkconnect.com/portal>

- Once you are logged in, click "edit this profile" and "newsletter management." You can sign up for the Legislative Bulletin, *Newslink*, and *Town & City* magazine in one place!

Priority Bill Alerts

Throughout the legislative session, NHMA also sends out priority bill alerts asking members to take action on specific bills coming up for a hearing or a vote.

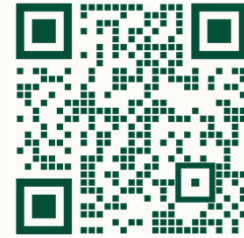
14

Fast Democracy

[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



[NHMA Bill Tracker: FastDemocracy](#)

15

What Can I Do?

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Speak | Speak to your local legislators by phone or in person. |
| Invite | Invite your local legislators to a select board, council, or aldermen meeting. |
| Tell | Tell your constituents about important bills and explain their impact. |
| Write | Write a letter or a commentary to send to local media outlets. |
| Share | Share your concerns about specific bills or issues with the Governor's office. |
| Talk | Talk to NHMA to get additional background on these bills. |
| Attend | Attend the public hearings on bills important to your municipality and sign up to testify. |

16



SARAH BURKE COHEN
Legislative Advocate

BRODIE DESHAIES
Legislative Advocate

MARTY KARLON
Policy & Research Analyst

17

CONTACT ADVOCACY TEAM

Phone: 603.230.3376

Email: advocacy@nhmunicipal.org

Address: 25 Triangle Park Drive, Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Members of the NHMA Government Affairs staff follow several hundred bills of interest to municipalities during each legislative session. They draft legislation to carry out NHMA's legislative policies, monitor legislative hearings, testify on bills when appropriate, and work individually with legislators and local officials throughout the process. The staff also follows numerous study committees, commissions, boards, and state administrative agencies, commenting on and assisting in the development of proposed agency rules. On occasion, staff members also work with New Hampshire's U.S. congressional delegation on federal legislation affecting municipalities.

Every Friday during the legislative session, the Government Affairs staff publishes the Legislative Bulletin, which notifies local officials of upcoming hearings, votes on important issues, and details of legislative activity during the past week, along with methods of contacting legislators on bills of municipal importance. Contact the Government Affairs department to add your name to our Legislative Bulletin distribution list.

18

CONTACT NHMA

Phone: 603.224.7447

Email: info@nhmunicipal.org

Address: 25 Triangle Park Drive, Concord, New Hampshire 03301

THANK YOU!