



2018 Legislative Review



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The disposition of bills followed by Farm Bureau in the New Hampshire Legislature this year. In **bold print** following each bill number and description is the position taken by Farm Bureau.

by Rob Johnson,
NHFB Policy Director

Bills* Signed into Law

HB 1233, preempting local regulation of seeds and fertilizer. Modeled on and dovetails with the existing pesticide preemption statute (RSA 430:49) by making explicit in law what is already implied by adding the following new section to state law regarding seeds:

433:7-a Preemption of Local Regulation. Administration and enforcement of this subdivision shall be implemented in an equitable manner throughout the state. This subdivision is of statewide concern and occupies the whole field of regulation regarding the display, distribution, growing, cultivation, harvesting, production, labeling, marketing, mixing, notification of use, planting, possession, processing, registration, sale, storage, transportation, or other use; or the inspection, analysis, examination, certification, classification, testing, or licensing of agricultural, flower tree, shrub, or vegetable seeds, or products or sellers of such seeds to the exclusion of all local regulation. Except as otherwise specifically provided in this subdivision, no ordinance or regulation of local government, including but not limited to, an action by a local governmental agency or department, a county board of commissioners or a city council, or a local regulation adopted by the use of an initiative measure, may prohibit or in any way attempt to regulate any matter relating to the display, distribution, growing, cultivation, harvesting, production labeling, marketing, mixing, notification of use, planting, possession, processing, registration, sale, storage, transportation, or other use, or the inspection, analysis, examination, certification, classification, testing, licensing, of agricultural, flower tree, shrub, or vegetable seeds or products or sellers of such seeds and any of those ordinances, laws, or

*Bill Abbreviation Key

HB = House Bill – a bill sponsored by a Representative and originating in the House

SB = Senate Bill – a bill sponsored by a Senator and originating in the Senate

FN = Fiscal Note – means a cost estimate prepared by relevant agencies indicating the bill's fiscal impact is attached.

A = Appropriation – means the bill includes an appropriation of funds.

L = contains information on the bill's impact on municipal revenue.

CACR = Constitutional Amendment Concurrent Resolution – CACRs are proposed changes to the State Constitution. Hearings on are held similar to bills, the difference being the House and Senate must each pass a proposed CACR by a 3/5ths margin of their entire membership. CACRs do not require the Governor's signature, they go directly before the voters for ratification at the next general election. They require a 2/3rds vote to pass

regulations are void and of no force or effect. Nothing in this subdivision shall limit the authority of any political subdivision to adopt and enforce planning, zoning and related regulations under RSA 674, including the authority to require native plantings, and combat invasive species listed in accordance with RSA 430:53 as part of a planning board's site plan review or subdivision authority or as a condition of a zoning board of adjustment's granting of a variance or special exception.

Also adds a sentence (in **bold italics**) to existing law regarding fertilizers to ensure no local authority may dictate fertilizer use by type (inorganic vs. organic) as follows:

431:4-d Preemption of Local Regulation. Except as otherwise specifically provided in this subdivision, no ordinance or regulation of local government, including but not limited to, an action by a local governmental agency or department, a county board of commissioners or a city council, or a local regulation adopted by the use of an initiative measure, may prohibit or in any way attempt to regulate any matter relating to the registration, sale, formulation, or transportation of fertilizer. **Additionally, no local regulation shall regulate the type of fertilizer when used for agricultural purposes as defined by RSA 21:34-a**

Effective 8/7/18, Chapter Law 169. **The bill was filed at the request of the Department of Agriculture and Farm Bureau.** To alleviate concerns of municipal and environmental interests we worked on the language with the Department of Environmental Services, Municipal Association, and Nature Conservancy. **Supported**

HB 1238, (New Title) relative to animal cruelty involving an equine colt. Repeals antiquated statute, RSA 105:14-18 relative to the authority of Sheriffs, Constables, and Police Officers regarding animals and animal cruelty. Also repeals RSA 435:5 titled "Colts Less Than 90 Days Old" in the Animal Care statute (RSA 435) and moves the relevant language concerning the care of equine colts to the animal cruelty statute, RSA 644:8 by amending III(e)-(f) by adding the language in **bold italics** as follows:

(e) Negligently abandons any animal previously in his *or her* possession or custody by causing such animal to be left without supervision or adequate provision for its care, sustenance, or shelter; [or]

(f) *Has in his or her possession an equine colt that is less than 90 days old that is not being nursed by its dam, unless the colt was born in this state, and its dam has died within this state before the colt became 90 days old;*

(g) *Sells an equine colt that is less than 90 days old that is not being nursed by its dam; or*

(h) Otherwise negligently permits or causes any animal in his or her possession or custody to be subjected to cruelty, inhumane treatment, or unnecessary suffering of any kind.

