

CONSENT CALENDAR

March 1, 2022

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

**The Committee on Resources, Recreation and
Development to which was referred HB 1555-FN,**

**AN ACT repealing the permit required for fires at
campgrounds. Having considered the same, report the
same with the recommendation that the bill be
REFERRED FOR INTERIM STUDY.**

Rep. Jim Creighton

FOR THE COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE REPORT

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Committee: | Resources, Recreation and Development |
| Bill Number: | HB 1555-FN |
| Title: | repealing the permit required for fires at campgrounds. |
| Date: | March 1, 2022 |
| Consent Calendar: | CONSENT |
| Recommendation: | REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY |

STATEMENT OF INTENT

This bill is relative to repealing the permit required for camp fires. The bill does attempt to remove regulations and government oversight. The testimony of state and municipal fire and safety officials highlighted fire safety concerns that could be increased with the passage of HB 1555. While many on the committee agree with reducing government oversight, the recommendation is to study this issue further to ensure the safety of our citizens.

Vote 20-1.

Rep. Jim Creighton
FOR THE COMMITTEE

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

CONSENT CALENDAR

Resources, Recreation and Development

HB 1555-FN, repealing the permit required for fires at campgrounds. **REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY.**

Rep. Jim Creighton for Resources, Recreation and Development. This bill is relative to repealing the permit required for camp fires. The bill does attempt to remove regulations and government oversight. The testimony of state and municipal fire and safety officials highlighted fire safety concerns that could be increased with the passage of HB 1555. While many on the committee agree with reducing government oversight, the recommendation is to study this issue further to ensure the safety of our citizens. **Vote 20-1.**

Original: House Clerk

Cc: Committee Bill File

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES, RECREATION AND DEVELOPMENT

EXECUTIVE SESSION on HB 1555-FN

BILL TITLE: repealing the permit required for fires at campgrounds.

DATE: February 23, 2022

LOB ROOM: 305 - 307

MOTIONS: REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY

Moved by Rep. Creighton

Seconded by Rep. Post

Vote: 20-1

CONSENT CALENDAR: YES

Statement of Intent: Refer to Committee Report

Respectfully submitted,

Rep Juliet Harvey-Bolia, Clerk

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES, RECREATION AND DEVELOPMENT

EXECUTIVE SESSION on HB 1555-FN

BILL TITLE: repealing the permit required for fires at campgrounds.

DATE: 2-23-22

LOB ROOM:

MOTION: (Please check one box)

- OTP ITL Retain (1st year) Adoption of Amendment # _____
- Interim Study (2nd year) (if offered)

Moved by Rep. Creighton Seconded by Rep. Post Vote: 20-1

MOTION: (Please check one box)

- OTP OTP/A ITL Retain (1st year) Adoption of Amendment # _____
- Interim Study (2nd year) (if offered)

Moved by Rep. _____ Seconded by Rep. _____ Vote: _____

MOTION: (Please check one box)

- OTP OTP/A ITL Retain (1st year) Adoption of Amendment # _____
- Interim Study (2nd year) (if offered)

Moved by Rep. _____ Seconded by Rep. _____ Vote: _____

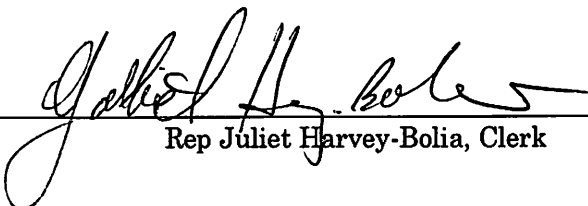
MOTION: (Please check one box)

- OTP OTP/A ITL Retain (1st year) Adoption of Amendment # _____
- Interim Study (2nd year) (if offered)

