

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

# **HB1584**

# Bill as Introduced

HB 1584-FN - AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

31Mar2022... 1156h

2022 SESSION

22-2510

08/05

HOUSE BILL        ***1584-FN***

AN ACT            establishing a capital improvement grant program for the benefit of state fairs and agricultural fairs.

SPONSORS:        Rep. Ladd, Graf. 4; Rep. Pearl, Merr. 26; Rep. Graham, Hills. 7; Rep. Cordelli, Carr. 4; Rep. Luneau, Merr. 10; Sen. Hennessey, Dist 1; Sen. Prentiss, Dist 5; Sen. D'Allesandro, Dist 20

COMMITTEE:      Environment and Agriculture

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ANALYSIS

This bill establishes a capital improvement grant program and fund for the benefit of state and agricultural fairs.

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Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.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

AN ACT establishing a capital improvement grant program for the benefit of state fairs and agricultural fairs.

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

1 1 Capital Improvement Program for State Fairs. The subdivision heading preceding RSA  
2 425:19 and RSA 425:19 through RSA 425:19-f are repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

3 Capital Improvement Program for State Fairs

4 425:19 Declaration of Purpose. The general court finds that it is in the public interest to  
5 advance, encourage, and protect agricultural fairs including the exhibition of livestock and  
6 agricultural produce of all kinds, as well as related arts and businesses. Fair exhibitions are an  
7 integral and historical part of New Hampshire that provide an opportunity to educate and promote  
8 agriculture to the general public. The state further recognizes the need to support the activities of  
9 local youth organizations like 4-H and Future Farmers of America that encourage agricultural  
10 awareness and rural economic development.

11 425:19-a Definitions. In this subdivision:

12 I. "Commissioner" means the commissioner of the department of agriculture, markets, and  
13 food.

14 II. "Department" means the New Hampshire department of agriculture, markets, and food.

15 III. "Fair" means a member in good standing of the New Hampshire Association of Fairs and  
16 Expositions which is intended to promote agriculture and support rural economic development by  
17 including a balanced variety of exhibits of livestock and agricultural products as well as related arts  
18 and businesses, including products of farm home and educational contests, displays, and  
19 demonstrations designed to train youth and to promote agricultural awareness and rural economic  
20 development and living.

21 IV. "Fund" means the capital improvement program grant fund for fairs established in RSA  
22 425:19-b.

23 425:19-b Capital Improvement Program Grant Fund. There is hereby established the capital  
24 improvement program grant fund to be used by the department to assist fairs in the manner  
25 provided by this chapter. Only the commissioner or the commissioner's designee may approve  
26 applications and authorize disbursements from the fund. The fund shall be nonlapsing and  
27 continually appropriated to the department for the purpose of administering this chapter. Each  
28 fiscal year, the state treasurer shall transfer into the capital improvement program grant fund from  
29 the state general fund the sum of \$250,000. No transfer of general funds shall be made to the capital  
30 improvement program grant fund in any fiscal year in which the fund balance is at least \$1,000,000.

HB 1584-FN - AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

- Page 2 -

1 Fund disbursements shall comply with RSA 425:19-g and no appropriation shall be required for  
2 disbursements.

3 425:19-c Capital Improvement Program; Grant Eligibility Conditions and Criteria. The  
4 following conditions and criteria shall be met by a fair to be eligible for a capital improvement  
5 program grant awarded by the commissioner. However, the commissioner may make exceptions to  
6 the above conditions and criteria. The fair applicant shall:

7 I. Be a non-profit association located in New Hampshire that is a full member in good  
8 standing with the New Hampshire Association of Fairs and Expositions.

9 II. Annually hold events that offer contests or exhibits of 4-H members and clubs, Future  
10 Farmers of America members and clubs, granges, farm crops, domestic livestock competitions, or  
11 home crafts.

12 III. Be managed by a board of directors who are responsible for the business affairs and  
13 operational activities and policies.

14 IV. Have a board of directors who are subject to and compliant with local, state, and federal  
15 laws and regulations.

16 V. Have a treasurer who has charge of the financial affairs of the corporation and ensures  
17 that grant funds received from a state grant are used in accordance with the applicant's proposal as  
18 approved by the department commissioner.

19 VI. Operate a minimum of 3 consecutive, 8-hour days per year.

20 VII. Submit a capital improvement project that has a minimum useful life of 20 years and  
21 shall be completed within 2 years of execution of a contract to perform work authorized by the grant.

22 VIII. Contribute matching funds or in-kind services in an amount equal to 15 percent or  
23 more of the value of the grant.

24 IX. Not have already completed the project for which the applicant seeks reimbursement.

25 425:19-d Capital Improvement Grant Disbursements.

26 I. The board of directors of a fair may apply to the department for grant award from the  
27 capital improvement program grant fund on forms provided by the department.

28 II. The commissioner may allocate 95 percent of the capital improvement program grant  
29 fund including fund interest to eligible applicant fairs, and distribute such funds according to merit  
30 as measured by a merit rating to be set by the commissioner. This merit rating shall take into  
31 account such factors as area and population served, youth participation, attendance, gate receipts,  
32 number and type of exhibits, community support, evidence of successful achievement of desired  
33 outcomes and purposes of the fair, extent of improvements made to grounds and facilities from year  
34 to year, rural and farming nature of the region served by the fair, and overall condition and  
35 appearance of grounds

36 III. Any disbursements made under this section shall be made only as a disbursement in  
37 whole or in part for capital improvement expenses incurred by the fair.

1 425:19-e Health or Safety Capital Improvements and Contract Requirements.

2 I. Subject to the availability of funds, the department may provide grant funds on a  
3 competitive basis, to support capital projects that make health and safety improvements to  
4 agricultural fairgrounds or fair facilities in order to benefit participants and the fair-going public.  
5 The rules of such competition shall be established by the department in accordance with RSA 541-A.

6 II. The department shall develop and manage appropriate contracts with the selected  
7 applicants, monitor project expenditures and grantee performance, report project and contract  
8 information, and exercise due diligence, and other managerial responsibilities.

9 III. The department shall include provisions in the contracts which require that capital  
10 improvements be held by the grantee for a specific period of time appropriate to the amount of the  
11 grant and that facilities shall be used for the express purpose of the grant.

12 IV. The department may use the remaining 5 percent of funds from the annual general court  
13 appropriation to the state fair capital improvements for expenses incurred in the administration of  
14 the capital improvement grant program.

15 V. All deadlines and times required for the capital improvement grant program  
16 administration and disbursement of funds to fairs shall occur at such times as the commissioner  
17 may prescribe.

18 VI. If the grantee is found to be out of compliance with provisions of the contract, the  
19 grantee shall repay to the state general fund the principal amount of the grant plus interest  
20 calculated at the rate of interest on state of New Hampshire general obligation bonds issued most  
21 closely to the date of authorization of the grant.

22 425:19-f Rulemaking. The commissioner shall adopt rules under RSA 541-A relative to the  
23 administration of the capital improvement grant program under this subdivision.

24 425:19-g Report of Grants. The commissioner shall compile an annual report detailing the  
25 number of disbursements from the fund, the amount of each disbursement, what entity received the  
26 disbursement, and the purpose of the disbursement, and shall submit such report to the speaker of  
27 the house of representatives, the president of the senate, the chairpersons of the house and senate  
28 ways and means committees, the house and senate finance committees, and the house and senate  
29 committees with jurisdiction over environmental and agricultural issues, by November 1 of each  
30 year.

31 425:19-h Repairs. In case of partial or total destruction of the building by fire or otherwise, the  
32 commissioner may make needed repairs or replacement, with the approval of the governor and  
33 council, and may use the proceeds of any insurance.

34 425:19-i Records for Purpose of Audit. The commissioner of revenue administration shall adopt  
35 rules, pursuant to RSA 541-A, relative to the accounting methods to be used by each fair which could  
36 qualify for a distribution, if a distribution is made under this subdivision. Each such fair shall use  
37 the calendar year as its fiscal year for keeping the books, records and reports of its fiscal officers.

1 The commissioner of revenue administration is authorized to require the production of all such  
2 books, records, vouchers and other papers and documents as will enable him to make a full, accurate  
3 and complete audit. All such records shall be preserved for 3 years following the date of said audit.

4 425:19-j Audit of Accounts of Agricultural Fairs.

5 I. The commissioner of revenue administration shall annually, at the cost and expense of  
6 each agricultural fair receiving a distribution, audit all accounts of fairs receiving money under the  
7 provisions of this subdivision, and the report of each such audit, when completed, shall be submitted  
8 to the president, treasurer and clerk of each fair so audited. If, in any case, the commissioner cannot  
9 guarantee that such an audit will be completed within one year after the end of a fiscal year for  
10 which a fair received a distribution, he shall so advise the president or treasurer of the fair,  
11 whereupon the respective fair officials may hire a certified public accountant or a public accountant  
12 licensed under RSA 309-A, to conduct such an audit within one year after the close of the fair's fiscal  
13 year in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and applicable state statutes.

14 II. Every audit made by the commissioner of revenue administration or an independent  
15 public accountant licensed under RSA 309-A shall include a summary of findings and  
16 recommendations regarding compliance with applicable statutory provisions of law, and the  
17 adequacy of accounting and business procedures pursued by the fair examined. Contracts executed  
18 between the agricultural fairs and the independent public accountants shall stipulate that all  
19 accounts and funds of the fair are to be audited and a report of the audit is to be prepared in  
20 accordance with this section. At the conclusion of the audit, the independent public accountant shall  
21 submit a copy of an audit report prepared pursuant to this section directly to the commissioner of  
22 agriculture, markets, and food and to the commissioner of revenue administration for review and  
23 approval as to format only.

24 425:19-k Failure to Keep Records. The failure to keep the books, records and papers required by  
25 this subdivision and follow such approved methods shall be considered sufficient cause for the  
26 commissioner of agriculture, markets, and food to withhold the distribution of funds provided for in  
27 this subdivision to the fair or fairs otherwise entitled to them until such books, records and papers  
28 are made available for audit and such audit made. Any funds remaining in the hands of the  
29 commissioner of agriculture, markets, and food which are not distributed because of continued  
30 failure to comply with the provisions of RSA 425:19-i shall be distributed after a period of one year,  
31 to the fairs which complied with the provisions of said section for the year in question.

32 2 New Subparagraph; Capital Improvement Grant Fund for Fairs. Amend RSA 6:12, I(b) by  
33 inserting after subparagraph (382) the following new subparagraph:

34 (383) Moneys deposited in the capital improvement program grant fund established  
35 in RSA 425:19-b.

36 3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect July 1, 2022.

