Bill as Introduced

HB 101 - AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

7Apr2021... 0164h

2021 SESSION

21-0101 10/08

HOUSE BILL

101

AN ACT

relative to the close of a county's books of records.

SPONSORS:

Rep. J. MacDonald, Carr. 6; Rep. Marsh, Carr. 8; Rep. Crawford, Carr. 4; Rep.

Nelson, Carr. 5; Rep. Avellani, Carr. 5; Rep. Deshaies, Carr. 6

COMMITTEE:

Municipal and County Government

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill requires counties to close their books 45 days following the end of the fiscal year unless granted an extension by the commissioner of revenue administration.

Explanation:

Matter added to current law appears in bold italics.

Matter removed from current law appears [in brackets and struckthrough.]

Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.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

AN ACT

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relative to the close of a county's books of records.

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

- 1 Counties; Close of Books for Fiscal Year. Amend RSA 28:3-a to read as follows:
- 28:3-a County Close of Books; Audits.
- I. Counties shall close their books on or before 45 days following the end of the county fiscal year unless the county has been granted an extension by the commissioner of the department of revenue administration. The commissioner may grant one or more 45-day extensions for cause, and shall notify the chairperson of the county convention of each extension and the reasons it was granted.
- II. In the event that an audit is required or requested by resolution by either the board of commissioners or the county convention, the commissioners, with the approval of the executive committee of the county convention, shall engage the services of a certified public accountant qualified in municipal and county finances for the purpose of conducting an audit of the county books of records. The performance and scope of the audit shall be in accordance with generally-accepted auditing standards. The audit shall include an examination for conformance with state and federal laws and regulations relating to county finances, including rules adopted by the commissioner of revenue administration pursuant to RSA 541-A, and shall also include an examination of any subject of county finances that may be requested either by the commissioners, by the county convention, or by the treasurer. The audit shall be completed within 120 days following the close of the books of the county fiscal year. The commissioners shall cause the report of the auditor, together with the customary management representation letter and management responses, to be published with or supplementary to the annual reports of the county officers, with a copy forwarded to the department of revenue administration. Upon completion of a county audit under this section, the county convention shall review the audit, management representation letter, and management responses for compliance with the criteria described in this section and may suggest alternative or additional measures for use in subsequent audits.
 - 2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

HB 101 - AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

7Apr2021... 0164h 04/22/2021 1146s

2021 SESSION

21-0101 10/08

HOUSE BILL

101

AN ACT

relative to the close of a county's books of records.

SPONSORS:

Rep. J. MacDonald, Carr. 6; Rep. Marsh, Carr. 8; Rep. Crawford, Carr. 4; Rep.

Nelson, Carr. 5; Rep. Avellani, Carr. 5; Rep. Deshaies, Carr. 6

COMMITTEE:

Municipal and County Government

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7Apr2021... 0164h 04/22/2021 1146s

21-0101 10/08

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty One

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relative to the close of a county's books of records.

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- I. Counties shall close their books on or before 90 days following the end of the county fiscal year unless the county has been granted an extension by the commissioner of the department of revenue administration. The commissioner may grant one or more 45-day extensions for cause, and shall notify the chairperson of the county convention of each extension and the reasons it was granted.
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 - 2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

CHAPTER 162 HB 101 - FINAL VERSION

7Apr2021... 0164h 04/22/2021 1146s

2021 SESSION

21-0101 10/08

HOUSE BILL

101

AN ACT

relative to the close of a county's books of records.

SPONSORS:

Rep. J. MacDonald, Carr. 6; Rep. Marsh, Carr. 8; Rep. Crawford, Carr. 4; Rep.

Nelson, Carr. 5; Rep. Avellani, Carr. 5; Rep. Deshaies, Carr. 6

COMMITTEE:

Municipal and County Government

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill requires counties to close their books 90 days following the end of the fiscal year unless granted an extension by the commissioner of revenue administration.

Explanation:

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

CHAPTER 162 HB 101 - FINAL VERSION

7Apr2021... 0164h 04/22/2021 1146s

21-0101 10/08

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty One

AN ACT

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relative to the close of a county's books of records.

