

Legislative Committee Annual Report 2024–2025

The purpose of the Legislative Committee is to review proposed legislation that may affect the governance or operation of public libraries, with a focus on the New Hampshire State House.

This was an active legislative session, with numerous bills that had potential impacts on New Hampshire libraries and their trustees. The committee monitored legislation closely in cooperation with the New Hampshire Library Association (NHLA) and the New Hampshire Municipal Association (NHMA), providing testimony and working directly with bill sponsors, committees, and legislators.

Key legislation included bills related to book challenges and parental rights, several of which could have limited access to library materials. Other bills addressed municipal authority and budget processes, both of which affect local library governance. Most of these measures were ultimately voted *Inexpedient to Legislate* (ITL), withdrawn, or died in committee. However, **HB 273**, allowing parents access to their minor child's library records, was signed by Governor Ayotte with an effective date of January 1, 2026.

The committee also tracked bills related to school libraries, technology access, and state funding that, while not directly targeting public libraries, may have secondary effects on library services or contribute to broader efforts impacting public libraries.

Following nationwide trends, we anticipate continued activity around content regulation, municipal oversight, and library policy in the upcoming session. The Legislative Committee remains prepared to review each bill individually and to provide trustees with timely updates and context.

Committee Members

Renee Mallett (Chair), Cathy Harvey, Thomas Ladd, Marcia McLaughlin