Moved by Rep. _____ Seconded by Rep. _____ Vote: _____

CONSENT CALENDAR: YES NO

Minority Report? Yes No If yes, author, Rep: _____ Motion _____

Respectfully submitted:  Rep Juliet Harvey-Bolia, Clerk



2022 SESSION

Resources, Recreation and Development

Bill #: 1555-FN Motion: Interim Sfu AM #: _____ Exec Session Date: 2-23-22

| <u>Members</u> | <u>YEAS</u> | <u>Nays</u> | <u>NV</u> |
|----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|
| Renzullo, Andrew Chairman | | ✓ | |
| Harb, Robert D. Vice Chairman | ✓ | | |
| Hough, Gregg | ✓ | | |
| Gould, Linda R. | ✓ | | |
| Horgan, James F. | ✓ | | |
| Creighton, Jim L. | ✓ | | |
| Dodge, Dustin | ✓ | | |
| Harvey-Bolia, Juliet Clerk | ✓ | | |
| Healey, Robert V. | ✓ | | |
| Mayville, Mary L. | ✓ | | |
| Post, Lisa C.M. | ✓ | | |
| Smith, Suzanne J. | ✓ | | |
| Spang, Judith T. <i>WESTON</i> | ✓ | | |
| Grassie, Chuck W. | ✓ | | |
| Gottling, Suzanne H. | ✓ | | |
| Cohen, Bruce L. | ✓ | | |
| Connors, Erika F. | ✓ | | |
| Vail, Suzanne M. | ✓ | | |
| Kelley, Eamon P. | ✓ | | |
| Moran, Melbourne R. <i>PEREZ</i> | ✓ | | |
| Egan, Timothy T. | ✓ | | |

20

1

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES, RECREATION AND DEVELOPMENT

PUBLIC HEARING ON HB 1555-FN

BILL TITLE: repealing the permit required for fires at campgrounds.

DATE: January 19, 2022

LOB ROOM: 305 - 307 **Time Public Hearing Called to Order:** 10:15 a.m.

Time Adjourned: 10:45 a.m.

Committee Members: Reps. Renzullo, Harb, Harvey-Bolia, Hough, Gould, Creighton, Dodge, Mayville, Post, Suzanne Smith, Gottling, Cohen and Egan

Bill Sponsors:

| | | |
|---------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Rep. Burt | Rep. Steven Smith | Rep. Notter |
| Rep. Leishman | Rep. Pearl | Rep. Avellani |
| Rep. Hill | Rep. Nunez | Rep. Groen |
| Rep. Piemonte | Sen. Avard | Sen. Gannon |
| Sen. Reagan | | |

TESTIMONY

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

Rep. John Burt introduced his bill. About 70-75% don't get permits for campfires. NY repealed a similar requirement. Large bonfires would still need a permit.

Rep. Smith asked about fires not a

Steven Sherman, NH Forests and Lands, Chief, states that the Division has no position on the bill but wished to comment. Category 1 and 2 fires are any small fires. Category 2 is up to 48 inches in diameter. He reviewed campfire requirements. He believes the repeal will lead to more fire incidents.

Fire permits are tied to the protection of forests and property from wildfires.

Jay Lord, Fire Chief of Hampton Falls and representing NHFFFWA/NHFD said that permits are a desirable preventative measure for safety. He said the bill should die.

Respectfully submitted,

Rep. Juliet Harvey-Bolia
Clerk

House Remote Testify

Resources, Recreation and Development Committee Testify List for Bill HB1555 on 2022-01-19

Support: 17 Oppose: 32 Neutral: 0 Total to Testify: 0

[Export to Excel](#)