**HB 1584-FN- FISCAL NOTE**  
**AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE (AMENDMENT #2022-1156h)**

AN ACT establishing a capital improvement grant program for the benefit of state fairs and agricultural fairs.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**     State             County             Local             None

STATE:	Estimated Increase / (Decrease)			
	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
<b>Appropriation</b>	\$0	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000
<b>Revenue</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Expenditures</b>	\$0	In excess of \$250,000	In excess of \$250,000	In excess of \$250,000
<b>Funding Source:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General <input type="checkbox"/> Education <input type="checkbox"/> Highway <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other - Capital Improvement Program Grant Fund, audit fees			

**METHODOLOGY:**

This bill establishes a capital improvement grant program and fund for the benefit of state and agricultural fairs. The bill appropriates \$250,000 each fiscal year, beginning in FY 2023, with no appropriation being made in any fiscal year in which the fund balance is at least \$1,000,000.

The Department of Agriculture, Markets and Food provides the following information and assumptions regarding the fiscal impact of this bill:

- The Department will manage contracting, spending and reporting and will provide an annual report detailing disbursements by November 1 of each year.
- 95% plus interest of the capital improvement program fund would be distributed to eligible applicant fairs and 5% would be retained to cover expenses incurred by the Department in the administration of the capital improvement grant program.
- There are currently 11 qualified members of NH Association of Fairs & Expositions that meet the criteria for grants. Each grantee would contribute matching funds or in-kind services of 15% or more of the value of the grant received.
- The Department could manage the program using existing staff.

The Department of Revenue Administration (DRA) is granted authority to establish rules for the accounting methods to be used by grant recipients. The Commissioner of DRA is authorized to conduct audits of the grant recipients for compliance with the terms of the state fair grant program and compliance with the required accounting method and adequacy of business procedures. The Commissioner of the DRA is required to issue an report of such audit to the



president, treasurer, and clerk of the fair audited. The cost of conducting such audits and issuing the reports shall be borne by the grant recipients. If the Commissioner cannot guarantee an audit will be completed within 1 year of the end of the grant recipient's fiscal year, the Commissioner shall alert the grant recipient so they can procure an independent audit at their own expense for submission and review by the DRA. With an effective date of July 1, 2022, the DRA assumes the first completed grant year would be FY2023 and the first DRA audits will occur in FY2024.

Regarding the DRA's obligation to audit grant recipients, it is not known how many yearly audits will be completed because it is unclear how many grants will be issued and how long the yearly audit requirement will exist for each grant recipient. The DRA indicates it does not have the expertise necessary to implement the bill based on the position types that currently exist in the Department. The DRA assumes it will require a new program specialist IV position which will increase expenditures by \$85,000 in FY2024 and \$89,000 in FY 2025.

**AGENCIES CONTACTED:**

Departments of Agriculture, Markets and Food and Revenue Administration

HB 1584-FN - VERSION ADOPTED BY BOTH BODIES

31Mar2022... 1156h

2022 SESSION

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08/05

HOUSE BILL **1584-FN**

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HOUSE COMMITTEE: Environment and Agriculture *OTP 14-3*  
*HOUSE WAYS/MEANS: OTP/A 22-0; SENATE ENERGY: OTP 5-0*

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HB 1584-FN - VERSION ADOPTED BY BOTH BODIES

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18 approved by the department commissioner.

19 VI. Operate a minimum of 3 consecutive, 8-hour days per year.

20 VII. Submit a capital improvement project that has a minimum useful life of 20 years and  
21 shall be completed within 2 years of execution of a contract to perform work authorized by the grant.

22 VIII. Contribute matching funds or in-kind services in an amount equal to 15 percent or  
23 more of the value of the grant.

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35 appearance of grounds

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37 whole or in part for capital improvement expenses incurred by the fair.

**HB 1584-FN - VERSION ADOPTED BY BOTH BODIES**

**- Page 3 -**

1       425:19-e Health or Safety Capital Improvements and Contract Requirements.

2           I. Subject to the availability of funds, the department may provide grant funds on a  
3 competitive basis, to support capital projects that make health and safety improvements to  
4 agricultural fairgrounds or fair facilities in order to benefit participants and the fair-going public.  
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7 applicants, monitor project expenditures and grantee performance, report project and contract  
8 information, and exercise due diligence, and other managerial responsibilities.

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10 improvements be held by the grantee for a specific period of time appropriate to the amount of the  
11 grant and that facilities shall be used for the express purpose of the grant.

12          IV. The department may use the remaining 5 percent of funds from the annual general court  
13 appropriation to the state fair capital improvements for expenses incurred in the administration of  
14 the capital improvement grant program.

15          V. All deadlines and times required for the capital improvement grant program  
16 administration and disbursement of funds to fairs shall occur at such times as the commissioner  
17 may prescribe.

18          VI. If the grantee is found to be out of compliance with provisions of the contract, the  
19 grantee shall repay to the state general fund the principal amount of the grant plus interest  
20 calculated at the rate of interest on state of New Hampshire general obligation bonds issued most  
21 closely to the date of authorization of the grant.

22       425:19-f Rulemaking. The commissioner shall adopt rules under RSA 541-A relative to the  
23 administration of the capital improvement grant program under this subdivision.

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25 number of disbursements from the fund, the amount of each disbursement, what entity received the  
26 disbursement, and the purpose of the disbursement, and shall submit such report to the speaker of  
27 the house of representatives, the president of the senate, the chairpersons of the house and senate  
28 ways and means committees, the house and senate finance committees, and the house and senate  
29 committees with jurisdiction over environmental and agricultural issues, by November 1 of each  
30 year.

31       425:19-h Repairs. In case of partial or total destruction of the building by fire or otherwise, the  
32 commissioner may make needed repairs or replacement, with the approval of the governor and  
33 council, and may use the proceeds of any insurance.

34       425:19-i Records for Purpose of Audit. The commissioner of revenue administration shall adopt  
35 rules, pursuant to RSA 541-A, relative to the accounting methods to be used by each fair which could  
36 qualify for a distribution, if a distribution is made under this subdivision. Each such fair shall use  
37 the calendar year as its fiscal year for keeping the books, records and reports of its fiscal officers.

**HB 1584-FN - VERSION ADOPTED BY BOTH BODIES**

**- Page 4 -**

1 The commissioner of revenue administration is authorized to require the production of all such  
2 books, records, vouchers and other papers and documents as will enable him to make a full, accurate  
3 and complete audit. All such records shall be preserved for 3 years following the date of said audit.

4 425:19-j Audit of Accounts of Agricultural Fairs.

5 I. The commissioner of revenue administration shall annually, at the cost and expense of  
6 each agricultural fair receiving a distribution, audit all accounts of fairs receiving money under the  
7 provisions of this subdivision, and the report of each such audit, when completed, shall be submitted  
8 to the president, treasurer and clerk of each fair so audited. If, in any case, the commissioner cannot  
9 guarantee that such an audit will be completed within one year after the end of a fiscal year for  
10 which a fair received a distribution, he shall so advise the president or treasurer of the fair,  
11 whereupon the respective fair officials may hire a certified public accountant or a public accountant  
12 licensed under RSA 309-A, to conduct such an audit within one year after the close of the fair's fiscal  
13 year in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and applicable state statutes.

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15 public accountant licensed under RSA 309-A shall include a summary of findings and  
16 recommendations regarding compliance with applicable statutory provisions of law, and the  
17 adequacy of accounting and business procedures pursued by the fair examined. Contracts executed  
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19 accounts and funds of the fair are to be audited and a report of the audit is to be prepared in  
20 accordance with this section. At the conclusion of the audit, the independent public accountant shall  
21 submit a copy of an audit report prepared pursuant to this section directly to the commissioner of  
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25 this subdivision and follow such approved methods shall be considered sufficient cause for the  
26 commissioner of agriculture, markets, and food to withhold the distribution of funds provided for in  
27 this subdivision to the fair or fairs otherwise entitled to them until such books, records and papers  
28 are made available for audit and such audit made. Any funds remaining in the hands of the  
29 commissioner of agriculture, markets, and food which are not distributed because of continued  
30 failure to comply with the provisions of RSA 425:19-i shall be distributed after a period of one year,  
31 to the fairs which complied with the provisions of said section for the year in question.

32 2 New Subparagraph; Capital Improvement Grant Fund for Fairs. Amend RSA 6:12, I(b) by  
33 inserting after subparagraph (382) the following new subparagraph:

34 (383) Moneys deposited in the capital improvement program grant fund established  
35 in RSA 425:19-b.

36 3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect July 1, 2022.

LBA  
22-2510  
12/15/21

**HB 1584-FN- FISCAL NOTE  
AS INTRODUCED**

AN ACT establishing a capital improvement grant program for the benefit of state fairs and agricultural fairs.

FISCAL IMPACT:  State  County  Local  None

STATE:	Estimated Increase / (Decrease)			
	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
Appropriation	\$0	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000
Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Expenditures	\$0	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000
<b>Funding Source:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General <input type="checkbox"/> Education <input type="checkbox"/> Highway <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other - Capital Improvement Grant Program Fund			

**METHODOLOGY:**

This bill establishes a capital improvement grant program and fund for the benefit of state and agricultural fairs.

The Department of Agriculture, Markets and Food indicates there are currently 13 members of the NH Fairs Association. If the funds were distributed evenly, a minimum of \$18,270 per year would be available to each fair if all fairs submit applications. However, it is likely that the funding will be conducted on a competitive basis. The Department assumes the program can be operated by an existing position on a part-time basis. The Department assumes the appropriations will be spent each year.

**AGENCIES CONTACTED:**

Department of Agriculture, Markets and Food

HB 1584-FN - AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

31Mar2022... 1156h  
05/05/2022 1954s

2022 SESSION

22-2510  
08/05

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COMMITTEE:          Environment and Agriculture

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ANALYSIS

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10 awareness and rural economic development.

11            425:19-a Definitions. In this subdivision:

12                    I. "Commissioner" means the commissioner of the department of agriculture, markets, and  
13 food.

14                    II. "Department" means the New Hampshire department of agriculture, markets, and food.

15                    III. "Fair" means a member in good standing of the New Hampshire Association of Fairs and  
16 Expositions which is intended to promote agriculture and support rural economic development by  
17 including a balanced variety of exhibits of livestock and agricultural products as well as related arts  
18 and businesses, including products of farm home and educational contests, displays, and  
19 demonstrations designed to train youth and to promote agricultural awareness and rural economic  
20 development and living.

21                    IV. "Fund" means the capital improvement program grant fund for fairs established in RSA  
22 425:19-b.

23            425:19-b Capital Improvement Program Grant Fund. There is hereby established the capital  
24 improvement program grant fund to be used by the department to assist fairs in the manner  
25 provided by this chapter. Only the commissioner or the commissioner's designee may approve  
26 applications and authorize disbursements from the fund. The fund shall be nonlapsing for the  
27 purpose of administering this chapter should future state appropriations become available. Effective  
28 July 1, 2022, the state treasurer shall transfer into the capital improvement program grant fund  
29 from the state general fund the sum of \$250,000.

1       425:19-c Capital Improvement Program; Grant Eligibility Conditions and Criteria. The  
2 following conditions and criteria shall be met by a fair to be eligible for a capital improvement  
3 program grant awarded by the commissioner. However, the commissioner may make exceptions to  
4 the above conditions and criteria. The fair applicant shall:

5           I. Be a non-profit association located in New Hampshire that is a full member in good  
6 standing with the New Hampshire Association of Fairs and Expositions.