Effective 1/1/19, Chapter Law 170. **Supported repeal of RSA 105:14-18**

HB 1289, (New Title) relative to trespassing domestic fowl. Adds domestic fowl to the existing Trespassing Stock statute and specifies enforcement provisions as follows:

635:3 Trespassing Stock or Domestic Fowl. If any person having the charge or custody of any sheep, goats, cattle, horses, [or] swine, *or domestic fowl* shall knowingly, recklessly, or negligently suffer or permit the same to enter upon, pass over, or remain upon any improved or enclosed land of another without written permission of the owner, occupant, or his *or her* agent, and thereby injures [his] *the owner's* crops[,] or property, [he] *the person* shall be guilty of a violation. *Complaints shall be made to law enforcement officials or local animal control officers who shall enforce the provisions of this section*

Effective 7/24/18, Chapter Law 60. **Supported.**

HB 1331, relative to incidental uses for agricultural plates. Passed with the goal of making clarifications to the statutes governing Agricultural Plates (RSA 261:82, IV) and Farm Plates (RSA 261:84, II) as follows:

261:82, IV. This section shall be construed as authorizing the holder of agricultural plates, *or a driver authorized by the holder*, to operate the vehicle while it is empty so long as it is being used generally to accomplish the purposes allowed in this section, and to transport within such vehicle incidental personal property such as food, tools, and clothing. *The holder or authorized driver may operate the vehicle for purposes that are incidental to the purposes in paragraph I, including, but not limited to, stops at a school or place of business during travel authorized by paragraph I.* (See paragraph I below)

I. A truck, truck-tractor, tractor, or cargo van shall qualify for agricultural registration rates and number plates and shall be driven with such registration only within a 20 mile radius from the main entrance to the farm upon which said vehicle is driven, and may be used for the following purposes:

(a) Transportation of agricultural products for delivery to storage or to market or to carriers for transportation to market.

(b) Non-commercial hauling of firewood harvested on the farm.

(c) Hauling animals, hay, fertilizer, feed, livestock, poultry, agricultural supplies, farm workers or other supplies or farm

products in connection with the registrant's farming operation.

(d) Hauling household rubbish or garbage from the farm to a disposal site.

(e) Hauling or towing implements of husbandry.

RSA 261:84, II. This section shall be construed as authorizing the holder of farm plates *or a driver authorized by the holder* to operate the vehicle while it is empty so long as it is being used generally to accomplish the purposes allowed in this section, and to transport within such vehicle incidental personal property such as food, tools, and clothing

Effective 7/24/18, Chapter Law 62

HB 1349, relative to biological products and diagnostic reagents for animal use. State law requires certification of licensure by the USDA before biological products and animal reagents can be approved for use in the state. In recent years the state Department of Agriculture has received requests for use of some of these products for which the USDA does not require licensure. Allows the Department to approve the use of such products, provided the requests for use are accompanied by a letter from the USDA stating the exemption in lieu of licensure. The bill was a request of the State Veterinarian. Effective 7/14/18, Chapter Law 33. **Supported**

HB 1402, relative to ordinances regarding forestry activities. Requires municipalities minimize adverse effects to forestry activities when adopting ordinances and prohibits municipalities from adopting ordinances targeting forestry operations by adding two new sections to law as follows:

47:17-a Ordinances Affecting Forestry Activities.

I. In this section, "forestry activities" means developing, caring for, or cultivating forests; timber harvesting; silviculture; and customary management and supporting activities

II. Before enacting any ordinance, bylaw, rule, or other regulatory provision that is likely to affect forestry activities, a municipality shall consider the possible adverse effects on forestry activities and take any steps that are reasonably available to minimize such effects.