| <u>Name</u> | <u>City, State</u> <u>Email Address</u> | <u>Title</u> | <u>Representing</u> | <u>Position</u> | <u>Testifying</u> | <u>Non-Germane</u> | <u>Signed Up</u> |
|----------------------|---|------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Reagan, Senator John | Deerfield, NH kathryn.cummings@leg.state.nh.us | An Elected Official | Senate District 17 | Support | No | No | 1/11/2022 3:08 PM |
| Weston, Joyce | Plymouth, NH jweston14@roadrunner.com | An Elected Official | Myself | Oppose | No | No | 1/15/2022 9:59 AM |
| Hamer, Heidi | Manchester, NH heidi.hamer@leg.state.nh.us | An Elected Official | Myself | Oppose | No | No | 1/16/2022 8:36 AM |
| Howland, Curtis | Manchester, NH howland@priss.com | A Member of the Public | Myself | Support | No | No | 1/16/2022 5:48 PM |
| Wazir, Safiya | Concord, NH S.wazir@leg.state.nh.us | An Elected Official | Myself and my constituents | Oppose | No | No | 1/17/2022 7:24 AM |
| Dewey, Karen | NEWPORT, NH pkdewey@comcast.net | A Member of the Public | Myself | Oppose | No | No | 1/17/2022 10:37 AM |
| Blanchard, Sandra | Loudon, NH sandyblanchard3@gmail.com | A Member of the Public | Myself | Oppose | No | No | 1/17/2022 11:53 AM |
| Torpey, Jeanne | Concord, NH jtorp51@comcast.net | A Member of the Public | Myself | Oppose | No | No | 1/17/2022 12:40 PM |
| Oxenham, Lee | Plainfield, NH leeoxenham@comcast.net | An Elected Official | Myself | Oppose | No | No | 1/17/2022 1:39 PM |
| Dontonville, Roger | Enfield, NH rdontonville@gmail.com | An Elected Official | Myself | Oppose | No | No | 1/17/2022 5:31 PM |
| Ballentine, John | Nashua, NH mikeb@btine.com | A Member of the Public | Myself | Oppose | No | No | 1/17/2022 5:31 PM |
| Dontonville, Anne | Enfield, NH Ardontonville@gmail.com | A Member of the Public | Myself | Oppose | No | No | 1/17/2022 7:50 PM |
| Oxenham, Evan | Plainfield, NH evan.oxenham@gmail.com | A Member of the Public | Myself | Oppose | No | No | 1/17/2022 9:47 PM |

| | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|--|------------------------|----------------|---------|----|----|--------------------|
| Damon, Claudia | Concord, NH cordsdamon@gmail.com | A Member of the Public | Myself | Oppose | No | No | 1/17/2022 9:51 PM |
| Gilman, Representative Julie | Exeter, NH julie.gilman@leg.state.nh.us | An Elected Official | Town of Exeter | Oppose | No | No | 1/17/2022 11:52 PM |
| Falk, Cheri | Wilton, NH falk.cj@gmail.com | A Member of the Public | Myself | Oppose | No | No | 1/18/2022 8:13 AM |
| Findley, Sally | Grantham, NH findley.se@gmail.com | A Member of the Public | Myself | Oppose | No | No | 1/18/2022 9:36 AM |
| Noyes, Chris | BETHLEHEM, NH chris@crosstowncourierservice.com | A Member of the Public | Myself | Support | No | No | 1/18/2022 10:18 AM |
| Reed, Sarah | Concord, NH stubbs.saraha@gmail.com | A Member of the Public | Myself | Support | No | No | 1/18/2022 10:23 AM |
| Reed, William | Concord, NH willie.b.reed@gmail.com | A Member of the Public | Myself | Support | No | No | 1/18/2022 10:24 AM |
| Tucker, Katherine | Wilmot, NH katherine.s.tucker@valley.net | A Member of the Public | Myself | Oppose | No | No | 1/18/2022 10:31 AM |
| Wood, Zephan | Pembroke, NH zephanw@gmail.com | A Member of the Public | Myself | Support | No | No | 1/18/2022 11:40 AM |
| Doherty, David | Pembroke, NH ddoherty0845@gmail.com | A Member of the Public | Myself | Oppose | No | No | 1/18/2022 11:40 AM |
| Jones, Andrew | Pembroke, NH arj11718@yahoo.com | A Member of the Public | Myself | Oppose | No | No | 1/18/2022 4:10 PM |
| Robinson, Ellis | Grantham, NH EllisMMRobinson@gmail.com | A Member of the Public | Myself | Oppose | No | No | 1/18/2022 5:10 PM |
| Piemonte, Rep. Tony | Sandown, NH tony.piemonte@leg.state.nh.us | An Elected Official | Myself | Support | No | No | 1/18/2022 5:29 PM |
| Brennan, Nancy | Weare, NH burningnan14@gmail.com | A Member of the Public | Myself | Oppose | No | No | 1/18/2022 7:42 PM |
| Rettew, Annie | Concord, NH abrettew@gmail.com | A Member of the Public | Myself | Oppose | No | No | 1/18/2022 8:26 PM |
| Aronson, Laura | MANCHESTER, NH laura@mlans.net | A Member of the Public | Myself | Oppose | No | No | 1/18/2022 8:30 PM |
| Clark, Denise | Milford, NH denise.m.clark03055@gmail.com | A Member of the Public | Myself | Oppose | No | No | 1/18/2022 8:36 PM |
| Holt, David | Somersworth, NH davholt@aol.com | A Member of the Public | Myself | Oppose | No | No | 1/18/2022 9:17 PM |

