

New Hampshire Municipal Association

THE SERVICE AND ACTION ARM OF NEW HAMPSHIRE MUNICIPALITIES

LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN

Final Legislative Bulletin 2024 Session September 13, 2024



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A Long Busy, Session with Several Wins

In the end, 2024 was a relatively good year for New Hampshire's cities and towns at the legislature. Although there wasn't much available for state surplus, the legislature dedicated some additional money toward issues that affect cities and towns, including \$26 million to the Retirement System's Actuarial Accrued Unfunded Liability, \$2.5 million for homeless shelters, and a half-a-million dollars for a firefighter cancer screening pilot program.

However, for the third year in a row, NHMA spent a significant amount of time fighting a slew of bills that would hurt local government or strip local authority, including working to defeat another effort that would have deprived you of your voice at the legislature. Still, we were able to work collaboratively with many legislators to pass important legislation helping provide a local option for cost recovery on the Right-to-Know Law, formulate a pilot program to resolve a longstanding liability issue for local elections, expand state support for dealing with cyanobacteria blooms, reduce the amount of PFAS polluting our environment, clarify appeal authority for local land use decisions, and help protect our state's historic covered bridges. Our

victories were due in major part to the local officials who were willing to speak to their legislators about important municipal issues.

Below, you'll find a list containing summaries of the 80 bills that affect municipalities and became law this year. Typically, NHMA's *Final Legislative Bulletin* contains summaries of around 100 new laws. Like last year, this year's unusually low count demonstrates how carefully legislators in Concord considered issues that affect municipalities and how your communications with your legislators can lead to better outcomes for local government—especially considering there were almost 500 bills with a municipal component filed this session.

This year is an election year, and that means that we'll be meeting a whole new crop of legislators this winter and saying goodbye to some long serving ones. Thank you for all the work that you put into making the 2024 legislative session a success, and please don't wait to start meeting with your new legislative delegations to talk about issues that are important to your municipality. We look forward to working with you throughout the 2025 legislative session.

Final Bulletin

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Elections

New Electronic Ballot Counting Devices Allowed. [Chapter 4](#) (HB 154) amends various aspects of election laws, including the use and security of electronic ballot counting devices in response to the Ballot Law Commission's approval of two new ballot counting devices. **Statutes amended: Various. E.D. February 1, 2024.**

Creation of Pilot Program for Providing Accessible Voting Systems in Local Elections. [Chapter 123](#) (HB 1264) requires every city, town, and school district using an official ballot system to ensure each polling place has at least one accessible voting system and to enter into a pilot agreement with the Secretary of State for the use of such systems in local elections. Cities, towns, and school districts will bear the costs associated with programming for local elections with the vendor chosen by the Secretary of State and are responsible for the secure storage and maintenance of the systems in accordance with guidance with issued by the Secretary of State. **Statute created: RSA 659:20-b; Statute Amended: RSA 652:16-d. E.D. January 1, 2025.**

Election Audits Extended. [Chapter 163](#) (SB 489) continues the existing requirement that the Secretary of State audit at least 8 ballot counting devices during the state primary and the general election. **Statutes created: RSA 17-c; RSA 660:33 - :35; Statute amended: RSA 659:36. E.D. July 3, 2024.**

Reporting Death of Voters. [Chapter 173](#) (SB 576) requires the executor of an estate to provide an official notice of death to the town or city clerk of the death of a voter within 30 days. **Statute amended: RSA 654:37. E.D. September 1, 2024.**

Tabulation of Votes Must Be Done in Public. [Chapter 178](#) (HB 243) requires the tabulation of votes in an election to be done in public and

requires documents generated during the tabulation of votes in an election also be made available to the public. **Statute amended: RSA 659:63. E.D. September 10, 2024.**

Delivery of Ballots to Elder Care Facilities Authorized. [Chapter 185](#) (HB 1098) enables ballot clerks, assistant clerks, or clerks *pro tem* to deliver ballots to elder care facilities and requires them, to the extent possible, to ensure the process of receiving, marking, and returning the absentee ballots is fair, private, and properly handled. **Statute created: RSA 657:17-b. E.D. September 10, 2024.**

