

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

**April 25, 2022**

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**REPORT OF COMMITTEE**

**The Committee on Municipal and County Government  
to which was referred SB 273-A,**

**AN ACT relative to broadband infrastructure funding.**

**Having considered the same, report the same with the  
recommendation that the bill OUGHT TO PASS.**

**Rep. John MacDonald**

**FOR THE COMMITTEE**

## COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee:	<b>Municipal and County Government</b>
Bill Number:	<b>SB 273-A</b>
Title:	<b>relative to broadband infrastructure funding.</b>
Date:	<b>April 25, 2022</b>
Consent Calendar:	<b>CONSENT</b>
Recommendation:	<b>OUGHT TO PASS</b>

### STATEMENT OF INTENT

The New Hampshire is anticipating receiving over 120 million dollars to expand infrastructure broadband within the state. Broadband infrastructure expansion is extremely important to many residents of New Hampshire. This bill adds a narrow exemption to allow towns to hold a special town meeting for the purpose of adopting and/or acting on a broadband infrastructure bond. This bill will allow towns to start broadband infrastructure projects sooner rather than having to wait until the next town meeting. No changes have been made to the requirements concerning the approval of the bond.

Vote 19-0.

Rep. John MacDonald  
FOR THE COMMITTEE

Original: House Clerk  
Cc: Committee Bill File

## CONSENT CALENDAR

Municipal and County Government

**SB 273-A**, relative to broadband infrastructure funding. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. John MacDonald for Municipal and County Government. The New Hampshire is anticipating receiving over 120 million dollars to expand infrastructure broadband within the state. Broadband infrastructure expansion is extremely important to many residents of New Hampshire. This bill adds a narrow exemption to allow towns to hold a special town meeting for the purpose of adopting and/or acting on a broadband infrastructure bond. This bill will allow towns to start broadband infrastructure projects sooner rather than having to wait until the next town meeting. No changes have been made to the requirements concerning the approval of the bond. **Vote 19-0.**

Original: House Clerk

Cc: Committee Bill File

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION on SB 273-A**

**BILL TITLE:** relative to broadband infrastructure funding.

**DATE:** April 18, 2022

**LOB ROOM:** 301 - 303

**MOTIONS:** OUGHT TO PASS

Moved by Rep. J. MacDonald

Seconded by Rep. Ayer

Vote: 19-0

**CONSENT CALENDAR: YES**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Rep John MacDonald, Clerk

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT

EXECUTIVE SESSION on SB 273-A

BILL TITLE: relative to broadband infrastructure funding.

DATE: 4/18/22

LOB ROOM: 301

MOTION: (Please check one box)

- OTP
- ITL
- Retain (1<sup>st</sup> year)
- Adoption of Amendment # \_\_\_\_\_
- Interim Study (2nd year) (if offered)

Moved by Rep. MACDONALD      Seconded by Rep. AYEN      Vote: 19-0

MOTION: (Please check one box)

- OTP
- OTP/A
- ITL
- Retain (1<sup>st</sup> 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 (1<sup>st</sup> year)
- Adoption of Amendment # \_\_\_\_\_
- Interim Study (2nd year) (if offered)

Moved by Rep. \_\_\_\_\_      Seconded by Rep. \_\_\_\_\_      Vote: \_\_\_\_\_

MOTION: (Please check one box)

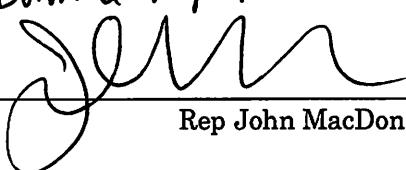
- OTP
- OTP/A
- ITL
- Retain (1<sup>st</sup> year)
- Adoption of Amendment # \_\_\_\_\_
- Interim Study (2nd year) (if offered)

Moved by Rep. \_\_\_\_\_      Seconded by Rep. \_\_\_\_\_      Vote: \_\_\_\_\_

CONSENT CALENDAR:  YES       NO

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

*MACDONALD report*

Respectfully submitted:  \_\_\_\_\_  
Rep John MacDonald, Clerk



1/12/2022 1:48:37 PM  
Roll Call Committee Registers  
Report

## 2022 SESSION

## Municipal and County Government

Bill #: 273A Motion: OTR AM #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exec Session Date: 4/18/22