III. No municipality shall enact any ordinance, bylaw, rule, or other regulatory provision that applies only to forestry activities which adversely affects such activities. Nothing in this paragraph shall limit a municipality's authority to regulate forestry activities under duly adopted land use ordinances and regulations, subject to the protections of RSA 672:1, III-c, RSA 674:1, VI, and RSA 674:32-a through 674:32-d.

The bill was a request of the NH Timberland Owners Association. Effective 6/8/18, Chapter Law 179. **Supported**

HB 1407, repealing the prohibition on the use of milk containers. Removes arcane law on the books since 1907 by repealing RSA 184:30-d - Use of Milk Containers which stated, "No milk or milk product containers shall be used as a receptacle for any substance other than dairy products." Effective 7/24/18, Chapter Law 70.

HB 1473-FN, relative to the timber yield tax. Requires public notice be posted when an Intent to Cut is received by a municipality, shortens the review period officials have before they must act on an Intent to Cut from 30 days to 15 days, clarifies officials may sign an Intent to Cut notice outside of a public meeting, and removes the requirement for a supplemental notice to cut be filed when the total volume of a cut exceeds the total volume initially reported by less than 25%. Also permits municipalities to waive the yield tax on timber harvested on land (in the municipality) owned by the municipality. Effective 9/1/18, Chapter Law 182.

HB 1808, repealing certain inactive dedicated funds. Since 2015 the Joint Committee on Dedicated funds has existed. Each year the committee reviews dedicated funds in a handful of state agencies to determine whether or not they are active and useful and makes recommendations for repeal of those they find are not. In **HB 1808** as introduced the Committee recommended repeal of the Historic Agricultural Structure Matching Grants Program, Barn Preservation Fund (RSA 227-C:28) initially established in 1999. **The repeal of the fund was removed upon objections by the Historic Agricultural Structures Advisory Committee (on which Farm Bureau is represented) and Farm Bureau.** It does repeal the Special Account for Agricultural Development Rights contained in RSA 432:30, established to hold funds “appropriated or acquired to provide financial and technical assistance associated with agricultural restricted covenants or to fund the acquisition of development rights” associated with the Department of Agriculture’s Agricultural Development Rights program that is in statute - RSA 432:18-31-a. Effective 7/1/18, Chapter Law 204.

SB 349, relative to course requirements in a career and technical education program. State law (RSA 186:8, VIII) requires a minimum of 4 courses in mathematics for high school graduation or 3 mathematics courses and one non-mathematics content area course “in which mathematics knowledge and skills are embedded and applied, as may be approved by the school board.” This legislation adds language to the law specifying “including, but not limited to, a CTE program under RSA 188-E” as an acceptable non-mathematical content area course students may take to fulfill their high school mathematics requirement. Effective 7/24/18, Chapter Law 108. **Supported**

SB 444, relative to cutting timber near certain waters and public highways. Removes the basal area tree cutting restrictions adjacent to Class IV highways contained in RSA 227-J:9 by adding the language in **bold italics** print as follows:

227-J:9 Cutting of Timber Near Certain Waters and Public Highways of the State; Penalty. -

I. Within a 12-month period, no more than 50 percent of the basal area of trees shall be cut or otherwise felled, leaving a well distributed stand of healthy, growing trees:

(a) Within 150 feet of:

- (1) Any great pond;
- (2) Any standing body of water 10 acres or more in area;
- (3) Any fourth order or higher stream; or
- (4) Any public highway, **except class VI highways, as defined in RSA 229:5, VII;** or

(b) Within 50 feet of:

- (1) Any stream, river, or brook not included in subparagraph (a)

- (3) which normally flows throughout the year; or
- (2) Any standing body of water less than 10 acres in area associated with a stream, river, or brook which normally flows throughout the year.

This paragraph shall not apply if the person who pushes over, cuts, saws, or operates upon, or causes to be pushed, cut, sawed, or operated upon, any trees described in subparagraphs (a) or (b), obtains the prior written consent of the director, or of the director’s agents in accordance with paragraph V.

Note: the 50 percent limitation shall be based on “each 200 linear feet or fraction thereof of frontage”. For complete RSA see also II – VII.