Supervisors of Checklist Must Meet Every 90 Days. [Chapter 234](#) (HB 1310) requires the supervisors of the checklist to meet every 90 days. **Statute created: RSA 654:27-a. E.D. September 17, 2024.**

Municipalities May Send Electronic Copies of the Checklist to Candidates. [Chapter 335](#) (HB 1313) enables municipalities to send a copy of the voter checklist electronically to candidates. **Statute amended: RSA 654:31. E.D. October 1, 2024.**

Political Advertising Rules Apply to Communications to Support or Defeat Warrant Articles. [Chapter 365](#) (HB 1091) among other provisions, defines “political advertising” to include any communication, including, but not limited to, yard signs, leaflets, and mailed or e-mailed messages, which expressly advocate the success or defeat of a warrant article to be voted on at a town, school district, or village district election. However, such rules do not apply to communications at a town, school, or village district meeting, at which communications shall be governed by the moderator. **Statute amended: RSA 664:14. E.D. January 1, 2025.**

Voter ID Law Changed. [Chapter \[Unknown as of Publication\]](#) (HB 1569) removes all exceptions for proving voter identification, removes the voter affidavits as proof of identification, and repeals the procedures for affidavit ballots. *Please await further guidance from the Secretary of State.* **Statutes amended: RSA 5:6-d, III; RSA 654:7; RSA 654:7-a; RSA 654:12; RSA 659:13, I(c); RSA 659:27; RSA 659:27-a; RSA 659:32. Statutes repealed: RSA 659:13, II(a)(6)-(7); RSA 659:13,**

III, IV, V; RSA 659:23-a; RSA 659:30; RSA 659:31; RSA 660:17-a.
E.D. November 11, 2024.

Energy

Use of Renewable Energy Funds by Department of Energy. [Chapter 79](#) (SB 303) clarifies that the Department of Energy may develop incentive or rebate programs or competitive grant opportunities for renewable thermal and electric energy projects for political subdivisions. **Statute amended: RSA 362-F:10. E.D. June 14, 2024.**

Community Power Use of Customer Data. [Chapter 372](#) (HB 1600) revises the statutory reference to permitted uses of individual customer data by municipal or county community power aggregations. **Statutes amended: RSA 53-E:4, VI. E.D. August 23, 2024.**

Environment & Solid Waste

Cyanobacteria Control Included in Clean Lakes Program. [Chapter 114](#) (HB 1143) requires that the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES) include the control of cyanobacteria blooms as part of the New Hampshire Clean Lakes Program and to reduce, control, and prevent nutrient inputs that cause cyanobacteria blooms as well as set standards for chemical or physical in-lake treatments. **Statute amended: RSA 487:17. E.D. September 1, 2024.**

Solid Waste Districts Authority Changed. [Chapter 119](#) (HB 1181) amends existing law to allow districts to direct waste from political subdivisions within the district to contracted third parties, allows the non-contemporaneously signing of the manifest by two or more members of the committee who are authorized to approve payments, and allows districts to make emergency expenditures in excess of their budget, under certain conditions, and with the approval of the Department of Revenue Administration. **Statute amended: RSA chapter 53-B. E.D. September 1, 2024.**

Master Plan May Include Chapter on Solid Waste. [Chapter 226](#) (HB 1371) allows town master plans to include a waste reduction section. **Statute amended: RSA 674:2. E.D. September 24, 2024.**

PFAS Omnibus Bill. [Chapter 349](#) (HB 1649) restricts the use of per and polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS) substances in certain consumer products sold in New Hampshire; makes appropriations to the Department of Environmental Services to fund an additional position and to fund the PFAS products control program; provides that funds received by the state in settlement of PFAS litigation will be deposited in the drinking water and groundwater trust fund and used to provide grants and loans to public water systems whose water sources have been impacted by PFAS. **Statutes amended: RSA 6:13-e; RSA 147-B:2; RSA 147-B:10; RSA 149-M:64; RSA 485:1-a; RSA 485:58; RSA 485-H:6.** E.D. Majority by October 1, 2024.

