

# 2015 Legislative Review

**\*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.

State Budget Bills

On June 25th the Governor vetoed the budget bills:

**HB 1-A**, making appropriations for the expenses of certain departments of the state for fiscal years ending June 30, 2016 and June 30, 2017.

**HB 2 FN-A-LOCAL**, relative to state fees, funds, revenues, and expenditures.

The House and Senate are scheduled to meet September 16th to address these and other vetoed bills. Once the budget bills have been finalized and signed into law we will have a review of the important items to agriculture contained in each.

Bills Retained in Committee

**HB 143**, relative to electric renewable energy classes. Allows large-scale hydropower to qualify under the state’s renewable portfolio standards (RPS) law. Farm Bureau is **opposed** out of concern in-state renewable generation would be displaced. (House Science, Technology and Energy Committee) - The Committee has filed a report recommending Inexpedient-to-Legislate.

**HB 197-FN**, relative to sales and samples provided by wine manufacturers. Allows a wine manufacturer licensee to charge for samples provided to visitors at its facility and also authorizes the wine manufacturer to conduct sampling and retail sales at locations other than its manufacturing facility. (Commerce and Consumer Affairs). **Supported** (See **HB 177-FN**)

**HB 372**, relative to certain private employers under workers’ compensation. Introduced at the request of Farm Bureau to find a way to provide cost efficient workers’ compensation coverage for workers on very small sized farm operations. (House Environment and Agriculture). **Support**

**HB 466**, relative to the definition of “implement of husbandry.” The intent of the bill is to ensure “construction” equipment used solely for agricultural purposes by a farmer as part of their farming operation does not have to be registered as construction equipment to be driven on a highway. **Farm Bureau supports an amendment to add language to RSA 261:83, dealing with Farm Tractor Plates, and does not change the definition of “Implement of Husbandry.”** (House Environment and Agriculture)

**HB 499**, permitting New Hampshire farmers to sell certain farm raised animals directly to the public. **Farm Bureau supports provided the sale of all “amenable” species are permitted.** (House Environment and Agriculture)

**HB 500**, repealing the prohibition on the use of silencing devices for taking wildlife. (House Fish and Game). **Monitoring**

**HB 602**, relative to the use of drones. (House Executive Departments and Administration). **Monitoring**

**HB 661-FN**, relative to record keeping for sold or transferred animals. Requiring licensed animal transferors to keep certain records and submit copies of such records to the Director or Charitable Trusts in the NH Department of Justice. (House Executive Departments and Administration). **Support**

**HB 688-FN-LOCAL**, relative to establishing an agricultural education number plate. (House Transportation) **Support**

**SB 18**, prohibiting the use of PVC piping as a flue material for venting combustion gases. (Senate Commerce). **Monitoring**

**SB 61-FN-A**, relative to funding for the New Hampshire agricultural lands program. Making an appropriation to the New Hampshire agricultural lands program within the NH Department of Agriculture, Markets, and Food. (Senate Finance) **Support**

**SB 121-FN-LOCAL**, relative to definitions used for purposes of current use taxation. Introduced to clarify the term “excavation” within the Current Use statute. Farm Bureau is concerned the change will cause problems for landowners with former excavation sights in Current Use. (Senate Ways and Means) **Opposed**

Bills found Inexpedient-to-Legislate

**HB 145**, allowing municipalities to dedicate a percentage of timber yield taxes to the conservation fund. Local governing body may currently introduce annual warrant articles to direct a portion of timber taxes to the conservation fund. **Monitored**

**HB 234**, relative to renewable portfolio standards. – deleted electric renewable energy classes from the electric renewable portfolio standards. **Opposed** (See **HB 143**)

**HB 163, HB 370-LOCAL, HB 392-FN, HB 684-FN, & SB 261-FN** - relative to the minimum hourly wage rate. **Monitored**

**HB 237**, requiring vocational education centers to prioritize science, technology, engineering, and mathematics curricula as a condition for funding. **Opposed**

**HB 267**, requiring public employers to verify an employee’s eligibility to work in the United States through the federal e-verify system. **Monitored**

**HB 272**, designating the Ham Branch River watershed in Easton as a protected river, and exempting portions of the Ham Branch River watershed from the Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act. **Monitored**

**HB 298**, relative to the seasons for taking game animals and game birds with the use of bait. Requiring that the use of bait in taking game birds or game animals, coyote, and other furbearing animals be permitted during any regular hunting season for such animals. **Opposed**

**HB 368**, relative to third party review required by the planning board. **Monitored**

**HB 409**, banning corn-based ethanol as an additive to gasoline in New Hampshire. **Opposed**

**HB 428**, relative to New Hampshire products sold by the liquor commission. Modifying requirements the Liquor Commission purchase and list for sale New Hampshire products by defining “Product of New Hampshire,” “Made in New Hampshire,” and “Packaged in New Hampshire” in the liquor laws. **Monitored** (See **HB 429**)

**HB 494**, relative to industrial hemp as a controlled substance. Prohibiting its designation as a controlled substance. **Support**

**HB 543**, repealing the electric renewable portfolio standard. **Opposed**

**HB 579-FN**, establishing a maple products coordinator in the Department of Agriculture, Markets, and Food using federal funds. **Monitored**

**HB 624-FN-LOCAL**, relative to animal care costs in animal cruelty cases. Allowing any person confiscating an animal in an animal cruelty case to file a cost of animal care petition for reimbursement of animal care costs – including when not convicted, whether charges are dropped or the owner is found innocent. **Opposed**

**HB 660-FN**, relative to small farms and farmstands. Exempting small farms and farm stands from certain laws. **Opposed**

**SB 117-FN-LOCAL**, relative to energy security and diversity. **Directing the Public Utilities Commission** to investigate the cost-benefits of net-metering and standard offer contracts (feed-in-tariffs), providing a local option for municipalities to exempt geothermal energy systems from taxation, and improving statutory incentives for utilities to invest in renewable energy. **Supported**

Bills Tabled

**HB 241-FN**, prohibiting driving while holding an animal in the driver’s seat. **Monitored**

**HB 349**, relative to state buffers for projects requiring wetland permits. – set minimum state buffers from wetlands. **Supported Tabling**

**SB 1-FN-A**, reducing the rate of the business profits tax. **Monitored**

**SB 2-FN-A**, reducing the rate of the business enterprise tax. **Supported**

**SB 196-FN-A-LOCAL**, appropriating funds to the department of environmental services for the purpose of funding eligible water supply land protection costs under the state aid grant program. **Monitored**

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