

THE STATE OF LAKE ADVOCACY IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

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NH LAKES 2018 Lakes Congress

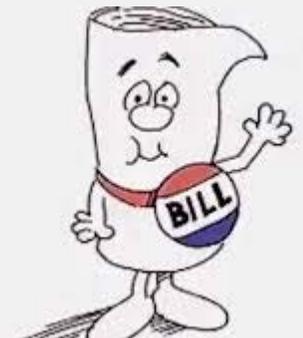


LAKES ADVOCACY IN NEW HAMPSHIRE



We'll discuss:

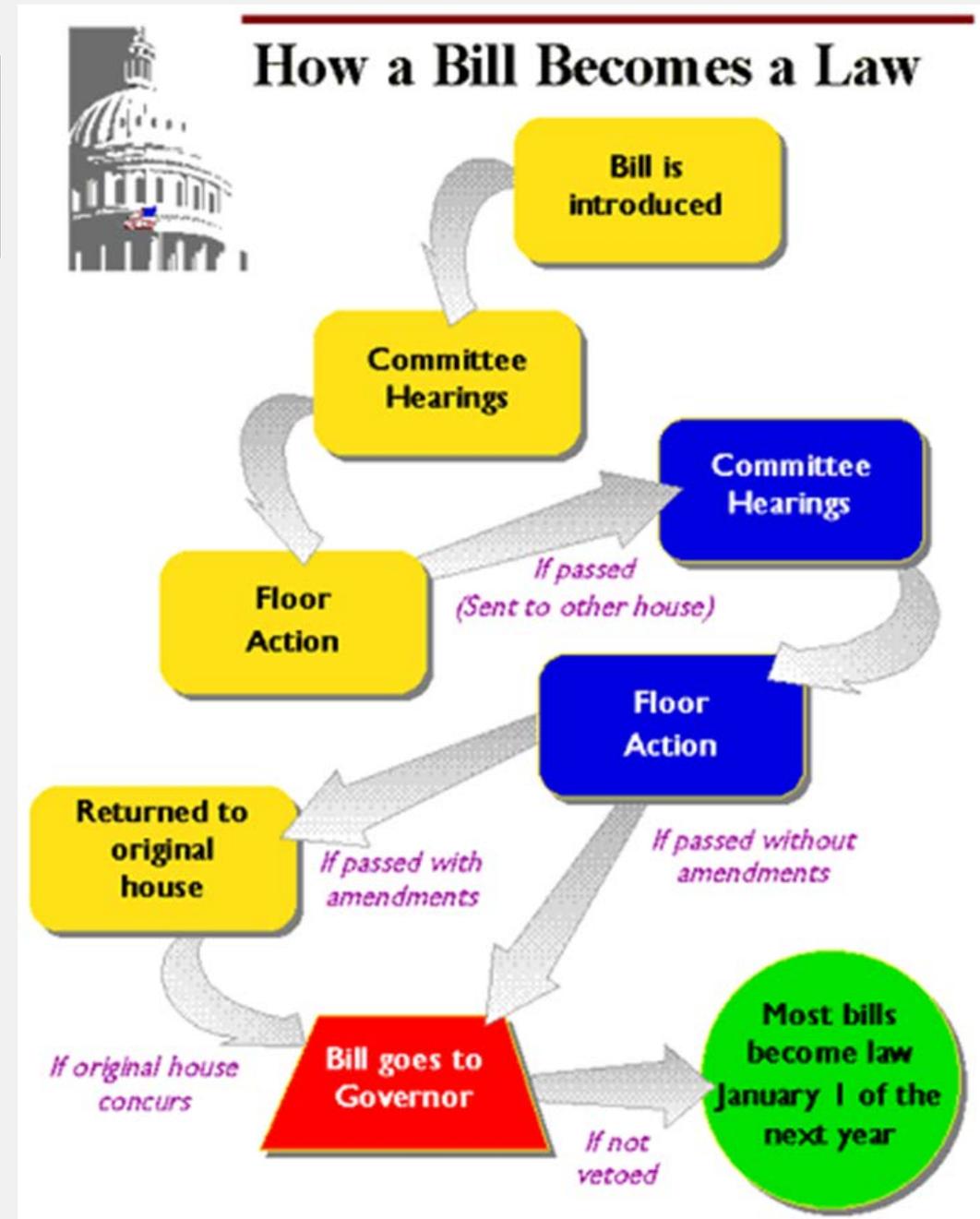
- The state legislative process and how bills are passed into laws
- A 2018 session summary of bills affecting how we use and enjoy our lakes
- NH LAKES is a 501(c)(3) that legally lobbies. We'll talk over how that works.
- The role of NH LAKES at the state house
- How local associations and citizens can get involved in further protecting their lakes



LEGISLATIVE PROCESS 101

Bill introduced:

- By a senator or representative
 - On their or any constituent's behalf
- At the request of a state agency
- Or, with the help of interest groups or non-profits
- Committee Hearings:
 - Opportunity for the public, state agencies, and lobbyists to testify
 - Bill voted on as “ought to pass”, “inexpedient to legislate”, or “interim study”
 - Amendments may be made
- Floor Action (Full House or Senate):
 - Bill voted on by recommendation from committee
 - Amendments may be made
 - Can be “laid on the table” or voted OTP or ITL