Lithium-Ion Batteries Prohibited from Disposal. [Chapter 369](#) (HB 1386) prohibits the disposal of lithium-ion batteries and electronic devices in any solid waste landfill facility or incinerator in New Hampshire and requires towns, solid waste districts and owners/operators of landfills and incinerators to make educational materials available on the prohibition. **Statutes amended: RSA 149-M:4; RSA 149-M:6; RSA 149-M:27.** E.D. July 1, 2025.

Finance

Disabled Veterans Exemption Clarified. [Chapter 13](#) (HB 1154) clarifies eligibility for certain disabled veterans to be exempt from property taxation on a homestead that was adapted through a Veterans Administration Special Adapted Housing (SAH) or Special Home Adaptation (SHA) grant or that was acquired using proceeds from the sale of such an SAH or SHA home. **Statute amended: RSA 72:36-a.** E.D. July 13, 2024.

Alterations to the Timber Tax. [Chapter 19](#) (SB 514) increases the board feet of logs that can be cut from one's own land for personal construction projects from 10,000 to 15,000 board feet, and for personal consumption as fuel wood from 20 to 30 cords, and for up to 300 tons of whole tree chips for land conversion purposes. **Statute amended: RSA 79:1.** E.D. July 1, 2024.

Charitable Gaming Revenue for Host Municipalities. [Chapter 28](#) (SB 472) enables a host municipality to receive revenue from a licensed

game operator with a limit of 10 days per calendar year with the stipulation that charitable organizations will receive preference before the host municipality. **Statute amended: RSA 287-D:4. E.D. May 20, 2024.**

Definition of a Local Tax Cap. [Chapter 106](#) (HB 1105) specifies that the estimated amount to be raised by local taxes as shown on the proposed budget certified by the governing body or budget committee and posted with the warrant may not exceed the local taxes raised for the prior fiscal year by more than the locally adopted tax cap. **Statute amended: RSA 32:5-b, I. E.D. September 1, 2024.**

Local Flexibility Added to Charitable Tax Exemption Filing Deadline. [Chapter 183](#) (HB 1055) permits a charitable organization to file a late application for a property tax exemption as long as application and approval are made prior to approval of the tax rate for that year. **Statute amended: RSA 72:23. E.D. April 1, 2025.**

Funding to Increase Rates for Shelter Programs. [Chapter 290](#) (SB 406) appropriates \$2.5 million to the Department of Health and Human Services to increase rates paid to shelter programs. **E.D. June 30, 2024.**

New Local Option Tax Cap. [Chapter 353](#) (SB 383) is enabling legislation that creates a third option for a local tax cap. Voters would be able to choose from a fixed dollar amount, a fixed percentage, or a multiplication factor using a formula which adjusts local property tax caps to take into consideration inflation and population growth or decline. **Statute amended: RSA 32:5-b. E.D. October 1, 2024.**

Disaster Relief Funding. [Chapter 359](#) (SB 499) authorizes disaster relief up to \$25,000 for municipalities that suffer certain damage in natural disasters. **Statute Amended: RSA 4:47, 21-P:46. E.D August 2, 2024.**

New Hampshire Public Deposit Investment Pool. [Chapter 368](#) (HB 1241) requires that the investment advisor for the public deposit investment pool strive to place funds in New Hampshire banks while maintaining the highest possible credit rating. **Statute amended: RSA 6:45, II. E.D. October 22, 2024.**

Labor

Sex Offenders Prohibited from Certain Employment. [Chapter 53 \(HB 1038\)](#) prohibits registered sex offenders from employment at businesses providing direct services to minors or direct supervision or oversight of minors. **Statute amended: RSA 632-A:10. E.D. January 1, 2025.**