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

- 162:1 Counties; Close of Books for Fiscal Year. Amend RSA 28:3-a to read as follows:
- 28:3-a County Close of Books; Audits.
- I. Counties shall close their books on or before 90 days following the end of the county fiscal year unless the county has been granted an extension by the commissioner of the department of revenue administration. The commissioner may grant one or more 45-day extensions for cause, and shall notify the chairperson of the county convention of each extension and the reasons it was granted.
- II. In the event that an audit is required or requested by resolution by either the board of commissioners or the county convention, the commissioners, with the approval of the executive committee of the county convention, shall engage the services of a certified public accountant qualified in municipal and county finances for the purpose of conducting an audit of the county books of records. The performance and scope of the audit shall be in accordance with generally-accepted auditing standards. The audit shall include an examination for conformance with state and federal laws and regulations relating to county finances, including rules adopted by the commissioner of revenue administration pursuant to RSA 541-A, and shall also include an examination of any subject of county finances that may be requested either by the commissioners, by the county convention, or by the treasurer. The audit shall be completed within 120 days following the close of the books of the county fiscal year. The commissioners shall cause the report of the auditor, together with the customary management representation letter and management responses, to be published with or supplementary to the annual reports of the county officers, with a copy forwarded to the department of revenue administration. Upon completion of a county audit under this section, the county convention shall review the audit, management representation letter, and management responses for compliance with the criteria described in this section and may suggest alternative or additional measures for use in subsequent audits.
 - 162:2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

Approved: July 30, 2021

Effective Date: September 28, 2021

Amendments

Sen. Gray, Dist 6 April 12, 2021 2021-1121s 12/10

Amendment to HB 101

Amend RSA 28:3-a, I as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

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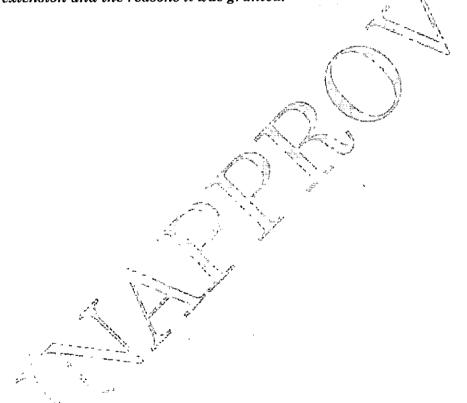
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I. Counties shall close their books on or before 90 days following the end of the county fiscal year unless the county has been granted an extension by the commissioner of the department of revenue administration. The commissioner may grant one or more 45-day extensions for cause, and shall notify the chairperson of the county convention of each extension and the reasons it was granted.



2021-1121s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill requires counties to close their books 90 days following the end of the fiscal year unless granted an extension by the commissioner of revenue administration.



Election Law and Municipal Affairs April 15, 2021 2021-1146s 10/06

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Amendment to HB 101

1 A	Amend RSA 28:3-a,	I as inserted by s	ection 1 of the bill by	replacing it with the f	ollowing:
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I. Counties shall close their books on or before 90 days following the end of the county fiscal year unless the county has been granted an extension by the commissioner of the department of revenue administration. The commissioner may grant one or more 45-day extensions for cause, and shall notify the chairperson of the county convention of each extension and the reasons it was granted.

Amendment to HB 101 - Page 2 -

2021-1146s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill requires counties to close their books 90 days following the end of the fiscal year unless granted an extension by the commissioner of revenue administration.

Committee Minutes

SENATE CALENDAR NOTICE Election Law and Municipal Affairs

Sen James Gray, Chair

Sen Regina Birdsell, Vice Chair

Sen Ruth Ward, Member

Sen Donna Soucy, Member

Sen Rebecca Perkins Kwoka, Member

Date: April 7, 2021

HEARINGS

Monday		04/12/2021		
Election Law and Municipal Affairs (Name of Committee)		Affairs	REMOTE	9:00 a.m.
		_	(Place)	
9:00 a.m.	HB 64-LOCAL		ewable generation facility pro nent in lieu of taxes agreemer	
9:15 a.m.	HB 79	relative to tow	n health officers.	
9:30 a.m.	HB 88	relative to the	city of Claremont police comm	nission.
9:50 a.m.	HB 101	relative to the	close of a county's books of red	cords.
10:15 a.m.	HB 284	relative to the	restoration of involuntarily m	erged lots.