This bill was filed at the request of the NH Timberland Owners Association. Effective 1/1/19, Chapter Law 173. **Supported**

SB 412, relative to agritourism. Adds language (in **bold italics** below) to RSA 674:32-b, II relative to Agricultural Uses of Land making it clear municipalities are prohibited from adopting any ordinance, bylaw, definition, or policy regarding agritourism that conflicts with state statute as follows:

II. Any new establishment, re-establishment after abandonment, or significant expansion of a farm stand, retail operation, or other use involving on-site transactions with the public, including agritourism as defined in RSA 21:34-a, may be made subject to applicable special exception, building permit, or other local land use board approval and may be regulated to prevent traffic and parking from adversely impacting adjacent property, streets and sidewalks, or public safety. **No municipality shall adopt an ordinance, bylaw, definition, or policy regarding agritourism activities that conflicts with the definition of agritourism in RSA 21:34-a**

In addition, provides authority for the Commissioner of Agriculture, Markets, and Food to issue a declaratory ruling on whether agriculture activities constitute agritourism by adding a new paragraph under the duties of the Commissioner in RSA 425:4 as follows:

IX. *Adjudicate disputes concerning activities that constitute agritourism pursuant to RSA 21:34-a. Prior to a party filing a land use application with a municipality, or after such land use application is denied, an applicant may petition the commissioner for a declaratory ruling regarding whether or not a municipality’s ordinance, bylaw, definition, or policy regarding agritourism activities conflicts with RSA 21:34-a. The commissioner’s jurisdiction shall be limited to the question of whether or not a municipality’s ordinance, bylaw, definition, or policy on agritourism conflicts with RSA 21:34-a. The commissioner, or the commissioner’s authorized representative, shall notify the parties, hold a hearing within 30 days of such request, and shall issue a declaratory ruling within 15 days of the hearing. The commissioner’s declaratory ruling shall be dispositive, including in future land use applications with a municipality where such ordinance, bylaw, definition, or policy is at issue. A party aggrieved by the declaratory ruling may petition the commissioner for reconsideration within 20 days of the declaratory ruling, and thereafter, within 30 days of the decision on reconsideration, may appeal such decision to the New Hampshire supreme court. If the applicant petitions the commissioner for a declaratory*

ruling, all municipal appeal processes, including those defined in RSA 677:2 shall be stayed. The 30 day time period in which to request a rehearing shall begin on the next calendar day after the commissioner issues the declarative ruling, or after any appeal of the declarative ruling is complete. The commissioner shall adopt rules pursuant to RSA 541-A relative to the declaratory ruling process, including, but not limited to, an allowance for timely intervention of an aggrieved party. A municipality shall furnish the commissioner with a copy of any non-confidential appeal decision on any land use application involving whether or not a municipality's definition or policy on agritourism conflicts with RSA 21:34-a.

Effective 7/15/18, Chapter Law 56. **Supported**

SB 435, relative to alternative programs for granting credit leading to graduation. Requires the state Board of Education to adopt rules for approving alternative programs for granting credits leading to graduation, the goal being develop instructional partnerships with businesses and other entities to provide students greater opportunities to gain the science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) skills needed in the 21st Century. Effective 8/7/18, Chapter Law 224. **Support**

SB 491, (New Title) transferring responsibilities for produce safety from the department of health and human services to the department of agriculture, markets and food. New RSA 426 implements the Produce Safety Standards portion of the Food Safety Modernization Act in NH (subject to continued federal funding) and transfers all authority and resources for the program from the Department of Health and Human Services to the Department of Agriculture Markets and Food. Also makes updates to the dairy sanitation and inspection statute (RSA 184) based on recommendations contained in a 2016 audit conducted by the office of the Legislative Budget Assistant and subsequently reviewed by the House Environment and Agriculture Committee. The updates included in the bill had the support of the Department of Agriculture. Effective 6/25/18, Chapter Law 323. **Supported**

SB 500, amending references to firearms terminology. Includes language amending general provisions in Fish and Game statute, RSA 207:7 Hunting From Motor Vehicle, OHRV, Snowmobile, Boat, or Aircraft, II relative to protecting livestock and crops by adding language in **bold italics** as follows:

II. No person shall have or carry, in or on a motor vehicle, OHRV, snowmobile, or aircraft, [whether] **when** moving [or stationary], a cocked crossbow, a loaded rifle or loaded shotgun, [or a rifle or shotgun with a cartridge in a magazine or clip attached to the gun] **muzzleloader, or air rifle, except a person or a person's agent while in the act of protecting his or her interest in their livestock or crops. Except when crossing or traveling on a public way, such person or the person's agent may carry a loaded rifle or shotgun, muzzleloader, or air rifle while traveling through or between farming or agricultural areas while in the course of protecting his or her interest in their livestock or crops**