Requirement for Emergency Response and Public Safety Workers Denied Workers' Compensation Claims to Maintain Their Health Insurance Benefits. [Chapter 151 \(SB 350\)](#) introduces a requirement for employers to maintain health insurance benefits for emergency response/public safety workers who have been denied workers' compensation claims related to injuries for which a prima facie presumption applies. **Statute amended: RSA 281-A. E.D. September 1, 2024.**

Payment of Wages for Deceased Employees. [Chapter 191 \(HB 1201\)](#) increases the amount of wages owed to an employee who died that can be paid directly to their descendants without triggering the probate process from \$300 to \$3,000. **Statute amended: RSA 275:47. E.D. September 10, 2024.**

Employees Allowed to Have Firearms in Locked Vehicles. [Chapter 195 \(HB 1336\)](#) prohibits certain employers, including municipal employers, from banning employees' storage of firearms or ammunition in their locked vehicles, and prohibits all employers from inquiring into or searching for firearms or ammunition in the locked vehicles. **Statute created: RSA 159:27. E.D. January 1, 2025.**

Temporary Licenses for EMTs Permitted. [Chapter 216 \(HB 1057\)](#) allows an applicant for initial licensure as an emergency medical care provider to be granted a temporary, provisional license while awaiting results of a criminal records check. **Statute created: RSA 153-A:11. E.D. July 1, 2024.**

Land Use

Uniform Real Property Transfer Upon Death Act Adopted. [Chapter 1 \(HB 68\)](#) enacts the Uniform Real Property Transfer on Death

Act, which allows property owners to pass their real property to designated beneficiaries upon their death using a transfer on death deed. These deeds are revocable and non-testamentary, and do not require notice, delivery, acceptance, or consideration while the owner is alive. **Statute created: RSA chapter 563-D. E.D. July 1, 2024.**

Format of Excavating and Dredging Permit. [Chapter 21](#) (HB 1052) is a technical change bill that requires applicants to submit one paper copy and one digital copy of the form and attachments instead of the previously required four paper copies. **Statute amended: RSA 482-A:3. E.D. July 19, 2024.**

Allowing Elected Conservation Commissions. [Chapter 22](#) (HB 1302) allows municipalities to choose to elect members of conservation commissions. Prior law required that they be appointed. **Statutes amended: RSA 36-A:3; RSA 669:17. E.D. July 19, 2024.**

Rewrite of Manufactured Home Subdivision Statutes. [Chapter 23](#) (HB 1361) rewrites the existing manufactured home subdivision statutes and requires that municipalities allow reasonable and realistic opportunities for the expansion of manufactured housing parks existing as of July 1, 2024. *A NHMA-BEA Guidance Document will be forthcoming. Publication is anticipated the week of September 16.* **Statute amended: RSA 674:32. E.D. July 19, 2024.**

Local Authority to Amend Building Code Changed. [Chapter 40](#) (SB 437) alters local authority to adopt amendments to the state building code by allowing municipalities to adopt additional regulations or amendments provided that such additional amendments are not inconsistent with or less stringent than, nor intended to replace, the requirements of the most recent edition of the state building code adopted under RSA 155-A, or the state fire code adopted under RSA 153, and provided that each amendment submitted to the building code review board or the state fire marshal relates to one article or section of the code. *A NHMA-BEA Guidance Document will be forthcoming. Publication is anticipated the week of September 16.* **Statutes amended: RSA 47:22; RSA 155-A; RSA 674:51. E.D. July 1, 2024.**

State Fire Code Updated. [Chapter 94](#) (SB 599) updates the state fire code from the 2018 editions to the 2021 editions of Life Safety Code, NFPA 101, and the Uniform Fire Code, NFPA 1, and makes several other changes to the state code. **Statute amended: RSA 153:1. E.D. August 13, 2024.**

Appeals of Certain Zoning Decision Abutters Altered. [Chapter 130](#) (HB 1359) adds to the definition of “abutter” and includes abutters in appeals to the board of adjustment. *A NHMA-BEA Guidance Document will be forthcoming. Publication is anticipated the week of September 16.* **Statutes amended: RSA 676:5; RSA 677:2; RSA 672:3. E.D. September 1, 2024.**