7           II. Annually hold events that offer contests or exhibits of 4-H members and clubs, Future  
8 Farmers of America members and clubs, granges, farm crops, domestic livestock competitions, or  
9 home crafts.

10          III. Be managed by a board of directors who are responsible for the business affairs and  
11 operational activities and policies.

12          IV. Have a board of directors who are subject to and compliant with local, state, and federal  
13 laws and regulations.

14          V. Have a treasurer who has charge of the financial affairs of the corporation and ensures  
15 that grant funds received from a state grant are used in accordance with the applicant's proposal as  
16 approved by the department commissioner.

17          VI. Operate a minimum of 3 consecutive, 8-hour days per year.

18          VII. Submit a capital improvement project that has a minimum useful life of 20 years and  
19 shall be completed within 2 years of execution of a contract to perform work authorized by the grant.

20          VIII. Contribute matching funds or in-kind services in an amount equal to 30 percent or  
21 more of the value of the grant.

22          IX. Not have already completed the project for which the applicant seeks reimbursement.

23       425:19-d Capital Improvement Grant Disbursements.

24           I. The board of directors of a fair may apply to the department for grant award from the  
25 capital improvement program grant fund on forms provided by the department.

26           II. The commissioner shall allocate at least 95 percent of the capital improvement program  
27 grant fund, including fund interest, to eligible applicant fairs and distribute such funds according to  
28 merit as measured by a merit rating to be set by the commissioner. This merit rating shall take into  
29 account such factors as area and population served, youth participation, attendance, gate receipts,  
30 number and type of exhibits, community support, evidence of successful achievement of desired  
31 outcomes and purposes of the fair, extent of improvements made to grounds and facilities from year  
32 to year, rural and farming nature of the region served by the fair, and overall condition and  
33 appearance of grounds.

34           III. Any disbursements made under this section shall be made only as a disbursement in  
35 whole or in part for capital improvement expenses incurred by the fair.

36       425:19-e Health or Safety Capital Improvements and Contract Requirements.

**HB 1584-FN - AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE**

**- Page 3 -**

1 I. Subject to the availability of funds, the department shall provide grant funds on a  
2 competitive basis, to support capital projects that make health and safety improvements to  
3 agricultural fairgrounds or fair facilities in order to benefit participants and the fair-going public.  
4 The rules of such competition shall be established by the department in accordance with RSA 541-A.

5 II. The department shall develop and manage appropriate contracts with the selected  
6 applicants, monitor project expenditures and grantee performance, report project and contract  
7 information, and exercise due diligence, and other managerial responsibilities.

8 III. The department shall include provisions in the contracts which require that capital  
9 improvements be held by the grantee for a specific period of time appropriate to the amount of the  
10 grant and that facilities shall be used for the express purpose of the grant.

11 IV. The department may use the remaining funds from any general court appropriation to  
12 the state fair capital improvements for expenses incurred in the administration of the capital  
13 improvement grant program.

14 V. All deadlines and times required for the capital improvement grant program  
15 administration and disbursement of funds to fairs shall occur at such times as the commissioner  
16 may prescribe.

17 VI. If the grantee is found to be out of compliance with provisions of the contract, the  
18 grantee shall repay to the state general fund the principal amount of the grant plus interest  
19 calculated at the rate of interest on state of New Hampshire general obligation bonds issued most  
20 closely to the date of authorization of the grant.

21 425:19-f Rulemaking. The commissioner shall adopt rules under RSA 541-A relative to the  
22 administration of the capital improvement grant program under this subdivision.

23 425:19-g Report of Grants. The commissioner shall compile an annual report detailing the  
24 number of disbursements from the fund, the amount of each disbursement, what entity received the  
25 disbursement, and the purpose of the disbursement, and shall submit such report to the speaker of  
26 the house of representatives, the president of the senate, the chairpersons of the house and senate  
27 ways and means committees, the house and senate finance committees, and the house and senate  
28 committees with jurisdiction over environmental and agricultural issues, by November 1 of each year  
29 or until such time that all funds within the capital improvement program grant fund have been  
30 disbursed and expended.

31 425:19-h Financial Records. Each capital improvement grant recipient shall use the calendar  
32 year as its fiscal year for keeping the books, records, and reports relative to the use of grant funds.  
33 All records such as invoices, contracts, or other documents supporting grant fund uses shall be  
34 preserved and available to the commissioner in accordance with rules pursuant to RSA 425:19-f.

35 425:19-i Failure to Keep Records. The failure to keep financial records shall be considered  
36 sufficient cause for the commissioner of agriculture, markets, and food to withhold the distribution of  
37 funds.

**HB 1584-FN - AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE**

**- Page 4 -**

1           2 New Subparagraph; Capital Improvement Grant Fund for Fairs. Amend RSA 6:12, I(b) by  
2 inserting after subparagraph (382) the following new subparagraph:

3                   (383) Moneys deposited in the capital improvement program grant fund established  
4 in RSA 425:19-b.

5           3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect July 1, 2022.

**HB 1584-FN- FISCAL NOTE**  
AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE (AMENDMENT #2022-1954s)

AN ACT establishing a capital improvement grant program for the benefit of state fairs and agricultural fairs.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**     State             County             Local             None

STATE:	Estimated Increase / (Decrease)			
	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
<b>Appropriation</b>	\$0	\$250,000	\$0	\$0
<b>Revenue</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Expenditures</b>	\$0	Indeterminable Increase	Indeterminable Increase	Indeterminable Increase
<b>Funding Source:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General Capital Improvement Grant Fund	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Highway	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other -

**METHODOLOGY:**

This bill establishes a nonlapsing capital improvement grant program and fund for the benefit of state and agricultural fairs. The bill appropriates \$250,000 from the general fund on July 1, 2022. The Department of Agriculture, Markets and Food provides the following information and assumptions regarding the fiscal impact of this bill:

- The Department will manage contracting, spending and reporting and will provide an annual report detailing disbursements by November 1 of each year.
- At least 95% of the capital improvement program fund, plus interest earned on the fund balance would be distributed to eligible applicant fairs and up to 5% would be retained to cover expenses incurred by the Department in the administration of the capital improvement grant program.
- There are currently 11 qualified members of NH Association of Fairs & Expositions that meet the criteria for grants. Each grantee would contribute matching funds or in-kind services of 30% or more of the value of the grant received.
- The Department could manage the program using existing staff.

**AGENCIES CONTACTED:**

Department of Agriculture, Markets and Food

CHAPTER 208  
HB 1584-FN - FINAL VERSION

31Mar2022... 1156h  
05/05/2022 1954s

2022 SESSION

22-2510  
08/05

HOUSE BILL ***1584-FN***

AN ACT establishing a capital improvement grant program for the benefit of state fairs and agricultural fairs.

SPONSORS: Rep. Ladd, Graf. 4; Rep. Pearl, Merr. 26; Rep. Graham, Hills. 7; Rep. Cordelli, Carr. 4; Rep. Luneau, Merr. 10; Sen. Hennessey, Dist 1; Sen. Prentiss, Dist 5; Sen. D'Allesandro, Dist 20

COMMITTEE: Environment and Agriculture

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ANALYSIS

This bill establishes a capital improvement grant program and fund for the benefit of state and agricultural fairs.

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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.

CHAPTER 208  
HB 1584-FN - FINAL VERSION

31Mar2022... 1156h  
05/05/2022 1954s

22-2510  
08/05

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

*In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Two*

AN ACT                    establishing a capital improvement grant program for the benefit of state fairs and agricultural fairs.

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

1            208:1 Capital Improvement Program for State Fairs. The subdivision heading preceding RSA 425:19  
2 and RSA 425:19 through RSA 425:19-f are repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

3                                    Capital Improvement Program for State Fairs

4            425:19 Declaration of Purpose. The general court finds that it is in the public interest to advance,  
5 encourage, and protect agricultural fairs including the exhibition of livestock and agricultural produce of all  
6 kinds, as well as related arts and businesses. Fair exhibitions are an integral and historical part of New  
7 Hampshire that provide an opportunity to educate and promote agriculture to the general public. The  
8 state further recognizes the need to support the activities of local youth organizations like 4-H and Future  
9 Farmers of America that encourage agricultural awareness and rural economic development.

10           425:19-a Definitions. In this subdivision:

11            I. "Commissioner" means the commissioner of the department of agriculture, markets, and food.

12            II. "Department" means the New Hampshire department of agriculture, markets, and food.

13            III. "Fair" means a member in good standing of the New Hampshire Association of Fairs and  
14 Expositions which is intended to promote agriculture and support rural economic development by  
15 including a balanced variety of exhibits of livestock and agricultural products as well as related arts and  
16 businesses, including products of farm home and educational contests, displays, and demonstrations  
17 designed to train youth and to promote agricultural awareness and rural economic development and  
18 living.

19            IV. "Fund" means the capital improvement program grant fund for fairs established in RSA  
20 425:19-b.

21           425:19-b Capital Improvement Program Grant Fund. There is hereby established the capital  
22 improvement program grant fund to be used by the department to assist fairs in the manner provided by  
23 this chapter. Only the commissioner or the commissioner's designee may approve applications and  
24 authorize disbursements from the fund. The fund shall be nonlapsing for the purpose of administering this  
25 chapter should future state appropriations become available. Effective July 1, 2022, the state treasurer  
26 shall transfer into the capital improvement program grant fund from the state general fund the sum of  
27 \$250,000.

28           425:19-c Capital Improvement Program; Grant Eligibility Conditions and Criteria. The following  
29 conditions and criteria shall be met by a fair to be eligible for a capital improvement program grant  
30 awarded by the commissioner. However, the commissioner may make exceptions to the above  
31 conditions and criteria. The fair applicant shall:

**CHAPTER 208**  
**HB 1584-FN - FINAL VERSION**  
**- Page 2 -**

1           I. Be a non-profit association located in New Hampshire that is a full member in good standing  
2 with the New Hampshire Association of Fairs and Expositions.

3           II. Annually hold events that offer contests or exhibits of 4-H members and clubs, Future Farmers  
4 of America members and clubs, granges, farm crops, domestic livestock competitions, or home crafts.

5           III. Be managed by a board of directors who are responsible for the business affairs and  
6 operational activities and policies.

7           IV. Have a board of directors who are subject to and compliant with local, state, and federal laws  
8 and regulations.

9           V. Have a treasurer who has charge of the financial affairs of the corporation and ensures that  
10 grant funds received from a state grant are used in accordance with the applicant's proposal as approved  
11 by the department commissioner.

12           VI. Operate a minimum of 3 consecutive, 8-hour days per year.

13           VII. Submit a capital improvement project that has a minimum useful life of 20 years and shall be  
14 completed within 2 years of execution of a contract to perform work authorized by the grant.

15           VIII. Contribute matching funds or in-kind services in an amount equal to 30 percent or more of  
16 the value of the grant.

17           IX. Not have already completed the project for which the applicant seeks reimbursement.

18           425:19-d Capital Improvement Grant Disbursements.