Effective 8/24/18, Chapter Law 324. **Supported**

SB 577, (Second New Title) requiring the public utilities commission to revise its order affecting the Burgess BioPower plant in Berlin, prohibiting the import of certain liquid fuels, and relative to the production of useful thermal energy. Effective 7/1/18 & 8/27/18, Chapter Law 340. **Support**

Bills Found

Inexpedient-to-Legislate or Otherwise Defeated

CACR* 17, relating to initiative and referendum powers. Providing that initiative and referendum powers shall be reserved to the people of the state. **Opposed**

CACR 19, relating to right to govern. Providing that the people of the state may enact local laws that protect health, safety and welfare. **Opposed**

HB 1210, establishing a committee to study the effect of current use taxation on small and rural municipalities. (Tabled)

Note: there was also an attempt in the Senate to amend **SB 405**, enabling municipalities to adopt a separate exemption against the statewide property tax for certain long-term residents by replacing in its entirety the language contained in **HB 1210**. **SB 405** was also Tabled.

HB 1412-FN, relative to cruelty to non-captive wildlife. Addresses cruelty to wild animals in RSA 644:8 Cruelty to Animals which currently deals solely with domestic animals, household pets and wild animals in captivity. (Tabled) **Opposed** – Farm Bureau believes cruelty to wild animals should continue to be addressed solely through the Fish and Game statutes.

HB 1463, relative to requirements for noise ordinances in towns. Limiting the authority of towns to enact bylaws regulating noise by requiring its ordinance meet four criteria. (1) Decibel levels be specified, (2) decibel levels may vary by time of day, (3) noise must be measured by someone qualified to use a decibel meter, and (4) law enforcement only as the result of a complaint.

HB 1470-FN, repealing the timber tax. In 1942 the NH Constitution was amended with the following language: "For the purpose of encouraging conservation of the forest resources of the state, the general court may provide for special assessments, rates and taxes on growing wood and timber." This amendment set up passage in 1949 of the statute establishing a Normal Yield Tax on timber stumpage values (today's rate is 10%) assessed at the time of cutting. Prior to the passage of this law standing timber (as real estate) was assessed and taxed annually. This caused people to cut their timber in order to reduce their tax burden. **Oppose**

HB 1498, relative to alternate certification pathways for career and technical education instructors.

Permits local school boards to offer a certificate of eligibility to a person interested in becoming a career and technical educator in an identified specialty area. Voted ITL by the Senate because legislation was found unnecessary. The NH Department of Education already has the ability under its teacher certification authority and has initiated the process of writing proposed rules enabling alternate certification pathways for career and technical education instructors. **Supported**

HB 1585, requiring conservation commissions to keep a natural resource inventory. As the statute (RSA 36-A) is already being

interpreted to enable the keeping of a natural resource inventory the by conservation commission, the bill was found unnecessary.

Monitored

HB 1591, *relative to a private right of action for toxin exposure.* Establishing a private right of action for equitable or declaratory relief for violation of any solid waste (RSA 147-A) or hazardous waste (RSA 148-A) permit, regulation, condition, requirement, prohibition, or order. The definition of solid waste in RSA 147-A, XXII includes “solid, liquid, semisolid or contained gaseous material resulting from industrial, commercial, mining, and agricultural operations, and from community activities. Also sought to establish a private right of action for medical monitoring damages and strict liability for the release of toxic substances. Defined “toxic substance” as “any substance identified as toxic or hazardous under state or federal law, or mixture thereof, or any other substance that has been shown at any time to cause increased risk of disease.”

Opposed

HB 1669-FN, *relative to commerce in food in New Hampshire.* Exempting foodstuffs grown or produced in NH from federal regulation so long as it is labeled “Made in New Hampshire.” Includes language providing penalties to federal officials who attempt to enforce federal regulations in NH. **Opposed**

HB 1712-FN, *relative to New Hampshire local liquor manufacturers.* Creating a unique new license for manufacturers of liquor in New Hampshire. Required a minimum of 45% of raw material (exclusive of water & yeast) be produced in state, licensees certify expected sales of no more than 20,000, 9-liter cases or equivalent annually, and all liquor sold by licensees in NH be solely under this license.