<u>Members</u>	<u>YEAS</u>	<u>Nays</u>	<u>NV</u>
Dolan, Tom Chairman	19		
Piemonte, Tony Vice Chairman	1		
MacDonald, John T. Clerk	2		
Tripp, Richard P.	3		
Guthrie, Joseph A.	4		
Lascelles, Richard W.	5		
McBride, <del>Everett P.</del> <u>Tonosian</u>	6		
Melvin, Charles R.	7		
Ayer, Paul F.	8		
Pauer, Diane	9		
Maggiore, Jim V. <u>Staus</u>	10		
Treleaven, Susan GS <u>Jack</u>	11		
Gilman, Julie D.	12		
Stavis, Laurel <u>Penoz</u>	13		
Mangipudi, Latha D.	14		
Vann, Ivy C.	15		
Klee, Patricia S.	16		
Gallager, Eric B.	17		
Rung, Rosemarie	18		
<b>TOTAL VOTE:</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>0</b>	

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT**

**PUBLIC HEARING ON SB 273-A**

**BILL TITLE:** relative to broadband infrastructure funding.

**DATE:** April 7, 2022

**LOB ROOM:** 301 - 303

**Time Public Hearing Called to Order:** 4:09 p.m.

**Time Adjourned:** 4:15 p.m.

**Committee Members:** Reps. Dolan, Piemonte, J. MacDonald, Tripp, Guthrie, Lascelles, Melvin, Ayer, Pauer, Maggiore, Treleaven, Gilman, Stavis, Mangipudi, Vann, Gallager and Rung

**Bill Sponsors:**

**Sen. Bradley**

**Sen. Ward**

**Rep. Dolan**

**Rep. Gordon**

**Sen. Birdsell**

**Sen. Kahn**

**Rep. Egan**

**Rep. Maggiore**

**Sen. Gray**

**Sen. Soucy**

**Rep. Thompson**

**TESTIMONY**

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

**Carol Alfano for Senator Jeb Bradley** - Prime sponsor of the bill. 122 million dollars for broadband expansion.

**\*Katherine Heck, NH Municipal Association** - Supports the bill. Written testimony from Bonds Council - 200 million dollars coming in.

Rep. MacDonald: Money available for counties? ANS: Yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Rep. John MacDonald  
Clerk





# House Remote Testify

## Municipal and County Government Committee Testify List for Bill SB273 on 2022-04-07

Support: 10 Oppose: 3 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>
Ward, Senator Ruth	Stoddard, NH ruth.ward@leg.state.nh.us	An Elected Official	senate district 8	Support	No	No	3/29/2022 12:21 PM
Soucy, Donna	Manchester, NH donna.soucy@leg.state.nh.us	An Elected Official	SD 18	Support	No	No	4/1/2022 4:21 PM
Lacroix, Marc	Concord, NH Malacroix@aol.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	4/2/2022 2:52 PM
Howland, Curtis	Manchester, NH howland@priss.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	4/3/2022 6:40 PM
Medeiros, Jesse	Plainfield, NH bgtrck458@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	4/4/2022 10:08 AM
Desrosiers, Roger	Concord, NH rdesros@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	4/5/2022 10:34 AM
Bradley, Jeb	SD3, NH jeb.bradley@leg.state.nh.us	An Elected Official	SD3	Support	No	No	4/6/2022 9:30 AM
Lucas, Janet	Campton, NH janluca1953@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	4/6/2022 10:24 AM
Gray, James	Rochester, NH James.Gray@leg.state.nh.us	An Elected Official	Sen. James Gray SD 6	Support	No	No	4/6/2022 11:27 AM
See, Alvin	Loudon, NH absee@4liberty.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	4/6/2022 8:08 PM
Perrotta, Delores	Raymond, NH dperrotta15@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	4/6/2022 8:17 PM
Egan, Timothy	Sugar Hill, NH timothytegan@gmail.com	An Elected Official	Grafton #2	Support	No	No	4/7/2022 6:46 AM
Delaney, Jennifer	Concord, NH jddelaney@aarp.org	A Lobbyist	AARP New Hampshire	Support	No	No	4/7/2022 11:10 AM