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|--|------------------------|--------|---------|----|----|--------------------|
| Almy, Susan | Lebanon, NH susan.almy@comcast.net | An Elected Official | Myself | Oppose | No | No | 1/18/2022 9:21 PM |
| Richman, Susan | Durham, NH susan7richman@gmail.com | A Member of the Public | Myself | Oppose | No | No | 1/18/2022 10:15 PM |
| Gildersleeve, Darlene | HOPKINTON, NH dmcote88@gmail.com | A Member of the Public | Myself | Support | No | No | 1/18/2022 10:48 PM |
| Woods, Renia | Bow, NH renia.woods1@gmail.com | A Member of the Public | Myself | Oppose | No | No | 1/18/2022 11:03 PM |
| Ellermann, Maureen | Concord, NH ellermannf@aol.com | A Member of the Public | Myself | Oppose | No | No | 1/19/2022 5:22 AM |
| Brown, Cecile | Deering, NH misty14bud@yahoo.com | A Member of the Public | Myself | Support | No | No | 1/19/2022 6:12 AM |
| Berry, Ross | Manchester, NH Ross.berry@leg.state.nh.us | An Elected Official | Myself | Support | No | No | 1/19/2022 7:23 AM |
| Chester, Russan | Bedford, NH russan.chester@gmail.com | A Member of the Public | Myself | Support | No | No | 1/19/2022 7:27 AM |
| Lindenberg, Lorraine | Derry, NH Lorane2@aol.com | A Member of the Public | Myself | Oppose | No | No | 1/19/2022 7:38 AM |
| Dodge, Dustin | Raymond, NH Dodge_dustin@hotmail.com | An Elected Official | Myself | Support | No | No | 1/19/2022 7:46 AM |
| Oscalaidhe, Seamas | Wolfeboro, NH sos_1212@hotmail.com | A Member of the Public | Myself | Support | No | No | 1/19/2022 8:05 AM |
| Ankarberg, Aidan | Rochester, NH Aidan.Ankarberg@leg.state.nh.us | An Elected Official | Myself | Support | No | No | 1/19/2022 8:27 AM |
| Nunez Jr., R. Hershel | Pelham, NH rene03076@gmail.com | An Elected Official | Myself | Support | No | No | 1/19/2022 8:30 AM |
| Vallone, Mark | Epping, NH nhatlasman@comcast.net | An Elected Official | Myself | Oppose | No | No | 1/19/2022 8:50 AM |
| Devore, Gary | Pembroke, NH torin_asheron@yahoo.com | A Member of the Public | Myself | Oppose | No | No | 1/19/2022 10:03 AM |
| Craig, Kevin | Lancaster, NH Kevin.Craig@leg.state.nh.us | An Elected Official | Coös-4 | Support | No | No | 1/19/2022 1:08 PM |
| Stinson, Benjamin | CONCORD, NH benrkstinson@gmail.com | A Member of the Public | Myself | Oppose | No | No | 1/19/2022 3:00 PM |
| Kelley, BaoChau | Hooksett, NH chaukelley@gmail.com | A Member of the Public | Myself | Support | No | No | 1/19/2022 10:04 PM |



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT of NATURAL and CULTURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION of FORESTS and LANDS
172 Pembroke Road Concord, New Hampshire 03301

603-271-2214

FAX: 603-271-6488

SARAH L. STEWART
Commissioner

PATRICK D. HACKLEY
Director

February 17, 2022

Dear Chairperson Renzullo and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify last month on HB 1555, relative to repealing the permit required for fires at campgrounds. I wanted to follow-up with you and provide more context as to why the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, Division of Forests and Lands opposes this bill and emphasize our concern that the bill goes much further than the title suggests by repealing the fire permit requirement on *all* lands in New Hampshire, not just campgrounds.