State Building Code Statutes Updated. [Chapter 133](#) (HB 1387) makes several changes to the state building code and the operations of the state building code review board. Notably for municipalities, it requires contractors to submit a written certification from a qualified person to both the owner of the public building and the governing body of the municipality, ensuring compliance with accessibility standards and repeals several sections of the RSA related to local amendments to the state building code, including RSA 155-A:2. **Statute amended: RSA chapter 155-A. E.D. September 1, 2024.**

Solid Waste Landfills Are Development of Regional Impact. [Chapter 230](#) (HB 1221) includes solid waste landfills in the definition of development of regional impact and requires notice to be made to all municipalities located within New Hampshire that are: (a) located within any watershed, and (b) located within 10 miles of the boundaries of the proposed landfill. **Statutes amended: RSA 36:55; RSA 36:56. E.D. September 17, 2024.**

Master Plan May Include Chapter on Solid Waste. [Chapter 226](#) (HB 1371) allows town master plans to include a waste reduction section. **Statute amended: RSA 674:2. E.D. September 24, 2024.**

Childcare Zoning Altered. [Chapter 271](#) (HB 1567) alters the home-based childcare statutes to replace the requirement of allowing six full-time preschool aged children and three part-time school aged children at home-based care with a requirement that such care is allowed as an accessory use

by right if all requirements for such programs adopted in rules of the Department of Health and Human Services (He-C 4002) are met. *A NHMA-BEA Guidance Document will be forthcoming. Publication is anticipated the week of September 16.* **Statutes amended: RSA 672:1; 674:16. E.D. September 24, 2024.**

State Building Code Updated. [Chapter 323](#) (HB 1059) updates the state building code to mean the 2021 International Codes, except for the International Energy Conservation Code, and ratifies amendments to the code reviewed and approved by the State Building Code Review Board as of May 10, 2024. **Statute amended: RSA 155-A:1. E.D. July 1, 2024.**

State Driveway Permitting Altered. [Chapter 367](#) (HB 1202) requires that the Department of Transportation issue driveway permits within 60 days of receiving an application for any existing or proposed residential use of land, including multifamily development that is not classified as a major driveway under the department's policy relating to driveways and access to the state highway system. *A NHMA-BEA Guidance Document will be forthcoming. Publication is anticipated the week of September 16.* **Statute amended: RSA 236:13. E.D. October 22, 2024.**

Fire Sprinkler Exception Altered. [Chapter 324](#) (HB 1065) largely duplicates updates to the state building code adopted as part of Chapter 323 to add an exception to the state fire code for fire suppression or sprinkler system requirements for certain existing residential buildings with no more than four dwelling units but goes further by prohibiting municipalities from adopting certain fire suppression device ordinances and regulations. **Statutes amended: RSA 153:5; 674:51. E.D. October 1, 2024.**

Multiple Changes to Local Land Use Authority, Including Local Parking Regulations. [Chapter 370](#) (HB 1400) establishes a tax relief program for office conversion to residences; enables municipalities to allow its governing body to adopt certain zoning ordinance changes; and limits restrictions that municipalities may place on required residential parking spaces. *A NHMA-BEA Guidance Document will be forthcoming. Publication is anticipated the week of September 16.* **Statutes amended: Many. E.D. Various.**

Local Authority

Toll-Free Use with Municipal Plates. [Chapter 18](#) (SB 470) allows toll-free use for vehicles that are registered with municipal plates in New Hampshire. **Statute amended: RSA 237:12. E.D. July 13, 2024.**

Alteration of Childcare Licensee Notices. [Chapter 41](#) (SB 478) removes the requirement that the Department of Health and Human Services give notice to the health officer and fire department of the city or town in which the licensee is located when a license is issued to a child day care agency stating the granting of such license and its terms. **Statute amended: RSA 170-E:10. E.D. July 30, 2024.**

Local Option Records Fee. [Chapter 49](#) (HB 1002) makes several changes to the Right-to-Know Law and establishes parameters for when a public body may charge a fee for records provided under RSA 91-A. *Please see the [NHMA-RTK Guidance Document](#) in the Appendix for more information.* **Statute amended: RSA 91-A:4. E.D. August 13, 2024.**