**DEVINE  
MILLIMET**

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

RENELLE L. L'HUILLIER  
603.410.1709  
RLHUILLIER@DEVINEMILLIMET.COM

April 4, 2022

**Via Electronic Delivery Only**

Honorable Tom Dolan, Chairman  
Municipal and County Government Committee  
Legislative Office Building, Room 301  
Concord, NH 03301

***Re: SB 273, relative to broadband infrastructure funding.***

Dear Chairman Dolan and Committee Members:

As bond counsel to many New Hampshire municipalities, I write to express my strong support for SB 273. With this bill's revision to RSA 31:5, I(a), New Hampshire towns that seek to issue bonds to finance broadband projects will be able to approve in a timely manner the necessary funding to establish the broadband infrastructure that will make their communities stronger.

Without such changes, if a broadband project is not ready for approval on the annual meeting cycle, voters would not be able to take the critical step of authorizing the necessary bond approval until the following year's annual meeting. Or they would have to follow the process of requesting permission from the Superior Court to hold a special emergency meeting under RSA 31:5. Instead, the revision provides towns with the limited ability to hold a special meeting to appropriate money for one purpose only and as such they will sooner be able to offer broadband for work, education, healthcare, municipal, entertainment and other purposes that are important to their residents.

DEVINE, MILLIMET  
& BRANCH  
PROFESSIONAL  
ASSOCIATION

15 NORTH MAIN STREET  
SUITE 300  
CONCORD  
NEW HAMPSHIRE 03301

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DEVINEMILLIMET.COM

MANCHESTER, NH  
CONCORD, NH  
PORTSMOUTH, NH

Honorable Tom Dolan, Chairman  
Municipal and County Government Committee  
Page 2

The change this bill proposes will support New Hampshire municipalities' ability to more expeditiously offer broadband to its residents. I urge your support of SB 273.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Renelle L'Huilier', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Renelle L. L'Huilier

SB 273-A - AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

02/03/2022 0070s

2022 SESSION

22-2912  
12/08

SENATE BILL **273-A**

AN ACT relative to broadband infrastructure funding.

SPONSORS: Sen. Bradley, Dist 3; Sen. Birdsell, Dist 19; Sen. Gray, Dist 6; Sen. Ward, Dist 8;  
Sen. Kahn, Dist 10; Sen. Soucy, Dist 18; Rep. Dolan, Rock. 5; Rep. Egan, Graf. 2;  
Rep. Thompson, Coos 1; Rep. Gordon, Graf. 9; Rep. Maggiore, Rock. 22

COMMITTEE: Finance

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AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill permits all towns to authorize broadband infrastructure bonds at special meetings without court approval.

.....

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 relative to broadband infrastructure funding.

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

- 1           1 Powers and Duties of Towns; Special Meetings. Amend RSA 31:5, I(a) to read as follows:  
2           I.(a) No money shall be raised or appropriated or shall any appropriation previously made  
3 be reduced or rescinded at any special town meeting except by vote by ballot, nor unless the ballots  
4 cast at such meeting shall be equal in number to at least 1/2 of the number of legal voters borne on  
5 the checklist of the town entitled to vote at the annual or biennial election next preceding such  
6 special meeting; and such checklist, corrected according to law, shall be used at any meeting upon  
7 the request of 10 legal voters of the town. This section shall not apply to money to be raised for the  
8 public defense or any military purpose in time of war *or to money to be raised for the purpose of*  
9 *financing broadband infrastructure bonds under RSA 33:3-g*. In case an emergency arises  
10 requiring an immediate expenditure of money, the selectmen may petition the superior court for  
11 permission to hold a special town meeting which, if granted, shall give said meeting the same  
12 authority as an annual town meeting.  
13           2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect upon its passage.