19           I. The board of directors of a fair may apply to the department for grant award from the capital  
20 improvement program grant fund on forms provided by the department.

21           II. The commissioner shall allocate at least 95 percent of the capital improvement program grant  
22 fund, including fund interest, to eligible applicant fairs and distribute such funds according to merit as  
23 measured by a merit rating to be set by the commissioner. This merit rating shall take into account such  
24 factors as area and population served, youth participation, attendance, gate receipts, number and type of  
25 exhibits, community support, evidence of successful achievement of desired outcomes and purposes of  
26 the fair, extent of improvements made to grounds and facilities from year to year, rural and farming nature  
27 of the region served by the fair, and overall condition and appearance of grounds.

28           III. Any disbursements made under this section shall be made only as a disbursement in whole or  
29 in part for capital improvement expenses incurred by the fair.

30           425:19-e Health or Safety Capital Improvements and Contract Requirements.

31           I. Subject to the availability of funds, the department shall provide grant funds on a competitive  
32 basis, to support capital projects that make health and safety improvements to agricultural fairgrounds or  
33 fair facilities in order to benefit participants and the fair-going public. The rules of such competition shall  
34 be established by the department in accordance with RSA 541-A.

35           II. The department shall develop and manage appropriate contracts with the selected applicants,  
36 monitor project expenditures and grantee performance, report project and contract information, and  
37 exercise due diligence, and other managerial responsibilities.



CHAPTER 208  
HB 1584-FN - FINAL VERSION

- Page 3 -

1 III. The department shall include provisions in the contracts which require that capital  
2 improvements be held by the grantee for a specific period of time appropriate to the amount of the grant  
3 and that facilities shall be used for the express purpose of the grant.

4 IV. The department may use the remaining funds from any general court appropriation to the  
5 state fair capital improvements for expenses incurred in the administration of the capital improvement  
6 grant program.

7 V. All deadlines and times required for the capital improvement grant program administration and  
8 disbursement of funds to fairs shall occur at such times as the commissioner may prescribe.

9 VI. If the grantee is found to be out of compliance with provisions of the contract, the grantee  
10 shall repay to the state general fund the principal amount of the grant plus interest calculated at the rate of  
11 interest on state of New Hampshire general obligation bonds issued most closely to the date of  
12 authorization of the grant.

13 425:19-f Rulemaking. The commissioner shall adopt rules under RSA 541-A relative to the  
14 administration of the capital improvement grant program under this subdivision.

15 425:19-g Report of Grants. The commissioner shall compile an annual report detailing the number of  
16 disbursements from the fund, the amount of each disbursement, what entity received the disbursement,  
17 and the purpose of the disbursement, and shall submit such report to the speaker of the house of  
18 representatives, the president of the senate, the chairpersons of the house and senate ways and means  
19 committees, the house and senate finance committees, and the house and senate committees with  
20 jurisdiction over environmental and agricultural issues, by November 1 of each year or until such time that  
21 all funds within the capital improvement program grant fund have been disbursed and expended.

22 425:19-h Financial Records. Each capital improvement grant recipient shall use the calendar year as  
23 its fiscal year for keeping the books, records, and reports relative to the use of grant funds. All records  
24 such as invoices, contracts, or other documents supporting grant fund uses shall be preserved and  
25 available to the commissioner in accordance with rules pursuant to RSA 425:19-f.

26 425:19-i Failure to Keep Records. The failure to keep financial records shall be considered sufficient  
27 cause for the commissioner of agriculture, markets, and food to withhold the distribution of funds.

28 208:2 New Subparagraph; Capital Improvement Grant Fund for Fairs. Amend RSA 6:12, I(b) by  
29 inserting after subparagraph (382) the following new subparagraph:

30 (383) Moneys deposited in the capital improvement program grant fund established in  
31 RSA 425:19-b.

32 208:3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect July 1, 2022.

Approved: June 17, 2022  
Effective Date: July 01, 2022

# Amendments

Sen. Hennessey, Dist 1  
May 4, 2022  
2022-1954s  
08/05

Floor Amendment to HB 1584-FN

1 Amend RSA 425:19-b as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

2

3 425:19-b Capital Improvement Program Grant Fund. There is hereby established the capital  
4 improvement program grant fund to be used by the department to assist fairs in the manner  
5 provided by this chapter. Only the commissioner or the commissioner's designee may approve  
6 applications and authorize disbursements from the fund. The fund shall be nonlapsing for the  
7 purpose of administering this chapter should future state appropriations become available. Effective  
8 July 1, 2022, the state treasurer shall transfer into the capital improvement program grant fund  
9 from the state general fund the sum of \$250,000.

10

11 Amend RSA 425:19-c, VIII as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

12

13 VIII. Contribute matching funds or in-kind services in an amount equal to 30 percent or  
14 more of the value of the grant.

15

16 Amend RSA 425:19-d, II as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

17

18 II. The commissioner shall allocate at least 95 percent of the capital improvement program  
19 grant fund, including fund interest, to eligible applicant fairs and distribute such funds according to  
20 merit as measured by a merit rating to be set by the commissioner. This merit rating shall take into  
21 account such factors as area and population served, youth participation, attendance, gate receipts,  
22 number and type of exhibits, community support, evidence of successful achievement of desired  
23 outcomes and purposes of the fair, extent of improvements made to grounds and facilities from year  
24 to year, rural and farming nature of the region served by the fair, and overall condition and  
25 appearance of grounds.

26

27 Amend RSA 425:19-e, I as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

28

29 I. Subject to the availability of funds, the department shall provide grant funds on a  
30 competitive basis, to support capital projects that make health and safety improvements to  
31 agricultural fairgrounds or fair facilities in order to benefit participants and the fair-going public.  
32 The rules of such competition shall be established by the department in accordance with RSA 541-A.

Floor Amendment to HB 1584-FN

- Page 2 -

1

2 Amend RSA 425:19-e, IV as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

3

4 IV. The department may use the remaining funds from any general court appropriation to  
5 the state fair capital improvements for expenses incurred in the administration of the capital  
6 improvement grant program.

7

8 Amend RSA 425:19-g through 425:19-k as inserted by section 1 of the bill by replacing it with the  
9 following:

10

11 425:19-g Report of Grants. The commissioner shall compile an annual report detailing the  
12 number of disbursements from the fund, the amount of each disbursement, what entity received the  
13 disbursement, and the purpose of the disbursement, and shall submit such report to the speaker of  
14 the house of representatives, the president of the senate, the chairpersons of the house and senate  
15 ways and means committees, the house and senate finance committees, and the house and senate  
16 committees with jurisdiction over environmental and agricultural issues, by November 1 of each year  
17 or until such time that all funds within the capital improvement program grant fund have been  
18 disbursed and expended.

19 425:19-h Financial Records. Each capital improvement grant recipient shall use the calendar  
20 year as its fiscal year for keeping the books, records, and reports relative to the use of grant funds.  
21 All records such as invoices, contracts, or other documents supporting grant fund uses shall be  
22 preserved and available to the commissioner in accordance with rules pursuant to RSA 425:19-f.

23 425:19-i Failure to Keep Records. The failure to keep financial records shall be considered  
24 sufficient cause for the commissioner of agriculture, markets, and food to withhold the distribution of  
25 funds.

# Committee Minutes

# SENATE CALENDAR NOTICE

## Energy and Natural Resources

Sen Kevin Avard, Chair  
 Sen Bob Giuda, Vice Chair  
 Sen James Gray, Member  
 Sen David Watters, Member  
 Sen Rebecca Perkins Kwoka, Member

Date: April 7, 2022

### HEARINGS

Thursday	04/14/2022
(Day)	(Date)
Energy and Natural Resources	State House 103      10:00 a.m.
(Name of Committee)	(Place)      (Time)

Note: The Committee will meet at 10:00 a.m., or 15 minutes following the end of Session.

10:00 a.m.	<b>HB 1547-FN</b>	setting maximum contaminant levels for perfluorochemicals in the soil.
10:15 a.m.	<b>HB 1584-FN</b>	establishing a capital improvement grant program for the benefit of state fairs and agricultural fairs.
10:30 a.m.	<b>HB 478</b>	relative to treatment of PFAS contaminants in the drinking water of the Merrimack Village Water District.
10:45 a.m.	<b>HB 1185</b>	relative to treatment of water contaminated with perfluorinated chemicals.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION MAY FOLLOW

**Sponsors:**

**HB 1547-FN**

Rep. Mooney

Rep. Healey

Rep. Rung

Rep. Notter

**HB 1584-FN**

Rep. Ladd

Rep. Pearl

Rep. Graham

Rep. Cordelli

Rep. Luneau

Sen. Hennessey

Sen. Prentiss

Sen. D'Allesandro

**HB 478**

Rep. Mooney

Rep. Notter

Rep. Healey

Rep. Rung

Rep. Mayville

Rep. Rice

Sen. Daniels

Sen. Ricciardi

Sen. Sherman

Sen. Carson

**HB 1185**

Rep. Rung

Rep. Chretien

Rep. Cohen

Rep. Healey

Rep. Mooney

Rep. Meuse

Rep. Weston

Rep. B. Boyd

Daley Frenette 271-3042

Kevin A. Avard  
Chairman

# Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

*Ava Hawkes 271-3266*

**HB 1584-FN**, establishing a capital improvement grant program for the benefit of state fairs and agricultural fairs.

**Hearing Date:** April 14, 2022

**Time Opened:** 11:04 a.m.

**Time Closed:** 11:22 a.m.

**Members of the Committee Present:** Senators Perkins Kwoka, Watters, Gray, Giuda and Avard

**Members of the Committee Absent :** None

**Bill Analysis:** This bill establishes a capital improvement grant program and fund for the benefit of state and agricultural fairs.

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**Sponsors:**

Rep. Ladd

Rep. Cordelli

Sen. Prentiss

Rep. Pearl

Rep. Luneau

Sen. D'Allesandro

Rep. Graham

Sen. Hennessey

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**Who supports the bill:** Senator Erin Hennessey, Scott Burns, Laurene Allen, Brett Cherrington, Rep. Dawn Johnson, Robert Johnson, II (NH Farm Bureau), Rep. Howard Pearl, Rep. Rick Ladd, Janell George, Jolee Chase, Shawn Jasper (Dept. of Agriculture)

**Who opposes the bill:** Walter Kirsch

**Who is neutral on the bill:** None

**Summary of testimony presented:**

**Representative Rick Ladd - Grafton, District 4**

- Representative Ladd introduced HB 1584-FN.
- This is being introduced after work and coordination with the North Haverhill fairs.
- He spoke with directors of fairs around the state; we have 13 statewide fairs.
- There are some capital improvement issues with state fairs currently.
- Fairs are apart of our state's culture, agriculture, economics, education, etc.
- Fairs are also important due to their 4H programs for our youth.
- Due to the many changes to the way we now conduct our state fairs, from safety/health and fire codes, more utilities and support services are needed.
- These are expensive changes to comply with the many new codes.