Committee members will receive secure Zoom invitations via email.

Members of the public may attend using the following links:

- 1. Link to Zoom Webinar: https://www.zoom.us/j/93269591456
- 2. To listen via telephone: Dial(for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):
- 1-301-715-8592, or 1-312-626-6799 or 1-929-205-6099, or 1-253-215-8782, or 1-346-248-7799, or 1-669-900-6833
- 3. Or iPhone one-tap: US: 13126266799, 93269591456# or 16465588656, 93269591456#
- 4. Webinar ID: 932 6959 1456
- 5. To view/listen to this hearing on YouTube, use this link:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjBZdtrjRnQdmg-2MPMiWrA

6. To sign in to speak, register your position on a bill and/or submit testimony, use this link: http://gencourt.state.nh.us/remotecommittee/senate.aspx

The following email will be monitored throughout the meeting by someone who can assist with and alert the committee to any technical issues: remotesenate@leg.state.nh.us or call (603-271-6931).

Sponsors: HB 64-LOCAL

Rep. Aron Rep. McGhee

HB 79 Rep. Marsh

Rep. Edwards

HB 88 Rep. O'Hearne

HB 101 Rep. J. MacDonald Rep. Avellani

HB 284 Rep. McBeath Rep. Porter

Rep. Salloway Rep. Deshaies

Rep. Merchant

Rep. Marsh Rep. Deshaies Rep. Steven Smith

Sen. Ward

Rep. Merchant Sen. Bradley

Rep. Avellani Sen. Sherman

Rep. Stapleton

Rep. Cloutier

Rep. Crawford

Rep. Nelson

Tricia Melillo 271-3077

James P. Gray Chairman

Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee Tricia Melillo 271-3077

HB 101, relative to the close of a county's books of records.

Hearing Date:

April 12, 2021

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Gray, Birdsell, Ward and Perkins

Kwoka

Members of the Committee Absent: Senator Soucy

Bill Analysis: This bill requires counties to close their books 45 days following the end of the fiscal year unless granted an extension by the commissioner of revenue administration.

Sponsors:

Rep. J. MacDonald

Rep. Marsh Rep. Avellani Rep. Crawford Rep. Deshaies

Rep. Nelson Rep. Avellani

Who supports the bill: Representative John MacDonald, Representative William Marsh, Eric Pauer

Who opposes the bill: Kate Horgan, Cathy Stacey

Summary of testimony presented in support:

Representative John MacDonald

- This bill addresses the closure of County books and comes at the request of some of his colleagues on the County delegation.
- It will clearly identify a period of time, 45 days from the end of the fiscal year, that each County has to close the books.
- In the event that the County cannot accomplish that they can request an extension from the Commissioner of the Department of Revenue.
- It is a clean up bill that relates to RSA 28:3-a County Audits.
- The issue is that some counties never close the books until late in September, October or November.
- This legislation will be an incentive to close the books so the audits can be done in a timely fashion.
- Senator Gray commented that closing the books in 45 days sounds unrealistic and asked if he would object to changing 45 days to 90 days.
 - o Representative MacDonald stated that he would not object to that but thinks it is important there be a defined deadline to close the books.

Summary of testimony presented in opposition:

Kate Horgan - NH Association of Counties, Executive Director

- They agree with Senator Gray that 45 days is unreasonable for Counties to close the books.
- Often they are waiting for vendors to complete their transactions with them and that includes both private entities and the state.
- 90 days is far more reasonable, and they would appreciate the adjustment.
- Senator Birdsell commented that Cathy Stacey, the Register of Deeds, is signed in opposed and asked if that was because of the 45 days.
 - Ms. Horgan replied yes, that is the reason. She also stated that she checked the feasibility of 90 days with Ray Bower who is the County Administrator for Strafford County.