During some testimony on January 19, 2022, it was mentioned that people do not obtain fire permits. I would like to provide you with the numbers we have for fire permit issuance. In 2021, approximately 60,000 permits were issued with 38,541 of those permits conveniently obtained through our online system: www.nhfirepermit.com. In the same year, the Forest Protection Bureau reported 96 unpermitted fires, showing that there is acceptance and compliance with the fire permit requirement in New Hampshire.

Also mentioned was that the state of New York does not require fire permits for campfires. Recognizing that New Hampshire and New York are very different states and being unfamiliar with their open burning laws, I reached out to my counterpart for more information. He advised me that the permit laws in New York are very confusing because they are tied to what is being burned, where it is being burned and the time of year it is being burned. There are some portions of the state where campfires are not allowed. New York also has a statewide burn ban between March 16th and May 14th. In New Hampshire we have discussed blanket burn bans during peak fire season in the spring but have found this to be unnecessary at this time because our fire permit system has worked very well at reducing fire occurrence and has proven its effectiveness for over 100 years.

Repealing the fire permit requirement in New Hampshire will take away an important fire prevention tool that has worked to educate the public and reduce fire occurrence. Many large fires across the country and some in our state are caused by small campfires which are left unattended or not completely extinguished. For example, in 2017, the Dilly Fire which burned for one month in North Woodstock, consumed 75 acres and forced the closure of Lost River Gorge and Boulder Caves. This wildfire was started in an area with evidence of an unextinguished campfire. Humans start 90% of wildfires and removing a successful prevention tool will lead to higher fire occurrence.

Thank you for your time and please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Steven Sherman".

Steven Sherman
Chief, New Hampshire Forest Protection Bureau



Heather Goley

From: Alex Koutroubas <alex@dennehybouley.com>
Sent: Monday, January 17, 2022 7:58 PM
To: ~House Environment and Agriculture Committee
Subject: Opposition to HB 1454

Dear Environment and Agriculture Committee:

Re: HB 1554, would require new landfills to be sited a certain minimum distance from any perennial river, lake, or coastal water of New Hampshire.

The American Council of Engineering Companies of New Hampshire (ACEC- NH) is the voice of the engineering industry. ACEC is an association of 75 engineering and related firms. These companies employ over 1500 NH citizens who are engaged in a wide range of public and private engineering works that contribute to the economic viability and quality of life in the state.

ACEC-NH is opposed to HB 1454, for the following reasons:

- This legislation is a preemptive strike aimed squarely at derailing a single project in the town of Dalton.
- The bill would create two different sets of regulations, one for new landfills and one for the expansion of existing landfills.
- NH has a lack of landfill capacity that has been validated by experts.

The fact that this legislation will not apply to any landfill expansion is a clear indication that HB 1454's sole purpose is to prevent the siting of the Granite State landfill. If the sponsors of this bill truly believed that there are holes in the current NHDES landfill siting rules that threaten public health and the environment, then this legislation would apply to all landfills in the state.

Solid waste has been and continues to be an issue that is managed regionally. The management of solid waste does not stop at a state line.

Currently, NH recycles about 18% of the waste it generates. In addition, almost 10% of NH generated waste is exported to other states.

According to the Northeast Resource Recovery Association who markets recyclables for many communities in NH, nearly all the recyclables that generated in NH are sorted and processed at transfer stations and then they are hauled out of state. Other than the Keene transfer station which takes in and sorts a limited number of mixed recyclables, there are no facilities that mechanically process recyclables in the state. If the Granite State Landfill moves forward, the company has pledged to build a recycling plant in NH.

In recent months, the NH Municipal Association said the following: "Prohibiting new landfills hardly seems like a solution. Trash must go somewhere. Existing landfills have finite capacity, and recycling options are drying up, at least temporarily. When the existing facilities are full, the principal option remaining for municipalities will be to send their waste to out-of-state facilities at dramatically increased cost."

The former chair of the legislatively created committee to study recycling and solid waste management Karen Ebel, said this: "NH faces many solid waste challenges. The first one she listed was "limited landfill capacity."

Marc Morgan, solid waste manager for the city of Lebanon said this: “The cost of dealing with solid waste are increasing, making residents, businesses, and municipalities aware of solid waste issues. Increased tipping fees, as well as increased transportation costs to get solid waste to a landfill drive costs up.”