No Submission of Annual Report to Department of Education. [Chapter 51](#) (HB 1009) eliminates the requirement to submit annual town reports to the Department of Education. **Statute repealed: RSA 198:4-e. E.D. August 13, 2024.**

Background Checks of Health Officers. [Chapter 167](#) (SB 531) eliminates the requirement to submit background checks of health officers to the Department of Health and Human Services. **Statute amended: RSA 128:9. E.D. September 1, 2024.**

Holiday Names Must Follow State Statute. [Chapter 182](#) (HB 1014) requires, among other things, that any municipality that adopts a holiday on a date indicated in RSA 288:1 shall use the appellation for such holiday designated in RSA 288:1 with respect to any official communication, publication, document, or calendars. **Statute created: RSA 31:6-a. E.D. September 10, 2024.**

Procedure to Transfer Ownership of Dams to Municipalities. [Chapter 301](#) (SB 539) outlines a procedure for the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES) to transfer ownership of state-

owned dams, along with associated property, easements, and water rights, to municipalities or other interested parties such as associations of landowners. **Statute amended: RSA 482:51-a. E.D. July 1, 2024.**

Additional Municipal Employees Authorized to Take Fingerprints. [Chapter 366](#) (HB 1197) allows, among other provisions, an authorized employee of a municipality, approved by the commissioner of the department of safety, to take a complete set of fingerprints for the purpose of a criminal records check. Existing law already allows a law enforcement agency to take a complete set of fingerprints for the purpose of a criminal records check. **Statutes amended: RSA 31:102-b; RSA 41:9-b. E.D. June 30, 2025.**

Public Safety

Reestablishing the Commission to Study Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder in First Responders. [Chapter 36](#) (SB 367) reestablishes the commission to study the incidence of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) in first responders and to consider whether PTSD should be covered under workers' compensation. **Statute affected: RSA 281-A:17-e. E.D. May 1, 2024.**

Prohibiting Discharge of Volunteer Firefighters and EMTs from Other Employment. [Chapter 45](#) (HB 182) prohibits an employer from discharging or disciplining an employee who is a volunteer firefighter or emergency medical technician and whose failure to report for work was due to such employee responding to an emergency. **Statute created: RSA 275:41-e. E.D. August 13, 2024.**

Protective Custody Statute Modified. [Chapter 72](#) (HB 1270) repeals contact requirements imposed upon local jails and county correctional facilities before lodging an individual incapacitated by either alcohol or drugs in the local jail or county correctional facility in protective custody. **Statutes repealed: RSA 172:15; RSA 172-B:3. E.D. August 13, 2024.**

Direct Pay to Ambulance Providers. [Chapter 104](#) (HB 1081) requires health insurance providers to directly reimburse ambulance service

providers. **Statutes amended: RSA 415:6-q; RSA 415:18-v. E.D. September 1, 2024.**

Limited Video Monitoring of Covered Bridges Permitted. [Chapter 122](#) (HB 1217) creates an exception to the current prohibition on highway surveillance, allowing the state or a municipality to use video monitoring specifically for the purpose of identifying the cause of damage to historic covered bridges, and creates posting requirements leading to the video recorded area as well as requires deletion of video within seven days, if not needed for prosecution of damage to the bridge. **Statute amended: RSA 236:130. E.D. September 1, 2024.**

Enhanced Penalty for Damaging Covered Bridges. [Chapter 135](#) (HB 1457) creates a special penalty for vehicular damage to covered wooden bridges and driving over covered bridges in vehicles that exceed posted limits. **Statute created: RSA 234:39-a; Statutes amended: RSA 234:41; 266:16; 266:25. E.D. January 1, 2025.**

Reporting on Bias Crimes. [Chapter 147](#) (SB 315) requires a law enforcement agency operating within New Hampshire to report information concerning hate crimes to the department of safety every six months and requires the department of safety to publish the statistical information on its website. **Statutes created: RSA 106-B:14-c, I-a. E.D. September 1, 2024.**