- He did research to find out how we, as the state, have provided financial support in the past and/or how the fairs have gathered the dollars to continue supporting their capital needs.
- He looked at Plymouth State University. In 2002, it was estimated that \$40.6 million dollars from visitors and operators impacted our state. This is a viable industry in our state.
- In 2011, it went down to \$37 million dollars.
- He asked Senate Research how the legislature supported the capital needs of these facilities.
- These 13 fairs are apart of the Statewide Fair Association.
- We used to get our money from Rockingham. There was a pair of mutual funds where a percentage came out which went to the state. Then, the state allocated dollars annually.
- These funds were available back in 1989 at \$145,500. This shrunk in the latter part of the 1980s.
- In 1979, it was \$275,000. When Rockingham closed, that source of the revenue stopped.
- We are attracting folks throughout New England to our fairs in NH.
- In order to keep these fairs going, we must assist.
- These fairs are maintaining the status quo through volunteer help. Last year, one fair took 300 volunteers to keep it moving along.
- These volunteers also contribute funds themselves to make fairs work.
- The Rochester Fair had a barn burn down in the last several months. As the barn was an old facility, it was the only thing uninsured. Now, they are trying to figure out how they can replicate what they had.
- The department of agriculture and Commissioner Jasper support this bill.
- This bill recommends that \$250,000 should be allotted and capped. The commissioner of the department of agriculture has authority (through rulemaking) to implement this process.
- This bill also implements audit controls and allows DAS to make accounting accountability rules.
- We need this bill.
- Senator Avard asked Representative Ladd if these fairs qualify to receive money from charitable gaming.
  - o Representative Ladd said he does not think so.
  - o Some fairs have gotten away from serving alcohol on the grounds seeing that these events are for kids/parents. They work to keep these spaces alcohol-free.
- Senator Giuda asked Representative Ladd if he is proposing that these funds should come out of the general fund or if he has any ideas about possible revenue sources.
  - o Representative Ladd said he has already been asked that question. He believes it could come out of the operating fund.
- Senator Gray noted that Rochester's Fair is put on through the City of Rochester's Agriculture and Mechanical Association which has shareholders. It



is subject to statute from the early 1900s. Senator Gray asked Representative Ladd how this bill would impact Rochester's situation.

- o Representative Ladd said he does not know all of the intricacies on this topic.
- o We are looking at every way to get resources for these fairs.
- o In the winter months, fairs are not in session. However, in these barns and buildings, equipment is being stored.
- o There are other groups that come and use the fairgrounds.
- o These fairgrounds are also paying their local share of property taxes so there is no burden passed onto taxpayers.

### **Shawn Jasper - Commissioner, NH Department of Agriculture**

- He supports this bill.
- Senator Avard asked Commissioner Jasper if he could answer his previously stated question relative to charitable gaming.
  - o Commissioner Jasper said he cannot.
- Senator Watters asked Commissioner Jasper if this bill was sent to Senate Finance, would that afford his department time to address the funding issue.
  - o Commissioner Jasper said he could look into it. He does not have any knowledge in that area.
- Senator Avard noted that folks seem enthusiastic about charitable gaming in NH. This may be an option for another source of revenue.
- All other states, that he is aware of, puts some level of support into fairs. These are short events that are very dependent on the weather.
- Since you cannot guarantee sunny weather for fairs, and a lot get drowned out, these fairs can lose funding.
- Fairs are important to NH's culture.
- This is a small amount of money. When you average it out, it is less than \$25,000 per year per fair. It is capped.
- With regard to Rochester's Fair and how they currently fund it, this bill may need to be amended and/or they may need to look at their structure to see if they qualify. He would want to see them be eligible as they have some of the oldest buildings that need the most work.

### **Representative Howard Pearl - Merrimack, District 26**

- Supports this bill.
- Fairs are a very important part of NH's agriculture community.
- The House received a lot of testimony on this topic and about the significance of fairs. This bill passed the House Environment and Agriculture Committee 14-3.
- Senator Giuda asked Representative Pearl about the rationale of folks who opposed this bill when it was before the House.
  - o Representative Pearl said his understanding was that they were not opposed to the policy, however, they felt that other policies have not been supported like this in the past. The question was why we are supporting some policies and not others.

### **Robert Johnson - Policy Director, NH Farm Bureau**

- They support this bill.
- Fairs provide affordable family entertainment, educate the public and supports livestock and how our food is grown.
- One of the most important things fairs do is showcase the skills and work of our youth. No organization does that better.
- Fairs rely on volunteers. They are also weather dependent.
- They are high-cost due to insurance, the deployment of law enforcement, etc. They have older buildings that need to meet codes as well.
- This bill shows that the state is committed by providing money to help leverage fairs.
- The NH Business Magazine wrote an article on this exact issue a few years ago. He submitted copies of this article to the Committee.
- He also presented letters from five young farmers who are passionate about fairs and what they have done for them.
- Senator Giuda asked Mr. Johnson if he has spoken to other state farm bureaus in other states. He also asked if he has heard how other states fund their fairs.
  - o Mr. Johnson said he certainly does connect with other state farm bureaus. He would have to look into how other states fund their fairs.

### **Janell George - Vice President, NH Association of Fairs and Expositions**

- Milford resident.
- Supports this bill on behalf of the NH Fair Association and the 13 statewide fairs.
- Fairs are very important to our state on an agricultural level, economic level and an educational level.
- Her and her family grew up in 4H.
- Fairs are the place where 4H folks can interact with the public on what they've learned with their animals and agriculture. It also helps with public speaking.

amh  
Date Hearing Report completed: April 18, 2022

# Speakers

# Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee

## SIGN-IN SHEET

Date: 4/14/2022      Time: 10:15 a.m.

**HB 1584-FN**    AN ACT establishing a capital improvement grant program for the benefit of state fairs and agricultural fairs.

Name/Representing (please print neatly)

Name/Representing	Support	Oppose	Speaking?	Yes	No
Rep Dawn Johnson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Speaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Robert Johnson, II / NH Farm Bureau	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Speaking?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep Howard Pearl	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Speaking?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep Rick Ladd - Sponsor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Speaking?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Janell Greaves	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Speaking?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
John Chase	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Speaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Speaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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# Senate Remote Testify

## Energy and Natural Resources Committee Testify List for Bill HB1584 on 2022-0

Support: 4 Oppose: 1

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Position</u>
Burns, Scott	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Hennessey, Erin	An Elected Official	Myself	Support
kirsch, walter	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose
Allen, Laurene	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Cherrington, Brett	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support

# Testimony

**Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee**  
**Testimony – HB1584**  
**Rep Rick Ladd, Haverhill, NH**  
**Chair, House Education Committee**

The NH Statewide Fair bill, HB 1584-FN, was unanimously approved by the NH Hampshire House of Representatives on March 31. Passage of this bill will certainly benefit the North Haverhill Fair along with NH's other 12 state fairs which are so much a part of local culture, and capture fair visitors, exhibitors and operators from all parts of the state, New England and beyond.

Prior to introducing HB 1584, I found it difficult to actually pin down the health of NH's fairs, as it has been years since their financial impact has been properly studied. The last full reports that I could locate, dated to 2002 when Plymouth State University conducted a statewide fair study finding that fairs brought into the state an estimated \$40.6M spent by visitors, exhibitors and operators, and in a follow-up report dated 2011, the sum total of spending dropped to \$37M. The reports further noted that fairs generated approximately 900 jobs, and that fairs were maintaining primarily upon the reliance of volunteers. This is in fact the case with the North Haverhill Fair, which has strong community support and is successful due to in kind contributions and a volunteer force of 300 plus community members.

From 1937 through 1987, when parimutuel betting at Rockingham Park occurred, all bets were placed in a pool from which a percentage of the pot was taken by the state of New Hampshire. Annual distributions were then provided to support capital improvements at NH's summer fairs, of which 13 remain today. In 1979, the distribution to assist capital costs of fairs amounted to \$275,000, and in subsequent years, the amount dropped to \$50,000 and eventually stopped when Rockingham closed.

Many of the fairs, such as the North Haverhill Fair, are now struggling to keep up with maintenance on their aging buildings and infrastructure. The grant created in this bill will provide funds to repair buildings on the fairgrounds and will assist in bringing the buildings up to current code requirements. The state will appropriate \$250,000 annually to this fund. The fund will be managed by the Commissioner of Agriculture with audit requirements as a control measure.

Having been passed by several House committees, including Ways and Means, I thank the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee for considering this bill that supports agriculture, education, economy and NH culture.

Respectfully,  
Rep Rick Ladd  
Chair, House Education



LBAO  
05/14/02

**HISTORY OF STATE PAYMENTS  
TO ASSIST AGRICULTURAL FAIRS**

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Actual Expenditure</b>
2003	\$0
2002	\$0
2001	\$0
2000	\$0
1999	\$0
1998	\$0
1997	\$0
1996	\$0
1995	\$0
1994	\$0
1993	\$0
1992	\$0
1991	\$0
1990	\$0
1989	\$145,500
1988	\$150,000
1987	\$50,000
1986	\$50,000
1985	\$50,000
1984	\$0
1983	\$45,000
1982	\$45,000
1981	\$220,500
1980*	\$275,000
1979*	\$275,000

Source: Statement of Appropriations various years.  
\* includes \$50,000 for Agricultural Fair Improvements

Ammy Rice  
241 Colburn Rd  
Milford, NH 03055

12 April 2022

Dear Representatives and Senators of the New Hampshire Legislative Body:

I would encourage you to vote in favor of HB-1584 – “Establishing a capital improvement grant program for the benefit of state fairs and agricultural fairs”.

As a former member of both 4-H and FFA, summers were filled with fairs and festivals around New Hampshire. Fairs are a staple of NH tourism and agriculture throughout the summer and fall. Supporting these fairs allows local and tourist populations to travel around our beautiful state, support the economy, and provide educational opportunities for those who attend.

Having the ability to participate at these events is invaluable. I was given opportunities to learn and cultivate many skills that I have continued to use into my adult life. These skills would not be as strong for me or even exist had I simply been in a “normal” classroom setting. Fairs are an opportunity to provide a means of educating the public about NH agriculture and allow for more support of local businesses within the areas each fair is located within.

A vote supporting this bill will help demonstrate your support for New Hampshire’s youth, who are our future leaders. New Hampshire’s fairs and festivals are an intrinsic part of our state’s history as well as an important part to both local and state economic health and diversity.

Sincerely,

Ammy Rice

From Sydney Wilson  
19 South Summer Street  
Nottingham, NH 03290

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter to show my support of HB 1584-FN which aims to establish a capital improvement grant program for the benefit of state fairs and agricultural fairs.

My name is Sydney Wilson and I have been showing livestock at agricultural fairs for as long as I can remember. My family jokes that I was born into it as my mother has been showing beef cattle for over 30 years and even did so when she was pregnant with me. Attending agricultural fairs is something that has always meant the world to my family and myself for a multitude of reasons.