Northeast Resource Recovery Association has said, “Solid waste costs continue to rise, the northeast has the highest cost of disposal for municipal solid waste due to lack of available space for new or expanded landfills.”

In the coming years, NH cities and towns will face higher and higher prices for the hauling of solid waste. This will cause municipalities to raise property taxes and/or reduce vital services like schools, police, and fire.

Finally, should the NHDES approve this project, it will be a safe and secure landfill designed by a team of qualified geologists and engineers who are experts in this field. NH has a vigorous process to site landfills in this state. We should follow it. HB is 1454 bad public policy, and it needs to be rejected.

Alex Koutroubas

acec-nh.org

alex@dennehybouley.com

Office: 603-228-1601 ext 2003

Cell: 603-440-5113

Heather Goley

From: Jasen Stock <jstock@nhtoa.org>
Sent: Tuesday, February 22, 2022 11:52 AM
To: ~House Resources Recreation and Development
Subject: House Bill 1555

Chairman Renzullo and members of the House Resources, Recreation and Development Committee,

As you prepare for tomorrow's executive session, I want to forward the New Hampshire Timberland Owners Association's perspective on **House Bill 1555 -- AN ACT repealing the permit required for fires at campgrounds.**

The day of the hearing on this bill I was unable to testify but the NHTOA did sign in opposing it. The reason for our opposition is two-fold.

First, this proposal is unnecessary. RSA 227-L:17, IV already allows the kindling of camp and cooking fires in approved fireplaces at campgrounds without written permission. The second sentence of this statute reads, "Camp or cooking fires may be built without written permission on public camp or picnic grounds when such areas are open for public use or private camp and picnic places where suitable fireplaces approved by the forest fire warden are provided for such fires." This language includes public and private fireplaces.

Second, the proposed legislation goes far beyond the bill's "campground" title as it eliminates permits for all campfire and cooking fires across the state. Although we appreciate the sponsor's attempt to expand personal freedom, we cannot support that freedom's expansion when it negatively impacts a neighbor's private property. On average 200 acres of private and public land is harmed by wildland fire in New Hampshire and ninety percent of these fires are caused by people this would include camp and cooking fires that get out of control. Because wildland fire does not stop at property lines the fire permit process is one of the few ways private property is protected from a neighbor's negligence or mismanagement of fire. The NHTOA believes one of the real strengths behind the fire permit process is the educational opportunity it creates. Specifically, the process educates individuals on the risk of open burning. This educational process protects the person doing the burning and it protects their neighbor's private property (standing timber).

On a personal note, as a former Boy Scout leader, I annually obtained seasonal permits to have campfires on our property. With the online process (most towns in New Hampshire have adopted this process) it was easy, a good reminder of the risk with open burning, and I did not feel it was an invasion of my privacy or property rights.

For these reasons, we ask you vote ITL on House Bill 1555.

Thank you,

Jasen

Jasen A. Stock
Executive Director

New Hampshire Timberland Owners Association
54 Portsmouth St.
Concord, NH 03301
603-224-9699 (office)
603-674-8148 (cell)
www.nhtoa.org

Heather Goley

From: Chloe <starrychloe@oliveyou.net>
Sent: Tuesday, January 18, 2022 12:01 PM
To: ~House Resources Recreation and Development
Subject: HB 1555

Please support HB 1555 to remove permits for campground fires. Campgrounds already do not want to burn down their property! They are outdoorsmen! They know what they are doing!

Chloe Sowers
Manchester Ward 11

Sent from my iPhone

Heather Goley

From: debosgood <debosgood@protonmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 18, 2022 3:11 PM
To: ~House Resources Recreation and Development
Subject: Support HB 1555

Support HB 1555

Heather Goley

From: Matt Leahy <mleahy@forestsociety.org>
Sent: Tuesday, February 22, 2022 3:30 PM
To: ~House Resources Recreation and Development
Subject: HB 1555

Good afternoon Members of the Committee. The Forest Society had signed in as opposing HB 1555 during the Committee's hearing on January 19 and so I just want to re-affirm our concerns with this legislation. The bill appears to eliminate permits for all campfire and cooking fires across the state. Although New Hampshire has not experienced in recent history the catastrophic wildfires that the Western states have suffered, we still see on average 200 acres of private and public land harmed by wildland fire here. Unfortunately, many of these fires are cause by camp and cooking fires that get out of control.

