

---

# Committee Report

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

**January 30, 2019**

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**REPORT OF COMMITTEE**

**The Committee on Resources, Recreation and  
Development to which was referred HB 162,**

**AN ACT repealing the requirement for the inspection of  
timber. Having considered the same, report the same  
with the recommendation that the bill OUGHT TO PASS.**

**Rep. Kevin Maes**

**FOR THE COMMITTEE**

## COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee:	Resources, Recreation and Development
Bill Number:	HB 162
Title:	repealing the requirement for the inspection of timber.
Date:	January 30, 2019
Consent Calendar:	CONSENT
Recommendation:	OUGHT TO PASS

### STATEMENT OF INTENT

This bill removes the requirement for the inspection of timber by repealing RSA 347. The timber inspections currently prescribed in law are no longer relevant to the current timber industry and markets, including NH production of timber products. It was noted that the forest industry has outgrown the law. The Division of Forests and Lands will continue to have the ability to oversee inspections and enforce issues of over cutting.

Vote 19-0.

Rep. Kevin Maes  
FOR THE COMMITTEE

Original: House Clerk  
Cc: Committee Bill File

## CONSENT CALENDAR

Resources, Recreation and Development

**HB 162**, repealing the requirement for the inspection of timber. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Kevin Maes for Resources, Recreation and Development. This bill removes the requirement for the inspection of timber by repealing RSA 347. The timber inspections currently prescribed in law are no longer relevant to the current timber industry and markets, including NH production of timber products. It was noted that the forest industry has outgrown the law. The Division of Forests and Lands will continue to have the ability to oversee inspections and enforce issues of over cutting. **Vote 19-0.**

Original: House Clerk

Cc: Committee Bill File

HB 162

OTP

HB 162 removes the requirement for the inspection of timber by repealing RSA 347. The timber inspections currently prescribed in legislation are no longer relevant due to the current timber industry and market, including NH productions of timber products. It was also noted that the forest industry has outgrown this current legislation. The Bureau of Forestry will continue to have the ability to oversee inspections and enforce issues of overcutting.

Kevin Maes

# COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: Resources Recreation & Development  
BILL NUMBER: HB 162  
TITLE: Repealing the requirement for the inspection of timber  
DATE: 1/29/2019 CONSENT CALENDAR: YES  NO

- OUGHT TO PASS  
 OUGHT TO PASS W/ AMENDMENT  
 INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE  
 INTERIM STUDY (Available only 2<sup>nd</sup> year of biennium)

Amendment No. <u>                    </u>
--

**STATEMENT OF INTENT:**

\* The timber inspections currently prescribed in legislation are no longer relevant due to the current timber industry and market, including NH production of timber products. \* HB 162 removes the requirement for the inspection of timber by repealing RSA 347. It was also noted that the forest industry has outgrown this current legislation. The Bureau of Forestry will continue to have the ability to oversee inspections and enforce issues of overcutting.

COMMITTEE VOTE: 19-0-1

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

- |  |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Copy to Committee Bill File</li><li>• Use Another Report for Minority Report</li></ul> |
|--|

Rep. Karen G. Maes  
For the Committee

# Voting Sheets

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES, RECREATION AND DEVELOPMENT

EXECUTIVE SESSION on HB 162

**BILL TITLE:** repealing the requirement for the inspection of timber.

**DATE:** January 29, 2019

**LOB ROOM:** 305

**MOTIONS:** OUGHT TO PASS

Moved by Rep. Maes

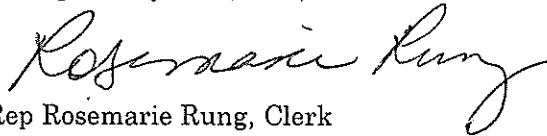
Seconded by Rep. Grassie

Vote: 19-0

**CONSENT CALENDAR: YES**

**Statement of Intent:** Refer to Committee Report

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rosemarie Rung".

Rep Rosemarie Rung, Clerk





OFFICE OF THE HOUSE CLERK



1/14/2019 3:25:00 PM  
Roll Call Committee Registers  
Report

2019 SESSION

Resources, Recreation and Development

Bill #: 162 Motion: 19-0 AM #:        Exec Session Date: 1/29/19

<u>Members</u>	<u>YEAS</u>	<u>Nays</u>	<u>NV</u>
Smith, Suzanne J. Chairman	✓		
Maes, Kevin G. Vice Chairman	✓		
Spang, Judith T.	✓		bc
Parkhurst, Henry A. L.	✓		
Thomas, Yvonne D.	✓		
Grassie, Chuck W.	✓		
Bushway, Patricia J.	✓		
Cohen, Bruce L.	✓		
Noel, Henry W.	✓		
Rung, Rosemarie Clerk	✓		
Thomas, Wendy E.N.	✓		
Renzullo, Andrew	✓		
Gould, Linda R.	✓		
Horgan, James F.	✓		
Feeney, George	✓		
Gunski, Michael D.	✓		
Harb, Robert D.	✓		
Hobson, Deborah L.	✓		
Lucas, Gates S.			✓
Whittemore, James R.	✓		
<b>TOTAL VOTE:</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>

# Hearing Minutes

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES, RECREATION AND DEVELOPMENT

PUBLIC HEARING ON HB 162

**BILL TITLE:** repealing the requirement for the inspection of timber.

**DATE:** January 15, 2019

**LOB ROOM:** 305                      **Time Public Hearing Called to Order:** 2:00 p.m.

**Time Adjourned:** 2:15 p.m.

**Committee Members:** Reps. Suzanne Smith, Maes, Rung, Spang, Parkhurst, Y. Thomas, Bushway, Cohen, Noel, W. Thomas, Renzullo, Gould, Feeney, Gunski, Harb, Hobson and Whittemore

**Bill Sponsors:**

Rep. Pearl

Rep. Turcotte

Rep. Moffett

Rep. Lang

TESTIMONY

\* Use asterisk if written testimony and/or amendments are submitted.