Fairs from a young age allowed me to find an outlet for my passion for agriculture and cultivated me into, overall, the person I am today. Fairs allow people of all ages to get together and celebrate agriculture, something that we don't see as much in this day and age. It allows 4-H members to learn skills, create their projects and be recognized for their hard work. I would tell you all of the life skills that attending and preparing for fairs has taught me, but this letter would look more like a novel and I know you all have important work to do.

From attending fairs, I have created most of the longtime friendships and connection in my life. From friends and professional connections to my partner. I have been able to grow in a personal and professional capacity. If I had never had the opportunity to attend NH fairs, I never would have joined 4-H, become and FFA State President, attended The Ohio State University to receive an agricultural degree or started my job here at Farm Bureau. Most of all, I wouldn't be one of the many young farmers in the state who has started their own farm.

Agriculture is difficult, we all know that. But agricultural fairs give us so many opportunities to enjoy the fruits of our labor. Fairs allow agriculturalist to learn, build their network, market their products, and inform the public about agriculture. That last part might be one of the most important pieces of agricultural fairs. As someone who has received national training in the importance of advocating for agriculture, I can say that fairs are one of our best ways on doing that. It allows producers to speak directly to consumers, inform the public about what actually goes on in agriculture and get other people passionate about the industry we all love so much. I love speaking to the public about my cows and answering their many questions. It is one of the small things we can do to combat the misconceptions about our industry and give people outside of agriculture a small look into our world.

I have watched so many fairs struggle as I have grown up, in the last few years especially. Many of my fondest childhood memories come from my time at the Stratham Fair, but now other kids won't have the same opportunity. I also have experience working for the Deerfield Fair and know just how much time, effort and money goes into keeping a fairground operational.

With all that being said, I feel like now more than ever, it is vital that we actively work to keep our agricultural fairs alive here in the granite state. I hope that this letter shows even a fraction of how passionate many of us are about this subject. Thank you for your time and your careful consideration of this bill.

Sincerely,  
Sydney Wilson  
NH Farm Bureau Young Farmer Coordinator  
Sydney.wilson2098@gmail.com

From Patrick Marcoux  
240 Pickpocket Road  
Brentwood, NH 03833

To whom it may concern:

Hello,

My name is Patrick Marcoux, currently I have the honor of serving as an Executive Board Member of the New Hampshire Young Farmers as well as being a longtime active 4-H member and well involved supporter of the Granite State FFA Association. I live on my family farm in Brentwood New Hampshire where we raise poultry, swine and beef cows as well as boil maple syrup. Over the years I have had the wonderful experience of visiting all of the fairs around the state either as an exhibitor or as a fairgoer. I am writing this statement in support of "HB 1584-FN, which aims to establish a capital improvement grant program for the benefit of state fairs and agricultural fairs."

This issue is near and dear to my heart as it is with many of my fellow agricultural colleagues who spent a good chunk of their childhood exhibiting their 4-H project animals. I myself spent nearly 11 years in New Hampshire 4-H starting as a cloverbud with an educational display in the Lynn Garland Exhibit Hall at the Stratham fair and quickly progressed into showing poultry and later I threw my hat into the swine showing arena as I became a senior member. I have shown at the Stratham, Deerfield, Hillsborough, Belknap, Hopkinton and Sandwich Fairs and can speak to the need of building repairs at many of these fairs. Leaky roofs, ancient electrical circuits and poor ventilation are all challenges that face exhibitors and fairgoers every year. While these might seem like small things they can often have large impacts on the livestock at the fairs. Holes in roofs paired with cold temperatures of the fall fairs can lead to animals catching chills together with the inherent stress of a new place can severely weaken an animals immune systems and combined with the potential for contact with new pathogens from other farms can lead to animals contracting diseases with adverse consequences for their health and the livelihood of the farmer.

In addition to showing my animals I also served as a member of the Rockingham County Youth Leadership team and in 2019 became the New Hampshire State Youth Leadership Team Vice President. In these roles I was able to see the impact these fairs had on the youth that participated in them. Too often our schools overemphasize sports and athletic accomplishments, 4-Hers don't receive the recognition or "platform" to show off their agricultural skills to the public and their peers anywhere but at the fairs. Additionally these fairs which can't happen without their hard infrastructure like buildings and show rings serve as one of the last sizable links between the populace and who grows their food and how their food is raised. The fairs serve as a key

educational aspect in this regard as well as being a cultural staple. Besides simply adding much needed support to these age old traditions, fairgrounds also play host to a slew of other community events over the course of the year and improving buildings will better those events as well.

I appreciate and commend the work the Department of Agriculture has put into this bill and urge all of you to vote yes on HB 1584-FN. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick Marcoux". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Patrick" being larger and more prominent than the last name "Marcoux".

Patrick Marcoux  
5pmarcoux19@gmail.com

From Jacob Scruton  
20 Farmstead Road  
Farmington, NH 03835

To whom it may concern:

I am writing this letter to support HB 1584-FN. Growing up on a dairy farm, fairs were a huge part of my childhood and young adult life. From showing my dairy cattle to exhibiting vegetable produce, fairs have always been a part of my life. Not only were they the biggest and most fun events of the year when I was a kid, they were also some of the most formative times of my youth.

I spent 13 years exhibiting my animals at these events. My younger years were spent learning everything I needed to know to exhibit my animals. Then I was able to get my peers involved with these programs and teach them everything I learned. However, as I got older, I started to learn the even bigger impact I was able to make with all the things I was learning. As I became more knowledgeable, I was able to answer questions from all sorts of curious fair goers, from where their milk came from, to basic questions with concern for animal welfare. It was by answering these questions that I truly saw the impact I could be having on my community. With such a disconnect between people and their understanding of their local and national food sources it is of utmost importance that we do all we can to educate them in every way. Fairs are the best way to involve the public, educate our youth, and keep agriculture a part of our state.

Supporting these establishments in any way we can, to ensure they are around for generations to come is of huge importance. It is much more than just keeping up with the desire for a carnival in your town or having some cute animals to pet. We need to keep agriculture in our communities. We have to keep our youth involved in these events. Without them there are very few ways to educate people of all ages in a fun and hands-on way.

Sincerely,  
Past 4-H Member and Current Dairy Farmer  
Jacob Scruton  
jellymon15@outlook.com

Ben Davis  
11 Cogswell Hill Road  
Canterbury, NH 03224

To whom it may concern:

I am writing in support of HB 1584-FN. I joined 4H at the age of 10, where I showed sheep at Hopkinton and Stratham Fairs. After a few years of sheep, I began exhibiting dairy cattle which I leased from a neighboring farm. I attended Stratham, Hopkinton, Deerfield, and Eastern States Expo.

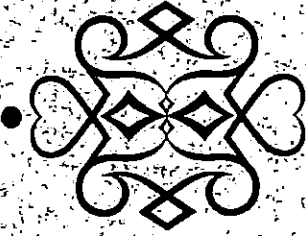
My final years in 4H I exhibited working steers. I attended all of the state fairs in my two years with steers. During my time showing around the state, I formed relationships that still exist today. It helped me build a foundation in agriculture and skills that I use every day.

The NH fairs are a necessity to keep youth involved in agriculture as well as provide educational opportunities to the public. I encourage you all to vote in favor of this bill, in order to benefit NH agriculture as a whole.

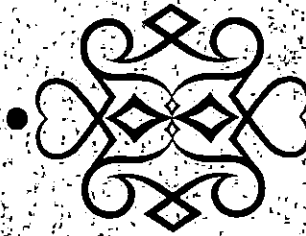
Sincerely,  
NH Farm Bureau, Young Farmer Chair  
Benjamin Davis  
brdavisland@gmail.com



# WILL IT BE A



# FARMER



# SEASON TO REMEMBER?

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

BY SHERYL RICH-KERN

**D**

ie-hard fair-goers were stunned by the recent announcement that after 142 years, the Rochester Fair is closing its gates for the 2017 season. But to many industry experts, Rochester's financial instability and slump in attendance is an indicator that

the future of fairs cannot solely rely on pumpkin contests and demolition derbies to draw crowds.

However, it's not as if fairs will evanesce from modern culture with the likes of horse races and medicine shows. In fact, according to Marla Calico, president of the International Fairs and Expositions, many state fairs are seeing a boom in attendance

much like the resurgence in farmers markets. People want to know how their food travels from the farm to their plate, says Calico. She says organizers who capitalize on the locavore movement, educate younger audiences and provide programming that reflects community trends will thrive.

Fairs across the country are trying to court a younger audience. According to an



October 2015 report from Governing.com, California's state fair hosted the first U.S. National Drone Racing Championships in 2015, the D.C. State Fair in Washington D.C., which legalized the cultivation of marijuana, held a Best Bud competition, and the New Mexico State Fair worked with a local craft brewer to create an official New Mexico State Fair beer. Other fairs are bringing in food trucks to expand beyond traditional fair food.

Millennials may not be as invested in farm traditions as previous generations, but they do appreciate off-the-beaten-track adventures to experience local culture, says Ben Arnsden, who directs the Center for Rural Partnerships at Plymouth State University. If fairs can tap into that yearning, perhaps they can reel in a new audience. That balance between tradition and offering something new to draw the next generation of attendees is a challenge the state's various fairs are trying to figure out.

It's difficult to pin down the health of NH's fairs, as it has been years since their financial impact has been studied. The last full report was issued in 2002 by the Institute for NH Studies at Plymouth State University, which showed fair visitors, exhibitors and operators spent an estimated \$40.6 million at or near the fair grounds during the fairs, including \$400,000 in direct purchases from farmers. A FY2011 report on the "Impact of Agriculture on NH's Economy," prepared for the NH Department of Agriculture by the Institute for NH Studies at Plym-



Sheep shearing at the Hillsborough County Agricultural Fair in New Boston.

outh State University, stated spending from fairs had dropped to \$37.1 million.