Therefore, we do not believe it is in the best interest of the New Hampshire's forest resources to loosen the safeguards in place that aim to reduce the threats to public safety and natural resource.

I would also note that a person can receive a fire permit by either using a paper permit or by applying on-line and can be obtained from the local fire department or local Forest Fire Warden at no cost. Therefore, we believe the current permit system strikes the right balance between allowing families and others to enjoy the outdoor experience while putting in place safeguards. It also has the added benefit of letting local fire authorities know where fires are occurring so they do not need to respond to controlled (permitted) fires when smoke is reported.

For these reasons, we would urge you to find HB 1555 as Inexpedient to Legislate. Thank you.

Matt Leahy, Public Policy Director
Society for the Protection of NH Forests
54 Portsmouth Street
Concord, NH 03301
mleahy@forestsociety.org
603-224-9945, ext. 355
603-731-8455

Sign up [HERE](#) to start receiving the Forest Advocate.

HB 1555-FN - AS INTRODUCED

2022 SESSION

22-2354
04/11

HOUSE BILL ***1555-FN***

AN ACT repealing the permit required for fires at campgrounds.

SPONSORS: Rep. Burt, Hills. 39; Rep. Steven Smith, Sull. 11; Rep. Notter, Hills. 21; Rep. Leishman, Hills. 24; Rep. Pearl, Merr. 26; Rep. Avellani, Carr. 5; Rep. Hill, Merr. 3; Rep. Nunez, Hills. 37; Rep. Groen, Straf. 23; Rep. Piemonte, Rock. 4; Sen. Avard, Dist 12; Sen. Gannon, Dist 23; Sen. Reagan, Dist 17

COMMITTEE: Resources, Recreation and Development

ANALYSIS

This bill removes the permit requirement for camp fires.

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 Two

AN ACT repealing the permit required for fires at campgrounds.

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

1 1 Woodland Fire Control; Permits; Damages; Penalties. Amend RSA 227-L:17, IV to read as
2 follows:

3 IV. Camp or cooking fires may be kindled only with written permission of the landowner or
4 the landowner's agent [~~and written permission of the forest fire warden of the town in which the fire~~
5 ~~is to be kindled]~~ and only at suitable times and in suitable places when the fire will not endanger
6 woodlands; except in such towns as have adopted bylaws or regulations equally as stringent as
7 provided in this paragraph. Camp or cooking fires may be built without written permission on
8 public camp or picnic grounds when such areas are open for public use or private camp and picnic
9 places where suitable fireplaces approved by the forest fire warden are provided for such fires. As
10 used in this paragraph, a camp or cooking fire shall be a small fire suitable for cooking purposes
11 used in connection with camp, picnic or lunch purposes and does not include the burning of
12 household rubbish, or large amounts of brush or other flammable material. Whoever shall kindle or
13 cause to be kindled any such fire or use an abandoned fire in or near woodlands shall totally
14 extinguish the same before leaving it and, upon failure to do so, such person or persons shall be
15 subject to the same liabilities and penalties as prescribed in this section.

16 2 Repeal. RSA 216-I:9, V, requiring recreational campground or camping park owners to obtain
17 a fire permit, is repealed.

18 3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

**HB 1555-FN- FISCAL NOTE
AS INTRODUCED**

AN ACT repealing the permit required for fires at campgrounds.

FISCAL IMPACT: State County Local None

| STATE: | Estimated Increase / (Decrease) | | | |
|-----------------|---|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | FY 2022 | FY 2023 | FY 2024 | FY 2025 |
| Appropriation | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Revenue | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Expenditures | \$11,100 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Funding Source: | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Highway | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

METHODOLOGY:

The Department of Natural and Cultural Resources states this bill would eliminate the requirement of a permit for all camping and cooking fires, which would require the reprinting of fire permits, brochures, posters, and other materials to reflect the law change. The Department estimates this would cost approximately \$11,100. It is assumed since this bill is effective 60 days after passage, expenditures would be incurred in FY 2022. There will be no impact on county and local revenue or expenditures.

AGENCIES CONTACTED:

Department of Natural and Cultural Resources and New Hampshire Municipal Association