

# Committee Report

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

**February 27, 2020**

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**REPORT OF COMMITTEE**

**The Committee on Environment and Agriculture to  
which was referred HB 1704,**

**AN ACT relative to compost. Having considered the  
same, report the same with the recommendation that  
the bill OUGHT TO PASS.**

**Rep. Liz McConnell**

**FOR THE COMMITTEE**

## COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee:	<b>Environment and Agriculture</b>
Bill Number:	<b>HB 1704</b>
Title:	<b>relative to compost.</b>
Date:	<b>February 27, 2020</b>
Consent Calendar:	<b>CONSENT</b>
Recommendation:	<b>OUGHT TO PASS</b>

### STATEMENT OF INTENT

In 2015, statutes were created to encourage composting as a method of reducing the volume of waste in state landfill sites. Because of lack of staffing at the Department of Environmental Services (DES), no rules establishing best practices for facilities that compost organics have been created. This bill will require DES to start the process of rulemaking.

Vote 19-0.

Rep. Liz McConnell  
FOR THE COMMITTEE

Original: House Clerk  
Cc: Committee Bill File

## CONSENT CALENDAR

Environment and Agriculture

**HB 1704**, relative to compost. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Liz McConnell for Environment and Agriculture. In 2015, statutes were created to encourage composting as a method of reducing the volume of waste in state landfill sites. Because of lack of staffing at the Department of Environmental Services (DES), no rules establishing best practices for facilities that compost organics have been created. This bill will require DES to start the process of rulemaking. **Vote 19-0.**

# COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: Environment and Agriculture

BILL NUMBER: HB 1704

TITLE: Relative to Compost

DATE: 2-27-20 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.  
\_\_\_\_\_

## STATEMENT OF INTENT:

In 2015, statutes were created to encourage composting as a method of reducing the volume of waste in state landfill sites. Because of lack of staffing at DFS, no rules establishing best practices for facilities that compost organics have been created. This bill will require DFS to start the process of rule making.

COMMITTEE VOTE: OTP 19-0

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

- Copy to Committee Bill File
- Use Another Report for Minority Report

Rep. Liz McConnell

For the Committee

# Voting Sheets

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND AGRICULTURE**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION on HB 1704**

**BILL TITLE:** relative to compost.

**DATE:** February 27, 2020

**LOB ROOM:** 303

**MOTIONS:** OUGHT TO PASS

Moved by Rep. McConnell

Seconded by Rep. Richards

Vote: 19-0

**CONSENT CALENDAR: YES**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Rep Barbara Comtois, Clerk







2020 SESSION

Environment and Agriculture

Bill #: HB 1704 Motion: DTP AM #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exec Session Date: 2-27-2020

<u>Members</u>	<u>YEAS</u>	<u>Nays</u>	<u>NV</u>
Gourgue, Amanda L. Chairman	✓		
Bixby, Peter W. Vice Chairman	✓		
Beaulieu, Jane E.	✓		
Ellis, Donna R.	✓		
Richards, Beth S.	✓		
Sofikitis, Catherine M.	✓		
Bouldin, Andrew J.	✓		
Chretien, Jacqueline H.			
Dutzy, Sherry	✓		
McConnell, Liz A.	✓		
Murray, Megan A.	✓		
O'Connor, John T.	✓		
Comtois, Barbara Clerk	✓		
Pearl, Howard C.	✓		
<del>Verville, Kevin</del> <i>Howard Raymond</i>	✓		
Aron, Judy F.	✓		
Bean, Harry H.	✓		
Furbush, Michael E.	✓		
Melvin, Charles R.	✓		
Viens, Harry H.	✓		
<b>TOTAL VOTE:</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>0</b>	

# Hearing Minutes

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND AGRICULTURE

PUBLIC HEARING ON HB 1704

**BILL TITLE:** relative to compost.

**DATE:** February 18, 2020

**LOB ROOM:** 303

**Time Public Hearing Called to Order:** 3:30 p.m.

**Time Adjourned:** 3:40 p.m.

**Committee Members:** Reps. Gourgue, Bixby, Comtois, Beaulieu, Ellis, Andrew Bouldin, Chretien, Dutzy, McConnell, M. Murray, O'Connor, Pearl, Aron, Bean and Melvin

**Bill Sponsors:**

Rep. Ebel

Rep. McWilliams

Sen. Watters

Rep. O'Connor

Rep. Von Plinsky

Sen. Chandley

Rep. M. Murray

Rep. Suzanne Smith

Sen. Sherman

**TESTIMONY**

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

**Rep. Karen Ebel** – sponsor – this came about due to Study Committee – food waste constitutes 20 to 25% in weight of what goes into landfills, as it breaks down it turns into methane gas and is about 50% of all methane gas in landfills – We have a food hierarchy and the last thing we should be doing with it is putting it into a landfill – New regulations need to be developed for commercial compost, but have not been able to get the regulations out the door – Current set of regulations are too onerous as discussed by Farmers that are interested in looking into this as another revenue stream

Rep. Beaulieu – are there small companies that are picking up compost – there are but they are taking it to Maine – the procedure to get the permit is very challenging

Rep. Bixby – back in 2015 was on this committee, disappointed that we are still here, do we need additional staff? – this should work

Rep. Chretien – what % of food waste is from residential/commercial – another bill in DHHS is to look at this so we can get more food to the hungry

Respectfully submitted,

Rep. Barbara Comtois  
Clerk



HB 1704 – relative to compost

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Adjourn 3:40 p.m.



Bill as  
Introduced

HB 1704 - AS INTRODUCED

2020 SESSION

20-3104

08/10

HOUSE BILL **1704**

AN ACT relative to compost.

SPONSORS: Rep. Ebel, Merr. 5; Rep. O'Connor, Rock. 6; Rep. M. Murray, Hills. 22; Rep. McWilliams, Merr. 27; Rep. Von Plinsky, Ches. 7; Rep. Suzanne Smith, Graf. 8; Sen. Watters, Dist 4; Sen. Chandley, Dist 11; Sen. Sherman, Dist 24

COMMITTEE: Environment and Agriculture

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ANALYSIS

This bill requires the department of environmental services to make certain rules regarding compost.

This bill is a request of the HB 617 study committee on recycling and solid waste.

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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.



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

*In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty*

AN ACT                   relative to compost.

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

1           1 Compost; Rulemaking. The commissioner shall initiate rulemaking pursuant to RSA 149-M:7,  
2 XV by September 30, 2020 relative to requirements and best practices for facilities that compost  
3 organics, including vegetable matter, meat, meat byproducts, dairy products, and dairy product  
4 derivatives.

5           2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect upon its passage.