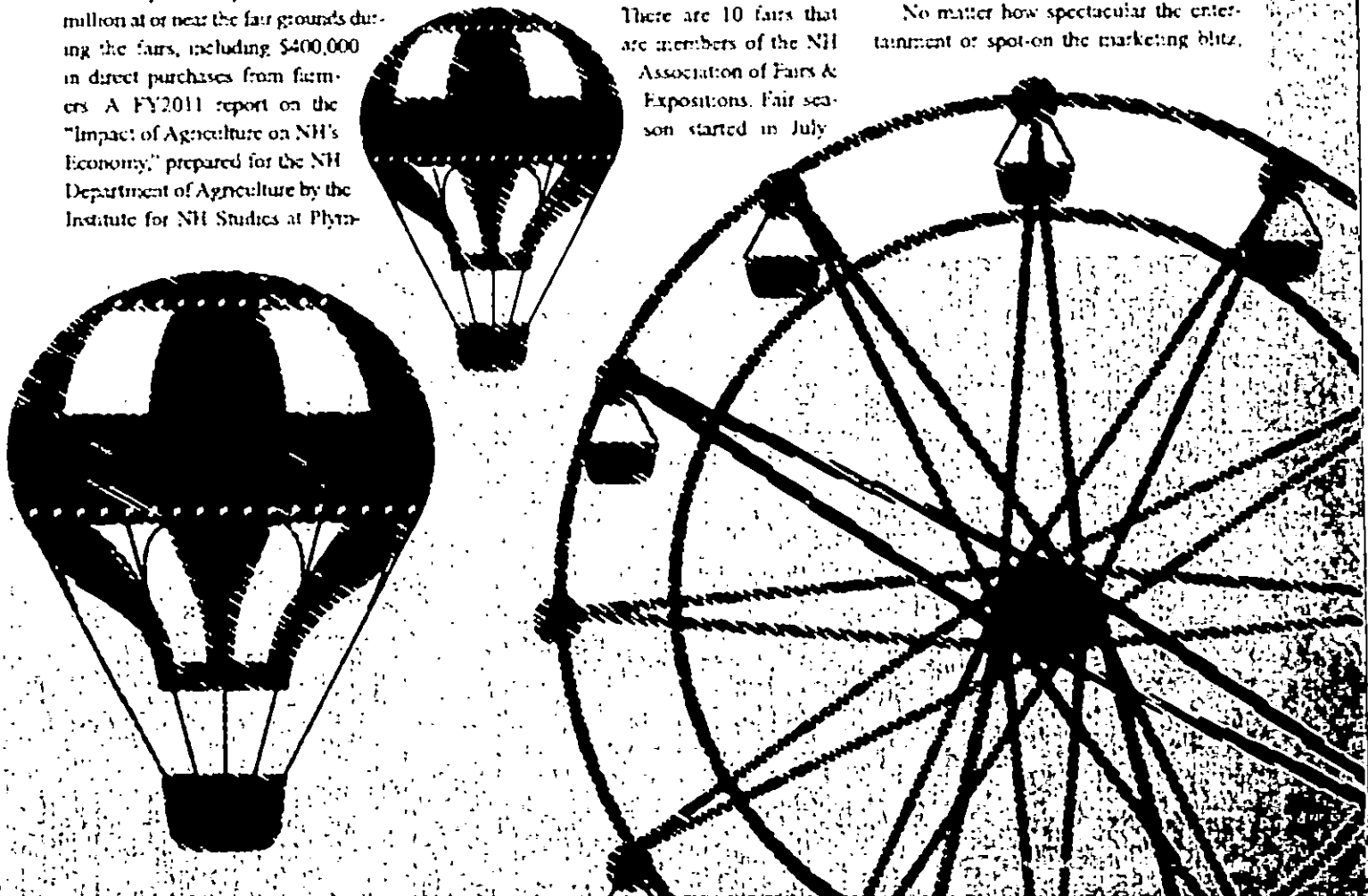
That report stated agricultural fairs in NH generated 907 jobs, \$27.4 million in household income and \$7.1 million in state and local government receipts. Neither the NH Department of Agriculture nor the NH Division of Travel and Tourism could provide updated information about NH's fairs. Despite NH's long agricultural history, the state hasn't provided any financial assistance for fairs since the 1970s.

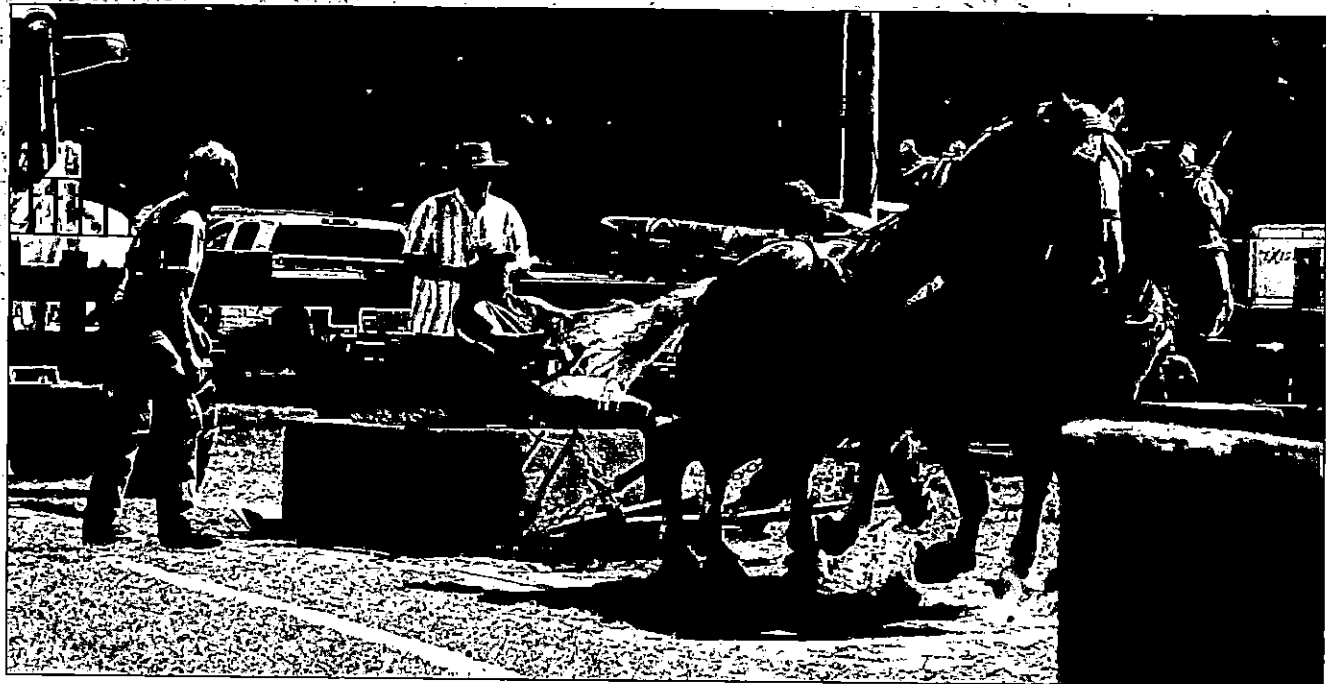
There are 10 fairs that are members of the NH Association of Fairs & Expositions. Fair season started in July

with the Stratford Fair, which markets tradition to draw an audience with the tagline, "Experience a piece of the past... in the present." The fair, which marked its 50th year of operation, offers traditional attractions, including entertainment, 4-H activities and midway rides, and attracts about 20,000 attendees annually. The fair season will stretch into October when the Sandwich Fair will close out the season.

#### Competition and Challenges

No matter how spectacular the entertainment or spot-on the marketing blitz,





COURTESY OF THE HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY AGRICULTURAL FAIR

Activities at the Hillsborough County Agricultural Fair include horse pull, top, and on-stage entertainment, below.



COURTESY OF THE HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY AGRICULTURAL FAIR

events jammed into only a few days can't fight the ultimate obstacle: Mother Nature. A pounding rainstorm or insufferable heat wave dampens fair proceeds for any one year, and the only rescue for such a calamity is the hope for better weather the following year.

Fairs also compete with other summer fanfare. In NH, weekenders have plenty to see and do, from music jamborees and arts festivals to living history museums, amusement parks and the state's beaches and mountains. Large fairs with sufficient coffers are likely to weather the vicissitudes of any future recessions. But attempts to sustain their charm and significance are at odds with a public equipped with a daily drumbeat of online games, movies and social media.

The living room is also a rival for these agricultural fairs. Unlike the era where neighbors congregated outdoors to exchange recipes and local scuttlebutt, people now reach out on social media.

This news doesn't bode well for rural regions where town ledgers record more deaths than births. And with the closing of the 142-year-old Rochester Fair for at least this season, area urbanites and suburbanites have lost an opportunity to witness first hand sheep shearing, oxen at work or other vestiges of the state's farming heritage—that which is quintessentially NH.



COURTESY OF CHICK EMBROIDERY

Lillian and Bob Chick of Chick-Embroidery at the Rochester Fair.

Homegrown vendors like Chick Embroidery are another casualty of the fair closing. Bob Chick and his mother Lillian, both of Rochester, depend on the fair to sell their embroidered hats and tee shirts. The fair is part of the town's culture, they say, as they reminisce about the logos they designed for the sulky driver shirts in the heyday of horse racing, which ended in 2007.

"The fair produced a good portion of our sales," says Bob Chick, who is seeking new venues to display his handicrafts.

The Rochester Agricultural and Mechanical Association board of directors made what some perceived as a blasphemous strike against the state's rural legacy when it announced the Rochester Fair would not open for 2017. While Norm Vetter, the board's president, did not return calls requesting an interview, it was an uncomfortable decision for the board, according to media reports. However, the fair had stumbled in the red for at least a decade and owed just under \$350,000 in addition to a \$392,000 mortgage.

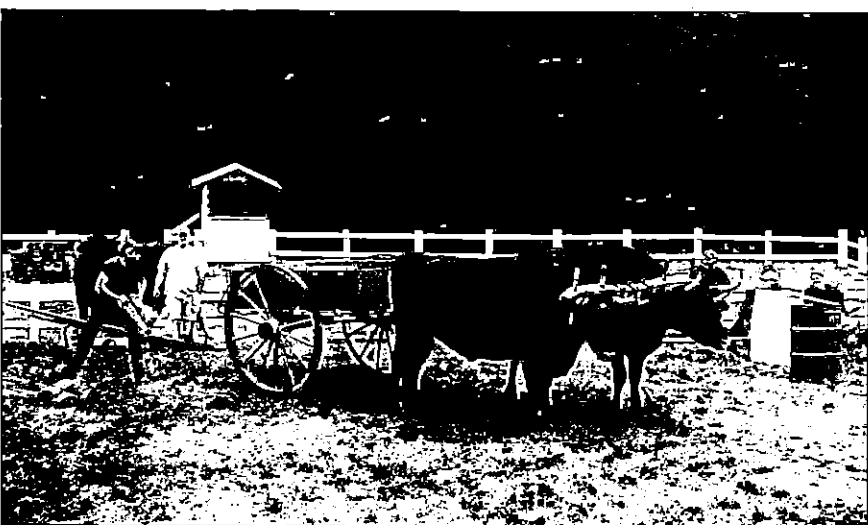
Mark Perry, who managed the Rochester Fair since 2001, says, "if you look at fairs in general through the eyes of dollars and cents, you'd never hold one anywhere." He says the fairs create a community event that succeeds in generating more goodwill than business profits. The Rochester Fair board of directors wanted both. In June, Vetter told *Foster's Daily Democrat* that the board terminated Perry because of the way he managed funds.

At a Rochester fair stakeholders meeting in July, grievances were aired about the handling of the fair and consensus was reached to subdivide and sell a portion of the fairgrounds to pay down debt, according to a *Foster's* report. That plan still has to be defined and then approved by stockholders and the state.

### Still Big Draws

The bigger fairs, like those in Hopkinton and Deerfield with a century-old history, receive more than 65,000 visitors and sweep in enough cash to claim a small profit. Three years ago the Hopkinton Fair in Contoocook Village delayed its opening from a Thursday to Friday to compress its Labor Day weekend festivities into four days rather than five.

