

**Geological Society of New Hampshire
Legislative Committee Report by Thomas Fargo
March 2017**

Below are listed 2017 Bills before the NH General Court of potential interest to geologists. HB = House Bill; SB=Senate Bill; Hypertext links will open text of each bill. ITL means that the bill has been "killed"

Of particular note are HB-485 and HB-463 which are related to drinking-water impacted by perfluorochemicals, PFOA and PFOS. The prime sponsor of HB-485 is Representative Mindi Messmer, NH Professional Geologist from Rye. HB-591, which would prohibit the use of suction dredging for the purposes of recreational prospecting, was approved by the House but is likely to be killed by the Senate.

Bill Number	Title	Description	Bill Status – March 22, 2017
HB-77	AN ACT relative to dam fees for nonprofit organizations	This bill allows the department of environmental services to waive certain dam fees for nonprofit organizations.	Voted Inexpedient to Legislate (ITL) by full House 02/09/2017
HB-119	AN ACT making appropriations to the department of environmental services for the purpose of funding eligible drinking water and wastewater projects under the state aid grant program.	This bill makes appropriations to the department of environmental services for funding specific water and wastewater projects.	Voted Inexpedient to Legislate (ITL) by full House 02/02/2017
HB-101	AN ACT relative to certification for solid waste operators.	This bill lengthens the time a solid waste operator certificate is valid from one year to 3 years. This bill also exempts volunteer solid waste operators from the certification requirement.	Retained in House Executive Departments and Administrative Committee 03/15/2017
HB-145	AN ACT requiring municipal approval for siting high voltage transmission lines.	This bill prohibits high voltage transmission lines from being located in any municipality without a vote of approval by the municipality.	Voted Inexpedient to Legislate (ITL) by full House 02/09/2017
HB-146	AN ACT relative to the definition of energy cost saving measure and relative to energy performance contracting.	This bill expands the definition of "energy cost saving measure" to include utility cost savings. This bill also requires an energy performance contract to include a guarantee of utility cost savings over the term of the contract. This bill was requested by the department of environmental services.	Voted Inexpedient to Legislate (ITL) by full House 02/02/2017

HB-114	AN ACT relative to minimum electric renewable portfolio standards.	This bill reduces the percentage of total megawatt-hours of electricity from class I sources to be supplied by each producer to its customers in 2025 and thereafter under the minimum electric renewable portfolio standards.	Retained in House Science Technology and Energy Committee 02/15/2017
HB-485	AN ACT relative to standards for emerging contaminants in drinking water	This bill requires the department of environmental services to use exposure scenarios in children and other vulnerable populations to determine ambient groundwater quality standards.	Retained in House Finance Committee 03/16/2017
HB-173	AN ACT relative to regulations restricting the use of water for outdoor usage.	This bill extends the authority of selectmen to restrict outdoor water usage. Note: includes public water systems and private wells.	Recommended as Ought to Pass with Amendment to full House by Municipal and County Government Committee 03/23/2017
HB-376	AN ACT relative to the disturbance of sediments in estuarine waters	This bill requires the commissioner of the department of environmental services to adopt rules relative to requiring persons undertaking major projects which will dredge estuarine waters to make certain reports	Voted Inexpedient to Legislate (ITL) by full House 03/09/2017
HB-230 and HB-585	AN ACT relative to the referendum procedure for public water systems. and: AN ACT abolishing fluoridation in water	These bills: (1) changes the referendum procedure for public water systems; and (2) prohibits the introduction of fluoride into the drinking water of the state.	HB-230: Voted Inexpedient to Legislate (ITL) by full House 02/15/2017 HB-585: Voted to Table by full House 03/09/2017
HB-431	AN ACT establishing a commission to study long term goals and requirements for drinking water in the seacoast area.	This bill establishes a commission to study long term goals and requirements for drinking water in the seacoast area.	Approved by full House with Amendment. Referred to Senate 03/09/2017
HB-463	AN ACT regulating groundwater pollution caused by polluting emissions in the air.	This bill: (1) Allows the department of environmental services to make rules regarding air pollution and the deposit of such pollutants on soils and water. (2) Regulates devices emitting or having the potential to emit air	Recommended as Ought to Pass with Amendment to full House by Science Technology and Energy Committee 03/23/2017

		pollutants that may harm soil and water through the deposit of such pollutants. This bill is a request of the department of environmental services.	
HB-507	AN ACT establishing a committee to study the responsibility of a person who through their pollution makes drinking water non-potable.	This bill establishes a committee to study the responsibility of a person who through their pollution makes drinking water non-potable.	Approved by full House. Referred to Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee 02/16/2017
HB-591	AN ACT relative to suction dredging in the surface waters of the state.	This bill defines recreational prospecting and also prohibits the use of suction dredging for the purposes of recreational prospecting	Approved by full House with Amendment 02/15/2017. Referred to Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee 02/16/2017. Committed report: Inexpedient to Legislate.
SB-57	AN ACT making appropriations to the department of environmental services for the purposes of funding eligible drinking water and wastewater projects under the state aid grant program.	This bill makes appropriations to the department of environmental services for the purposes of funding eligible drinking water and wastewater projects under the state aid grant program.	Approved by full Senate and Laid on Table 03/09/2017. (Note: Likely to be taken up when level of funding is determined.)
SB-117	AN ACT making an appropriation for stormwater management and flood resilience grants.	The bill makes an appropriation to the department of environmental services for stormwater management and flood resilience grants.	Approved by full Senate and Laid on Table 03/09/2017. (Note: Likely to be taken up when level of funding is determined.)
SB-118	AN ACT defining pervious surfaces in the shoreland water quality protection act.	This bill defines pervious surfaces under the shoreland water quality protection act.	Approved by full Senate with Amendment. Referred to House Resources, Recreation and Development Committee 02/16/2017
SB-186	AN ACT establishing a committee to study the tax characterization of stormwater utility fees.	This bill establishes a committee to study the tax characterization of stormwater utility fees.	Voted Inexpedient to Legislate (ITL) by full Senate 02/23/2017