Supported

HB 1723-FN, *relative to the reckless beating of animals.* Changing the intent required to be charged with a felony from “purposely” to “recklessly” in certain animal cruelty cases and making it a felony if certain negligent acts of animal cruelty cause the death of an animal

Opposed

HB 1797-FN-A, *adding a 50 percent charge to all amounts assessed to persons liable for costs of containment, cleanup, and remediation of water, air and soil pollution.* **Oppose**

SB 361, *relative to dual and concurrent enrollment agreements between high schools and colleges and universities.* Extending the dual and concurrent enrollment program currently existing between high schools and the community college system in RSA 188-E governing Regional and Career Technical Education in the state to the University System of New Hampshire. In addition requiring the NH Department of Education and University System to develop a model agreement to be used by participating school districts.

Supported

SB 401, *relative to repair of roads not maintained by a municipality.* Requiring an owner of land that abuts a road that is not maintained by a municipality to repair and maintain his or her share of such road. (This bill was passed by the Senate but the House refused to consider it as it had already taken up **HB 181** – substantially the same legislation – and found it Inexpedient to Legislature in 2017 in the first year of the session. Similar legislation (**HB 1578**) was also introduced in 2016 and found ITL. **Opposed**

SB 569-FN, *(Second New Title) relative to animal cruelty and*

establishing a commission to study cost of care for confiscated animals. Making changes to the statute (RSA 437) governing commercial breeding kennels & pet vendors and establishing a commission to study the cost of care for confiscated animals and inspections related to pet vendors. Language contained in the Senate passed version of **SB569-FN** requiring individuals to post a bond – prior to a conviction - for the care of animals seized as part of a cruelty investigation was removed from this version which passed the House. (Conference Committee unable to agree.) **Opposed Senate passed version, Supported House passed version**

Bills Vetoed by the Governor - Legislative Action Pending

SB 365, *(Second New Title) relative to the use of renewable generation to provide fuel diversity.* Supports the state’s biomass (wood-fired) power industry and the markets it provides to the state’s forest economy by modifying existing power sale contracts and creating new contracts between the wood-fired power plants and Eversource. The goal of modifying the contracts is to provide short-term certainty in the wholesale power markets - currently quite volatile - while the Governor’s Office of Strategic Initiatives completes an assessment of the state’s biomass industry mandated in last year’s state budget bill (**HB 517**). **Support**

SB 446, *relative to net energy metering limits for customer-generators.* Increases the allowable size of customer generators of power to self-generate (net meter) from one to five megawatts and sets sale and purchase pricing to help avoid cost shifting, the goal being to make it economical and therefore possible for municipalities and businesses to generate their own power and become more energy independent. **Support**

Bills Held in Interim Study

HB 486, *relative to the protection of wetlands.* (House Resources, Recreation and Development)

HB 1320, *establishing a committee to study crop theft.* (House Environment and Agriculture)

HB 1343, *relative to the protection of beaver.* (House Fish and Game and Marine Resources)

HB 1385, *establishing a committee to study animal welfare in New Hampshire.* (House Environment and Agriculture)

HB 1388-FN, *relative to testing for Lyme disease.* (House Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs)

HB 1733-FN, *relative to digital electronic product repair.* (House Commerce and Consumer Affairs)

HB 1762-FN, *relative to documentation requirements for the department of labor.* (House Labor, Industrial, and Rehabilitative Services)

HB 1763-FN-A, *establishing a road usage fee and making an appropriation therefor.* (Senate Transportation)

SB 240-FN-L, *(New Title) relative to the monitoring and treatment of contaminated wells.* (House Resources, Recreation and Development)

SB 475, relative to testing for Lyme disease. (House Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs)

SB 338, relative to the growing of cannabis if it becomes legal. (Senate Judiciary)

(We will have more on these study bills in future issues of *The Communicator & Friday Review*)

You can contact NHFB Policy Director Rob Johnson if you have questions by phoning him at 312-6877 or through email at robj@nhfarmbureau.org. You can also stay abreast of what is happening in the NH Legislature affecting agriculture and landowners by subscribing to the NHFB's Friday Review, a public affairs review for farm, forest, and rural interest published weekly during the legislative session.