2018 SESSION SUMMARY



- HBI745, relative to making appropriations (\$5 to \$10 million) for the costs involved in controlling aquatic invasive species
- Inexpedient to legislate
- We expect to see this bill again in 2019 (a budget year) with an identified funding source

2018 SESSION SUMMARY



- HBI810, relative to establishing a commission to study the effectiveness of current statutes related to the management of non-tidal public water ways and the construction or placement of structures within them.
 - Ought to pass
- SBI 19, relative to the length of docks on a water body and boat slips.
 - Extends docks to 4 feet of water depth to accommodate larger boats and drought conditions



2018 SESSION SUMMARY



- HB 1706, relative to the construction of a Lake Sunapee public boat ramp
 - Wild Goose site in Newbury
 - Inexpedient to Legislate
- HB 1371, relative to repealing certain exemptions from permitting requirements for temporary seasonal docks
 - Delete sections F & G from RSA 482-A:3
 - Amended to reduce setback from 20 to 10 feet for residential permits
 - Interim Study



NON-PROFIT LOBBYING



- Non-profits may engage in some lobbying, but not too much or they risk losing their 501(c)(3) status.
- How much is some lobbying?
 - Non-profits must measure time and money spent on activities related to lobbying
 - Report this value on annual tax forms
 - Max threshold of resources spent lobbying will vary from organization to organization
 - There is a difference between advocacy and lobbying.

NH LAKES is a 501(c)(3) non-profit.
Yes, we maintain our non-profit status and yes we do lobby!

ADVOCACY



LOBBYING

- Nonpartisan analysis and education
- Building relationships with legislators, their staff, and agency officials
- Participating in rulemaking
- Participating in study committees and commissions
- Attending legislative hearings (but not testifying)

- Influence specific legislation (federal, state or local):
 - Bills, acts, resolutions, ballot initiatives, constitutional amendments
- Urge the public or legislators or their staff to support or oppose specific legislation
- Does NOT include:
 - Actions by executive, judicial, or administrative bodies (like rulemaking)

NH LAKES ADVOCACY GOALS



- Help inform our priorities by polling our members and friends
- Preventing and managing the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS)
- Protecting and improving water quality
- Adapting to changes in temperature and regional precipitation patterns to protect lake quality

HOW NH LAKES PARTICIPATES



- We monitor the science and trends regarding lake threats and water quality.
- We provide decision makers with educational information.
- Lobby at the state level:
 - In front of the legislature or governor for the passage of a specific bill
- Lobby at the local level:
 - Working with our local partners to help them to organize and advocate effectively at the local level

NH LAKES AT THE STATE HOUSE



- Build relationships with legislators and their staff
- Provide educational materials to legislators
- Testify on bills that are consistent with our mission
- Participate in commissions, committees and councils
- Develop legislation to protect our lakes
 - Clean and drain
 - Lead fishing tackle & sinker ban



COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS, AND COUNCILS



Water Council

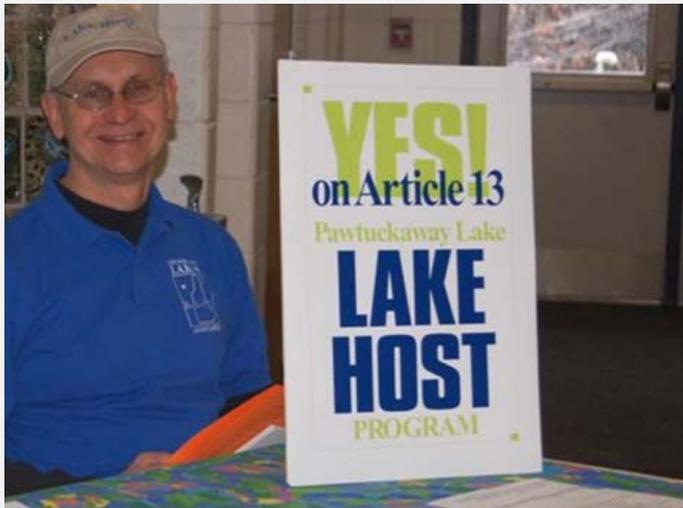
Lakes Management Advisory Committee

Exotic Aquatic Weeds and Species Committee

Water Quality Standards Advisory Committee

Public Water Access Advisory Board

BEYOND THE STATE HOUSE



- Partner with state agencies to execute programs to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species
- Partnership development with other non-profit groups
- Participate in state agency administrative rulemaking
 - NH Dept. of Environmental Services Draft Wetlands Rules
- Assist local partners with achieving their advocacy goals

LOCAL ADVOCACY



- NH LAKES is in the process of expanding our local advocacy services.
- We're creating model ordinances on the following topics:
 - Aquatic invasive species
 - Watershed management
 - Stormwater management
 - Shoreland and wetlands protections
 - Prior notification
 - Septic systems
 - Steep slopes

Want to lead the charge for
establishing a new lake
friendly ordinance in your lake
community?

Contact us!

GET INVOLVED



Making an impact through lobbying on local and state policy is something all non-profit conservation groups should consider.

NH LAKES was formed 26 years ago with this very intent in mind - to influence statewide legislation and policy designed to keep the lakes of New Hampshire clean and healthy.

Today, NH LAKES and its local partners play an essential role influencing legislation and public policy through education and advocacy, which includes lobbying.

QUESTIONS? COMMENTS?

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