1. **Rep. Howard Pearl (prime sponsor)**

He introduced this bill to the committee.

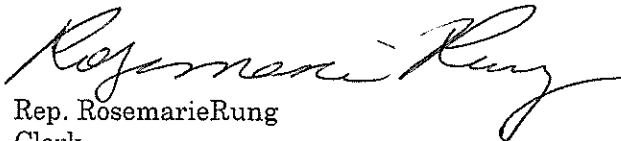
2. **\*Curtis Barry and Daniel Keith (NH Retail Lumber Association)**

They both spoke in favor of this bill and provided written testimony. Mr. Keith said that to his knowledge these products are not made for retail sale in NH. Rep. Cohen asked what harm would be created by keeping these products in the bill. Mr. Keith responded that it could create liability if the statute remains on the books. Barry said he checked with multiple state agencies who confirmed that the statute is outdated as many of them originated in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. There were questions and answers if portions of the statute continue to serve a purpose.

3. **Jason Stock (NH Timberland Owners Association)**

He spoke in favor of this bill. He stated that if this statute is removed the Bureau of Forestry will continue to be able to enforce overcuts.

Respectfully submitted,



Rep. RosemarieRung  
Clerk



NH HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
RESOURCES, RECREATION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
TESTIMONY ON HB 162

1. Rep. Howard Pearl (prime sponsor)  
He introduced this bill to the committee.
  
2. Curtis Barry and Daniel Keith (NH Retail Lumber Association) \*  
They both spoke in favor of this bill and provided written testimony. Mr. Keith said that to his knowledge these products are not made for retail sale in NH. Rep. Cohen asked what harm would be created by keeping these products in the bill. Mr. Keith responded that it could create liability if the statute remains on the books. Barry said he checked with multiple state agencies who confirmed that the statute is outdated as many of them originated in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. There were questions and answers if portions of the statute continue to serve a purpose.
  
3. Jason Stock (NH Timberland Owners Association)  
He spoke in favor of this bill. He stated that if this statute is removed the Bureau of Forestry will continue to be able to enforce overcuts.



# Testimony





585 North Greenbush Rd.  
Rensselaer, NY 12144-9453  
p: 518.286.1010 f: 518.286.1755  
Toll Free: 800.292.6752  
nrla.org

\*2

January 15, 2019  
**House Committee on Resources,  
Recreations, & Development**

## MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT HOUSE BILL 162

An act repealing the requirement for the inspection of timber

The New Hampshire Retail Lumber Association (NHRLA) strongly supports House Bill 162, repealing the requirement for the inspection of timber.

NHRLA represents independently-owned lumber and building material suppliers and other associated businesses, including wholesalers, manufacturers, and distributors. Our members are often family-owned businesses and generational. These businesses pride themselves on providing quality and safe materials that are graded by the proper agencies and organization to meet or exceed all of the accepted industry standards.

House Bill 162 would repeal provisions covering the inspection of timber, which includes lumber and shingles, that are outdated and no longer apply to the industry or how materials are measured, graded, or any other current industry standard.

The nomenclature, products covered, processes concerning milling and inspecting lumber, fees, and even rules governing the safety of material in the statute are all outdated and no longer apply to the forestry or lumber industries. Repealing this statute would in no way reduce the safety, inspection, or quality of materials produced or sold in New Hampshire. In fact, to meet the safety and standards required for materials produced and sold today, New Hampshire businesses cannot meet the outdated, unnecessary, and inapplicable standards found in this statute. This statute, therefore, provides no benefit to the state, industry, or consumers, but can put New Hampshire businesses at risk of liability for meetings the stronger requirements found in the industry today.

The agencies and organizations that oversee the grading of timber, dimensional lumber, and shingles are constantly upgrading their standards to ensure that products are safe and meet stringent requirements to be graded and sold. This has become a necessity to keep up with new technology being introduced to the industry and makes these arcane inspection rules nothing more than a relics of the past.

It is for the above stated reasons that NHRLA strongly supports this legislation. For additional questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Jeff Keller, Director of Legislative & Regulatory Affairs, at 518-880-6376 or [jkeller@nrla.org](mailto:jkeller@nrla.org).

*The NHRLA has 67 member companies and represents independent lumber and building material dealers, manufactures, wholesalers, distributors, and other associated businesses in the state of New Hampshire. The industry employs more than 17,000 New Hampshire residents with nearly \$823 million in annual wages.*



**NRLA Mission:** To unite, lead, represent, train and provide a forum for the successful evolution of the independent lumber and building material dealers of the Northeast.

Bill as  
Introduced

HB 162 - AS INTRODUCED

2019 SESSION

19-0106  
08/04

HOUSE BILL

**162**

AN ACT

repealing the requirement for the inspection of timber.

SPONSORS:

Rep. Pearl, Merr. 26; Rep. Turcotte, Merr. 22; Rep. Moffett, Merr. 9; Rep. Lang,  
Belk. 4

COMMITTEE:

Resources, Recreation and Development

---

ANALYSIS

This bill removes the requirement for the inspection of timber.

-----

Explanation:

Matter added to current law appears in *bold italics*.

Matter removed from current law appears [~~in brackets and struck through.~~]

Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

HB 162 - AS INTRODUCED

19-0106  
08/04

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

*In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Nineteen*

AN ACT                   repealing the requirement for the inspection of timber.

*Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:*

- 1       1 Repeal. RSA 347, relative to requirements for the inspection of timber, is repealed.
- 2       2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.