Active and Retired Permanent Firefighters Early Detection Cancer Screening Pilot Program. [Chapter 152](#) (SB 352) establishes a pilot program for comprehensive early detection cancer screening to all permanent firefighters under RSA100-A:1 and appropriates \$5 million to cover the cost of testing and administration. **Statutes Amended: None. E.D. July 1, 2024.**

Warrant Requirements Changed. [Chapter 177](#) (HB 135) creates detailed processes for the execution of search warrants, defines and creates requirements for when law enforcement may obtain and execute “no knock” search warrants, and creates standards for when search warrants may be converted into “no knock” search warrants. **Statute amended: RSA 595-A:2. E.D. September 10, 2024.**

First Responder Definition Expanded. [Chapter 238](#) (HB 1328) expands the definition of first responders to include individuals serving on state and community emergency response teams, medical reserve corps, disaster animal and health professional response teams, and deems all first responders as providing essential services. **Statute amended: RSA 21-P:35. E.D. September 17, 2024.**

Special License Plates for Fire Departments. [Chapter 239](#) (HB 1329) creates special license plates for fire departments. **Statute amended: RSA 261:91. E.D. July 19, 2024.**

Ground Ambulance: Cost Reporting Program and Study. [Chapter 256](#) (SB 407) establishes a statewide ground ambulance cost reporting program and commissions a study by an independent actuarial and accounting expert to analyze the costs of providing ground ambulance services in the state. **Statute amended RSA 256:1. E.D. July 19, 2024.**

Bail System Reformed. [Chapter 317](#) (HB 318) reforms the bail system in New Hampshire by introducing changes to the laws governing the release of defendants pending trial, creates and defines the role of magistrates, and the administration of bail. **Statutes amended: many. E.D. January 1, 2025.**

Radio Systems to be Mapped by Department of Safety. [Chapter 325](#) (HB 1078) directs the department of safety to establish a repository of maps showing radio systems; collect and update maps from various sources, including municipalities; and provide access and guidance to the repository to municipalities and other entities. **Statute created: RSA 21-P:15-d. E.D. October 1, 2024.**

PFAS in Firefighter Equipment Limited. [Chapter 336](#) (HB 1352) regulates the presence of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS chemicals) in firefighter personal protective equipment and uniforms by defining firefighter station wear and eliminating the ability of employers to purchase or require wearing of PFAS containing firefighting station wear beginning January 1, 2025, and requires that preference be given to non-PFAS containing firefighting personal protective equipment. **Statute amended: RSA 154:8-c. E.D. October 1, 2024.**

Ambulance Service Reimbursement for Non-Transport Services Under Medicaid. [Chapter 342](#) (HB 1568) requires the Department of Health and Human Services to submit to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) an amendment to the state Medicaid plan to provide reimbursement for ambulance services when care is provided in response to an emergency call to a member's home or on a scene, when an ambulance is dispatched, and treatment is provided to the patient without the patient being transported to another site, and provides \$500,000 for this purpose. **Statute amended: RSA 126-A:5. E.D. August 2, 2024. (This bill duplicates SB 409.)**

Ambulance Service Reimbursement for Non-Transport Services Under Medicaid. [Chapter 376](#) (SB 409) requires the Department of Health and Human Services to submit to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) an amendment to the state Medicaid plan to provide reimbursement for ambulance services when care is provided in response to an emergency call to a member's home or on a scene, when an ambulance is dispatched, and treatment is provided to the patient without the patient being transported to another site, and provides \$500,000 for this purpose. **Statute amended: RSA 126-A:5. E.D. August 23, 2024. (This bill duplicates HB 1568.)**