TJM Date Hearing Report completed: April 14, 2021

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Speakers

Senate Remote Testify

Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee Testify List for Bill HB101 on 2021 Support: 3 Oppose: 2 Neutral: 0 Total to Testify: 2

Name	Email Address	Phone	<u>Title</u>	Representing	<u>Position</u>	<u>Testifing</u>	5
Horgan, Kate	khorgan@dupontgroup.com	603.228.3322	A Lobbyist	NH Association of Counties	Oppose	Yes	4
MacDonald, Representative John	johnmacdonald@leg.state.nh	603.387,5255	An Elected Official	Myself/Sponsor	Support	Yes	4
Stacey, Cathy	cstacey@nhdeeds.com	Not Given	An Elected Official	Rockingham County	Oppose	No	4
Marsh, William	wmarshmd@gmail.com	603.569.6382	An Elected Official	Carroll 8	Support	No	4
Pauer, Eric	secretary@BrooklineGOP.org	603.732.8489	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	4

Testimony

President
Wendy Piper
Grafton County Commissioner

Vice President
Tom Tombarello
Rockingham County Commissioner

At Large Member
Toni Pappas
Hillsborough County Commissioner

At Large Member
Cathy Stacey
Rockingham County Register of Deeds



29 School St., Ste. 200 Concord, NH 03301

info@nhcouties.org

www.nhcounties.org

Immediate Past President

Chuck Weed Cheshire County Commissioner

Treasurer
Suzanne Collins
Coos County Treasurer

Bylaws Chair
Chris Coates
Cheshire County Administrator

Friday, April 9, 2021

Chairman Gray
Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee
Concord, NH 03301

Chairman Gray and the Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee,

The NH Association of Counties would like to express its opposition to HB 101, relative to the close of a county's books of records. While we understand that the intentions of this bill were noble, it would cause extreme difficulties for New Hampshire's Counties.

While counties are inclined to close their books as soon as possible, setting a timeline on the close of a county's books to 45 days would require each county to ask for multiple extensions from DRA. Counties are only able to close their books after all the outstanding bills from vendors have been paid. Like many businesses in New Hampshire, county government has outstanding bills from both private entities as well as the State that may not be paid for 90 days or more.

The New Hampshire Association of Counties would ask that you vote this bill Inexpedient to Legislate.

Sincerely,

Wendy Piper President

Wandy Pyer

NH Association of Counties

Voting Sheets

Senate Election Law & Municipal Affairs Committee EXECUTIVE SESSION RECORD

2021 Session

			Bill He	3 101
Hearing date:4-12-2021				
Executive Session date:	4-15-2021_			
	_			
Motion of: \bigcirc	<u>TP</u>		Vote	: <u></u>
Committee Member	Present	Made by	Second	Yes No
Sen. Gray, Chair	X			
Sen. Birdsell, Vice Chair	X		<u>_</u>	
Sen. Ward				
Sen. Soucy	X			
Sen. Perkins-Kwoka	X			
	_	مساف السيم	Λ1 S	_
Notion of:	1215	ent to	حــات <u>M. </u>	<u>. 5-0</u>
Committee Member				
	X	V		Y n
Sen. Birdsell, Vice Chair	\mathbf{X}			
Sen. Ward			Y	
Sen. Soucy	X			☑,□
Sen. Perkins-Kwoka	X			
ot o	0/0		Vote	5-0
Motion of: OT	1			,
Committee Member	**************************************	Made by	Second	Yes No
Sen. Gray, Chair	X			
Sen. Birdsell, Vice Chair	X X			
Sen. Ward	<u>A</u> X			
Sen. Soucy	<u>X</u>	· - 	<u>-</u>	
Sen. Perkins-Kwoka				L
>Sen. W S	w. 500	cy and	•	5-0
Reported out by: Sev	· Gra	u.		
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Notes:				<u> </u>

Committee Report

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

SENATE

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE CONSENT CALENDAR

Thursday, April 15, 2021

THE COMMITTEE ON Election Law and Municipal Affairs

to which was referred HB 101

AN ACT

relative to the close of a county's books of records.

Having considered the same, the committee recommends that the Bill

OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT

BY A VOTE OF: 5-0

AMENDMENT # 1146s

Senator James Gray For the Committee

As amended, this bill requires counties to close their books within 90 days of the close of the fiscal year but may be granted an extension for cause by the commissioner of the Department of Revenue Administration. In 2019, the General Court updated the statute about county audits by requiring audits to be completed within 120 days of the close of books. In some counties, audits have been delayed indefinitely due to non-closure of the books. This legislation will close that loophole and allow audits to be done in a timely manner.

