

March Legislative Committee Report by Tom Fargo

Below is a list of 2021 NH General Court (House and Senate) Bills that are potentially relevant to members of the Geological Society of New Hampshire. This table lists bills identified by keyword searches completed on March 1, 2021.

Bill No.	Title	Bill Description	Legislative Action – Bill Status
Key Word “Environ”			
HB141-FN	requiring the Department of Environmental Services to maintain a public registry of where certain fire suppressants have been used	This House bill requires the Department of Environmental Services to maintain a public registry of where certain fire suppressants have been used. Note: The FN designation indicates the bill contains a fiscal note describing the impact of the bill on the State budget. In this case the cost was described and an indeterminable increase in expenses. This bill is a re-introduction of HB-1569 from 2020.	Public hearing is scheduled for March 8 in the House Executive Departments and Administration Committee
HB-256	adding members from Londonderry to the commission to investigate and analyze the environmental and public health impacts relating to releases of perfluorinated chemicals into the air, soil, and groundwater in Merrimack, Bedford, and Litchfield.	This House bill amends RSA 126-A:79-a, that in 2019 established a commission to study the impacts of emissions of PFAS chemicals in the vicinity of the Saint Gobain Performance Plastics facility in Merrimack. Without an extension, the commission’s activities conclude with issuance of a final annual report by November 1, 2024.	Full House voted ought to pass on 2/24/2021
HB-398	making an appropriation to the Department of Environmental Services for funding eligible wastewater projects	This House bill appropriates to the Department of Environmental Services the sum of \$5,735,248 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022 and \$6,919,115 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, which shall be nonlapsing, for the purpose of funding eligible wastewater projects under RSA 486	The House Finance Committee was scheduled to vote on this bill on 2/16/2021. Results of that vote are not yet listed on the General Court website.
HB-412	making an appropriation to the Department of Environmental Services for the purpose of funding public water system projects	This House bill appropriates to the Department of Environmental Services the sum of \$500,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022 and \$500,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, which shall be nonlapsing, for the purpose of funding public water system projects under RSA 486-A..	The House Finance Committee was scheduled to vote on this bill on 2/16/2021. Results of that vote are not yet listed on the General Court website.

SB146-FN	adopting omnibus legislation relative to the environment	This Senate bill aggregates proposed legislation regarding: I. Establishing the coastal program administered by the Department of Environmental Services. II. Establishing a statewide solid waste disposal reduction goal. III. Prohibiting incineration of PFAS in New Hampshire. IV. The prevention of zoonotic disease transmission. V. Tidal waters. VI. Establishing a surcharge on certain saltwater licenses and establishing a fund for derelict fishing gear and coastal cleanup. VII. The acquisition and preservation of agricultural land for food producing in the land and community heritage program. VIII. Class 2 obligations under the electric renewable portfolio standards. IX. Public use of coastal shorelands.	Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee held a remote public hearing on this bill on 3/1/2021.
Key Word “Water”			
HB-135	requiring parties responsible for pollution of a drinking water supply to be financially responsible for certain consequences of that pollution.	This House bill the polluter, as determined by the Commissioner of NHDES, to connect the water user to a municipal system or to provide water filtration and to pay for that corrective action.	The House Judiciary Committee is scheduled to vote on this bill on 3/2/2021
HB-235	relative to community small groundwater withdrawal	This House bill requires Community Water Systems with groundwater withdrawals less than 57,600 gallons over any 24-hour period from a new source to meet many of the requirements for large groundwater withdrawals as specified in RSA 485-C. Note this bill appears to be in response to groundwater withdrawals in the Town of Hampstead that resulted in private wells running dry.	The House Resources, Recreation and Development Committee was scheduled to vote on this bill on 2/3/2021. Results of that vote are not yet listed on the General Court website.
HB-265 and HB-335	requiring bottled drinking water sold to the public to meet the same maximum contaminant levels established for public drinking water.	These two identical House bills require bottled water manufactured and sold in NH to meet state drinking water quality standards	The House Commerce and Consumer Affairs Committee is scheduled to vote on both HB-265 and HB-335 on 3/3/2021.
HB-271	relative to standards for per and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in drinking water and ambient groundwater.	This House bill establishes in Statue the maximum contaminant levels and ambient groundwater quality standards for four PFAS compounds previously adopted in rules by NHDES.	The House Resources, Recreation and Development Committee held a public hearing on this bill on 2/3/2021.

HB-478	relative to treatment of PFAS contaminants in the drinking water of the Merrimack Village Water District.	This House bill requests Saint Gobain Performance Plastics commit to provide for the design, installation, operation, maintenance and monitoring of all water treatment system(s) necessary to effectively treat and remove PFC contamination from all affected public water systems to meet NHDES standards and to pay for the required upgrades.	The House Resources, Recreation and Development Committee will hold a remote a public hearing on this bill on 3/5/2021.
HB-611-FN	abolishing fluoridation in water	This House bill amends RSA 194.3 relative to school districts, and repeals five existing RSAs relative to public water systems, to abolish the addition of fluoride to drinking water in New Hampshire. Note that this or similar bills have been introduced in each General Court session for decades. The fiscal note describes the impact of the bill on the State budget as an indeterminable increase in expenses.	The House Resources, Recreation and Development Committee held a public hearing on this bill on 1/27/2021.
Key Word "Waste"			
HB-413	establishing a solid waste working group on solid waste management planning and relative to compost.	This House bill establishes a solid waste working group on solid waste management planning and also requires the Department of Environmental Services to make certain rules regarding compost. The working group would include sixteen members listed in the proposed statute and designated by the Commissioner of NHDES. The working group shall issue reports on November 1, 2021 and 2024.	On 3/11/2020 calendar Resources Recreation and Development Committee vote on 3/5/2020 was split 11-9. Majority Ought to Pass with Amendment; Minority: ITL
Key Word "Professional" as potentially related to Geologists			
SB-58	relative to the administration of occupational regulation by the office of professional licensure and certification	This bill makes amends RSA 310-A:1-d relative to actions of the Office of Professional Licensure and Certification. Changes proposed for the Board of Professional Geologists include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Designation of Board Members by the Governor and Council 2. Requirements for recordkeeping and applications for licensure would be in accordance with policy established by the Office of Professional Licensure and Certification 	A remote hearing by the Senate Executive Departments and Administrative Committee was held on 1/27/2021.

Key word searches with no returns: **geology, mineral, rock, soil**