Retirement System

Group II Retirement System Benefit for Members Who Retire Due to a Violent Act Injury. [Chapter 202](#) (HB 1559) establishes a new retirement system disability benefit for Group II (Police and Fire) members injured in the line of duty due to a purposeful, violent attack by means of a deadly weapon. Indeterminable costs associated with the benefit will be reflected in future employer contribution rates. **Statutes amended: RSA 100-A:6-a, 100-A:6, 100-A:12, 100-A:52, 100-A:55. E.D. Sections 1-9, July 1, 2024; Section 10, July 12, 2024; Remainder September 10, 2024.**

Group II, Tier B Member Modification to Retirement Annuity Multipliers for Retirement System Benefits. [Chapter 253](#) (HB 1647) increases the benefit multiplier for Group II, Tier B members, hired

on or before July 1, 2011, but not vested prior to January 1, 2012, to 2.5% for all years after the first 15 years of service who retire on or after July 1, 2024. The first 15 years of Group II service will continue to accrue a multiplier of 2.4% to 2.1%, depending on how many years of service the member had on January 1, 2012. The bill includes a \$26 million state appropriation toward the unfunded actuarial accrued liability (UAAL). Beginning in fiscal year FY 2028 costs associated with this change will be reflected in future employer contribution rates.

Statutes amended: RSA 100-A:5, 100-A:6. E.D. June 30, 2024.

Roads & Transportation

Alteration to Agricultural/Industrial Utility Vehicle Registration Form. [Chapter 200](#) (HB 1494) creates, among other things, a form for applicants for an agricultural/industrial utility vehicle registration for a vehicle to be used upon a way to be issued by a local official. **Statute amended: RSA 261:41-a. E.D. January 1, 2025.**

Municipalities May Reduce Certain Speed Limits Seasonally. [Chapter 249](#) (HB 1550) authorizes municipalities, under certain conditions, to set a seasonal speed limit of not less than 20 miles per hour, which does not exceed a maximum duration of 4 months, in any 12-month period, for municipal roads. **Statute amended: RSA 265:63. E.D. July 19, 2024.**

Certified Culvert Maintainer Requirements Clarified. [Chapter 270](#) (HB 1554) clarifies that rather than all certified individuals, just the road agent, highway director, board of selectmen, or certified official of a municipality who supervises certified individuals who perform such work in the municipality shall submit the required quarterly report to the Department of Environmental Services fully identifying work that they performed during each quarter and documentation of continuing education requirements. **Statute amended: RSA 482-A:3. E.D. September 24, 2024.**

10-Year Transportation Improvement Plan Updated. [Chapter 363](#) (HB 2024) amends the State of New Hampshire Ten Year Transportation Improvement Plan for 2025-2034, adding new projects

while removing or adjusting others, increasing funding for certain projects, and reclassifying Continental Boulevard in the town of Merrimack as a class V highway beginning July 1, 2029. **Statutes amended: many. E.D. Majority by January 1, 2025.**

Water & Wastewater

Expanding Eligibility for State Aid Grants. [Chapter 164](#) (SB 492) removes the descriptor “intercepting” from sewers for the purpose of applying for and distributing state aid grants, expanding the eligibility of projects qualifying for state aid grants. This law also raises the fee for wastewater operator certificates and changes the term “consulting engineers” to “consulting engineering firms” for rulemaking purposes. **Statutes amended: RSA 485-A:4; RSA 485-A:7-c; RSA 486:1; RSA 486:3. E.D. July 1, 2024.**

Enabling Certain Wastewater Surcharges. [Chapter 175](#) (SB 589) allows municipal wastewater systems to charge out-of-municipality customers a surcharge that may be up to 15 percent higher than customers within the municipality, except as provided by an intermunicipal agreement. **Statutes amended: RSA 362:4; RSA 149-I:10. E.D. September 1, 2024.**

Funding for Regional Drinking Water Infrastructure. [Chapter 288](#) (SB 393) makes an appropriation to the Department of Environmental Services for the funding of regional drinking water infrastructure as part of the Southern New Hampshire Regional Water Project to increase water supply to multiple municipalities impacted by PFAS contamination and growing water demands. **Statute affected: RSA RSA 485-F. E.D. July 1, 2024.**

NHMA Events Calendar

2024 Final Legislative Bulletin

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