Tricia Melillo 271-3077

General Court of New Hampshire - Bill Status System

Docket of HB101

Docket Abbreviations

Bill Title: relative to the close of a county's books of records.

Official Docket of **HB101.**:

Date	Body	Description
1/4/2021	Н	Introduced (in recess of) 01/06/2021 and referred to Municipal and County Government HJ 2 P. 35
1/21/2021	H	Public Hearing: 02/01/2021 10:30 am Members of the public may attend using the following link: To join the webinar: https://www.zoom.us/j/95927066667 / Executive session on pending legislation may be held throughout the day (time permitting) from the time the committee is initially convened.
. 1/27/2021	Н	Executive Session: 02/08/2021 02:00 pm Members of the public may attend using the following link: To join the webinar: https://www.zoom.us/j/96815613466
3/9/2021	Н	Committee Report: Ought to Pass with Amendment #2021-0164h (Vote 19-0; CC) HC 18 P. 20
4/7/2021	Н	Amendment #2021-0164h: AA VV 04/07/2021 HJ 5 P. 43
4/7/2021	H	Ought to Pass with Amendment 2021-0164h: MA VV 04/07/2021 HJ 5 P. 43
4/7/2021	Н	Reconsider (Rep. Osborne): MF VV 04/07/2021 HJ 5 P. 50
4/7/2021	S	Introduced 04/01/2021 and Referred to Election Law and Municipal Affairs; SJ 11
4/7/2021	S	Remote Hearing: 04/12/2021, 09:50 am; Links to join the hearing can be found in the Senate Calendar; SC 19
4/16/2021	S	Committee Report: Ought to Pass with Amendment #2021-1146s , 04/22/2021; Vote 5-0; CC; SC 20
4/22/2021	S	Committee Amendment #2021-1146s , RC 23Y-1N, AA; 04/22/2021; SJ 12
4/22/2021	S	Ought to Pass with Amendment 2021-1146s, RC 23Y-1N, MA; OT3rdg; 04/22/2021; SJ 12
6/10/2021	Н	House Concurs with Senate.Amendment 2021-1146s (Rep. Dolan): MA VV 06/10/2021 HJ 10 P. 13
7/15/2021	S	Enrolled Adopted, VV, (In recess 06/24/2021); SJ 20
7/15/2021	н	Enrolled (in recess of) 06/24/2021
8/3/2021`	Н	Signed by Governor Sununu 07/30/2021; Chapter 162; Eff: 09/28/2021

NH House	NH Senate

Other Referrals

Senate Inventory Checklist for Archives

Bill Number: HB 101 Senate Committee: ELIVIH	
Please include all documents in the order listed below and indicate the documents which have been included with an "X" beside	
Final docket found on Bill Status	
Bill Hearing Documents: {Legislative Aides} Bill version as it came to the committee	
All Calendar Notices	
Hearing Sign-up sheet(s)	
Prepared testimony, presentations, & other submissions handed in at the public hearing	
Revised/Amended Fiscal Notes provided by the Senate Clerk's Office	
Committee Action Documents: {Legislative Aides}	
All amendments considered in committee (including those not adopted):	
x - amendment # 11215 x - amendment # 11465	
amendment # amendment #	
Executive Session Sheet	
Committee Report	
Floor Action Documents: {Clerk's Office}	
All floor amendments considered by the body during session (only if they are offered to the senate):	
amendment # amendment #	
amendment # amendment #	
Post Floor Action: (if applicable) {Clerk's Office}	
Committee of Conference Report (if signed off by all members. Include any new language prop by the committee of conference):	osed
·	
Enrolled Bill Amendment(s)	
Governor's Veto Message	
All available versions of the bill: {Clerk's Office}	
\succeq as amended by the senate as amended by the house	
final version	
Completed Committee Report File Delivered to the Senate Clerk's Office By:	
Committee Aide Date Senate Clerk's Office	
Senate Clerk's Office	