

GSNH Legislative Tracking – 2014

(January Update)

Update From the Maine Geological Society - Proposal to Discontinue Licensing of Geologists in Maine

As previously reported, Maine's Office of Policy and Management made Findings and Recommendations in Part F of the Biennial Budget identifying four licensing programs currently operating within the Department's Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation, for discontinuation. One of those programs is the Board of Certification of Geologists and Soil Scientists. "OPM and the Department can discern no need to continue regulating this profession. The Department receives no inquiries from the public about licensees or the program itself. Although the administrative complaint process is available to the public, consumers have had no need to use the complaint process. OPM and the Department recommend discontinuation of the licensing program for geologists and soil scientists without jeopardy to public safety"

Keith Taylor, President of the Maine Geological Society, testified on this matter on 01/17/2014. About six people including Keith testified. There was only one legislator who was somewhat supportive of the CG Board elimination, and his contention was maybe the AIPG certification would be enough. Keith and others pointed out that AIPG has no ethics or enforcement capacity as does a State board. A member of the Appropriations Committee has since said it is very unlikely that the provision will be kept in the proposed state budget.

Pending Legislation

Thanks to Tom Shevenell for spotting this legislative mischief coming from Rep. George Lambert(R) of Litchfield!

HB1569 – FN Permitting licensing requirements to be waived by buyers and sellers. A buyer and seller of services may voluntarily and knowingly waive any state licensing or certification requirement for a profession or trade, provided that the seller does not hold himself or herself out as licensed or certified to provide the service, the seller does not primarily engage in the business of providing the service, and the buyer waives any recourse or remedy against the seller for the service. If the buyer knowingly waived the licensing or certification requirement, the state shall not enforce any criminal penalty or violation against the seller for unauthorized practice of the trade or profession. Sponsor George Lambert (R) Litchfield. Hearing 1/28/2014 LOB 306.

HB 1340 Exempting septic systems from certain requirements where there are grouted wells
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HB 1100 Establishing a committee to study the ownership by public entities of land for conservation purposes. Prime sponsor: Franklin Bishop. Introduced 1/8/2014 and Referred to Resources, Recreation and Development

HB 1254 Establishing a committee to study and propose a recodification of certain environment-related statutes. Prime sponsor: Daniel Itse. Introduced 1/8/2014 and Referred to Resources, Recreation and Development

HB 1258 Relative to fill and dredge permitting applications. This bill modifies the process of submitting dredge and fill applications and providing notification. Prime sponsor: Shannon Chandley. Introduced 1/8/2014 and Referred to Resources, Recreation and Development

HB 1271 Establishing a committee to study the powers and duties of conservation commissions. Prime sponsor: Shawn Jasper. Introduced 1/8/2014 and Referred to Resources, Recreation and Development

HB 1383 Relative to municipal monitoring of large groundwater withdrawals. Prime sponsor: Karen Umberger. Introduced 1/8/2014 and Referred to Resources, Recreation and Development

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[HB 1467](#) Relative to large groundwater withdrawal permits. This bill requires the department of environmental services to terminate certain large groundwater withdrawal permits when required local building permits become null and void. Prime sponsor: Maureen Mann. Introduced 1/8/2014 and Referred to Resources, Recreation and Development

[HB 1573](#) Discontinuing regional planning commissions and requiring the election of municipal planning board members. This bill eliminates regional planning commissions. This bill also requires that the majority of municipal planning board members be elected. The Office of Energy and Planning, Department of Environmental Services, New Hampshire Municipal Association, and New Hampshire Association of Counties state this bill, as introduced, will increase state general fund expenditures by \$87,770 in FY 2015, \$95,798 in FY 2016, \$105,032 in FY 2017, and \$114,765, and have an indeterminable impact on local expenditures in FY 2015 and each year thereafter. Prime sponsor: Jane Cormier. Introduced 1/8/2014 and Referred to Municipal and County Government. Public Hearing: 1/16/2014 1:00 PM LOB 301-303

[SB 267](#) Extending the effective date for integrated land development permits to 2017 from 2015. Prime sponsor: Bob Odell. Introduced 1/8/2014 and Referred to Energy and Natural Resources

2014-S-2686-R Establishing a committee to study the current status of land conservation in New Hampshire and the state's role in encouraging the voluntary protection of land in the future. Prime sponsor: Martha Fuller Clark

[HB 1229](#) Relative to the oil discharge and gasoline ether cleanup fund. Prime sponsor: Leigh Webb. Introduced 1/8/2014 and Referred to Resources, Recreation and Development. Public Hearing: 1/14/2014 11:00 AM LOB 305. Executive Session: 1/21/2014 1:30 PM LOB 305

[HB 1305](#) Relative to the definition of asbestos abatement. Prime sponsor: Dan McGuire. Introduced 1/8/2014 and Referred to Environment and Agriculture. Public Hearing: 1/14/2014 11:00 AM LOB 303

[HB 1532](#) Relative to notification of radon level prior to sale or lease of property. Prime sponsor Susan Almy. Introduced 1/8/2014 and Referred to Commerce and Consumer Affairs

[HB 1376](#) Requiring the department of environmental services to examine the potential harm to the public and the environment of New Hampshire from the transportation of bituminous tar sands through Coos county by the Portland-Montreal pipeline.