Attendance remained around 70,000 at the Hopkinton Fair, says board member



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE BELKNAP COUNTY 4-H FAIR

Top: A competitor in the Belknap County Fair's "doodle bug" tractor pulling competition. Middle: Competitors modify and decorate their tractors for the fair's riding tractor competition. Bottom: Ox pulling at the fair.

and treasurer Bob Allen, safeguarding the bottom line. Between 100 and 125 employees man the ticket booths, pick up garbage and other custodial tasks while a similarly-sized roster of volunteers also pitches in.

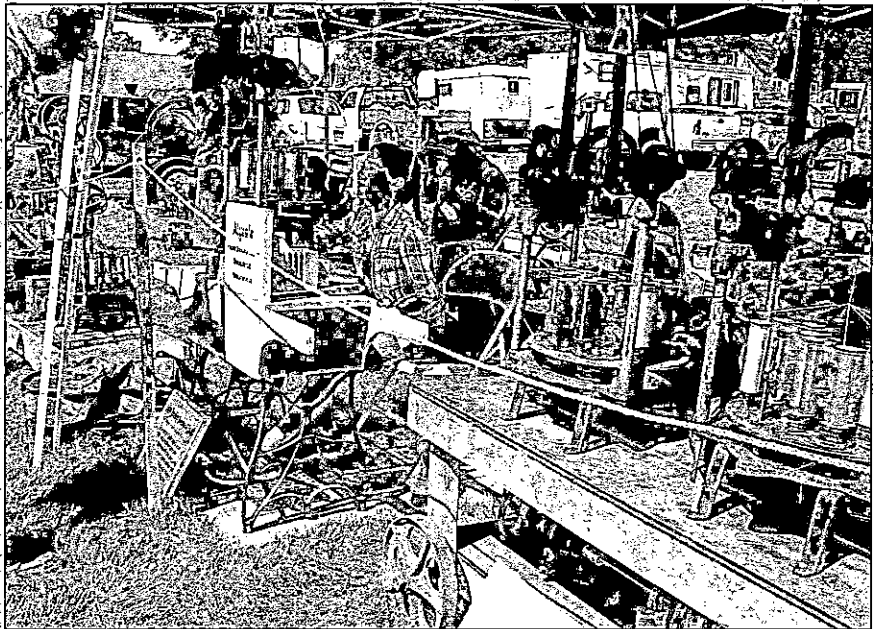
Whereas Hopkinton and Deerfield maintain paid staff, fairs in Hillsboro, Cornish and Belmont are all-volunteer. Janell George is the treasurer for the Hillsboro fair, which peaks at around 8,000 visitors. Situated in the backyard of NH's largest city, Janell says the three-day fair's \$60,000 budget competes against events with larger advertising budgets. The costs to maintain electrical and plumbing codes, permits for tents and insurance expenses are always on the rise. And just one rainy weekend can spell disaster. "If your vendors don't have good attendance, they won't come back," she says. And that's a large slice of a fair's income.

Competing events also subtract from the pool of available volunteers. Wayne Gray, president of the Cornish Fair, says only a decade ago he could get a dozen people to show up for grounds projects. "Now I'm lucky if I can get three," he says. "The younger generation doesn't like to volunteer their time as much as the older ones." (Half of the fair's board of 20 directors is over the age of 65.)

In Hopkinton, the fair association owns around 60 acres and loans its grounds to charities like 4-H and Lions clubs, and sometimes rents the property for a nominal fee. But it's the revenue from those three pivotal days—when the leaves turn golden and vendors peddle midway tickets and trinkets—that determine the budget for the other 362 days.

The demands of upkeep for facilities puts pressure on that budget, says Allen. Recently, the association had to bury its electrical cables to comply with newer safety codes, costing upwards of \$50,000. "We're not rich," says Allen. "But we make enough to keep up the grounds and buildings." Allen says draft-pulling contests, where oxen pull concrete weights up to 12,000 pounds to claim ribbons in 10 classes of weight, along with the demolition derbies, always draw an audience.

However, it's not enough to offer the traditional kaleidoscope of activities. Beyond the tilt-a-whirl and Super Slide, the fried dough and cotton candy, families want a different type of showstopper. And Allen



COURTESY OF THE BELKNAP COUNTY 4-H FAIR

A vendor sells handmade bracelets and necklaces made from the Belnap County Fair's 16- and 8-spool braiding machines.

says nowadays they'll travel 100 miles or more to get it. This year, the fair association booked the nationally known Recycled Percussion, which played at the Super Bowl and in Las Vegas. The four-man rock group, which received its first break at its 1994

the midway to change the perception of fairs as money pits. "We want a family of four with \$100 in their pockets to walk out with a couple dollars," he says. "And after 30 minutes, they shouldn't wander around looking for something to do."

About two years ago, Leighton introduced a display of 16-bobbin braiding machines from the 1930s, which intertwine textile fibers to form fishing lines or clotheslines. "They're a mechanical ballet to watch," he says. He also brought in a tractor show with sponsors and is seeking artisans to set up booths for the fair. He says while offering new attractions brings in more people, "change is hard."

It's unclear whether fairs like the one at Belnap can inspire nostalgia for a bygone era when agriculture fed much of the country's commerce. Society has evolved, says Amsden of Plymouth State University. People no longer live where they work or near extended family members. More than a hundred years ago, the rural fair was the summer event when families and neighbors convened. Now it's not the only game in town. Fairs need a new hook. If organizers can give their agricultural fairs a distinctive sense of place, says Amsden, they just might stand a chance. And perhaps the younger generation, fraught with digital distractions, will find solace in the authenticity of local craftsmen, farm handlers and carry barkers on a hot summer day. ■

\*\*\*\*\*  
**2017**  
**FAIR SEASON**  
 \*\*\*\*\*

**Cheshire Fair:** Aug. 3-6  
**Belnap County 4-H Fair:**  
 Aug. 12-13  
**Cornish Fair:** Aug. 18-20  
**Lancaster Fair:** Aug. 31-Sept. 4  
**Hopkinton State Fair:** Sept. 1-4  
**Hillsborough County**  
**Agricultural Fair:** Sept. 8-10  
**Deerfield Fair:** Sept. 28-Oct. 1  
**Sandwich Fair:** Oct. 7-9

(The Stratham Fair and North Haverhill Fair were both held in late July.)

Source: NH Association of  
 Fairs & Expositions  
 \*\*\*\*\*

high school talent show in Goffstown, will hand out drumsticks and pots and pans for an interactive audience experience.

In his second year as president of the Belnap County 4-H Fair in Belmont, Earl Leighton says he wants to double the typical 4,000 attendees. Leighton eliminated

**Debra Martone**

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**Subject:** [HB 1584 Info](#)

**From:** Robert Johnson <[RobertJ@nhfarmbureau.org](mailto:RobertJ@nhfarmbureau.org)>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 22, 2022 2:50 PM  
**To:** Daley Frenette <[daley.frenette@leg.state.nh.us](mailto:daley.frenette@leg.state.nh.us)>  
**Cc:** [shawn.n.jasper@agr.nh.gov](mailto:shawn.n.jasper@agr.nh.gov)  
**Subject:** HB 1584 Info for Sen. Giuda

Hi Daley:

During the Senate Energy and Environment Committee meeting on **HB 1584-FN**, *establishing a capital improvement grant program for the benefit of state fairs and agricultural fairs* Senator Giuda asked if I would, through my contacts with other state Farm Bureau organizations, find out what other states are doing for their fairs. Below is what I've learned (the italicized print is copied from email responses).

**Vermont:**

*The Vermont Legislature has provided capital grants funding annually in the amount of \$300,000 (divided by # of fairs), up from \$200,000 thanks to the governor.*

*We also received one million dollars in ARPA funds in two separate payments of \$500,000 apiece.*

*The State also provides what they call a stipend fund of \$110,000 annually (down from \$200,000 many years ago) and we lobbied to add \$90,000 in COVID funds this year that is in the budget. All grants are handled through the Agency of Agriculture and there are formulas in place and a grant application process that each fair has to complete. Not all fairs apply for the grants but all fairs receive a portion of the stipend.*

**Massachusetts**

*MA fairs, like those in other states, took a hit during COVID. We and others successfully lobbied for funding to be allocated through ARPA. See below.*

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***Application Period Open for Agricultural Fair Economic Recovery Grant Program***

*MDAR is accepting applications from Massachusetts nonprofit agricultural fair organizations with 501(c) status that meet the definition of a fair as set forth in this RFR. Agricultural Fair Economic Recovery Grant Program is funded at \$4,000,000 through the American Rescue Plan (ARPA). MDAR Grant Program FY22- The Agricultural Fair Economic Recovery Grant Program, AGERGP, funded by the Massachusetts Legislature is to provide economic recovery related to the 2019 novel coronavirus pandemic for Massachusetts Fairs.*

*For complete information on criteria and RFR application, visit [COMMBUYS - Bid Solicitation: BD-22-1002-1003-001-73241](#). Responses must be received by 4:00pm on Friday, May 6, 2022. Questions, contact Fran Pearson at [Frances.Pearson@mass.gov](mailto:Frances.Pearson@mass.gov), 617-655-3511.*

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**Connecticut** and **Rhode Island** currently do not provide state funding. I have not received a response from **Maine**. **New Jersey** does not provide direct funding but appears to have a staff person in the state Department of Agriculture who provides a degree of support for the fairs in NJ.

Thanks for passing this on to Senator Giuda.

You have a great weekend,

Rob Johnson

Robert Johnson, II, Policy Director/Acting Administrator  
New Hampshire Farm Bureau Federation  
295 Sheep Davis Road  
Concord, NH 03301  
Office: (603) 224-1934  
Direct: (603) 312-6877  
[robj@nhfarmbureau.org](mailto:robj@nhfarmbureau.org)

*New Hampshire Farm Bureau (NHFB) is a non-profit federation, established in 1916, of New Hampshire's 10 county Farm Bureau organizations which consist of nearly 2,000 NH farm families and over 1,000 supporting members statewide. NHFB is dedicated to advocating for and educating the public about agriculture. NHFB is a general farm organization where the members establish policy and direction through a member driven policy development process. We are "The Voice of Agriculture" in New Hampshire.*

# Voting Sheets



# Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee

## EXECUTIVE SESSION RECORD

2021-2022 Session

Bill # 1584 - Fa

Hearing Date: 4/14/22

Executive Session Date: 4/14/22

Motion of: OTP Vote: \_\_\_\_\_

Committee Member	Present	Made by	Second	Yes	No
Sen. Avard, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Giuda, Vice Chair	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Gray	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Watters	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Perkins Kwoka	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Motion of: \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: \_\_\_\_\_

Committee Member	Present	Made by	Second	Yes	No
Sen. Avard, Chair	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Giuda, Vice Chair	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Gray	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Watters	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Perkins Kwoka	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Motion of: \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: \_\_\_\_\_

Committee Member	Present	Made by	Second	Yes	No
Sen. Avard, Chair	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Giuda, Vice Chair	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Gray	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Watters	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Perkins Kwoka	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Motion of: \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: \_\_\_\_\_

Committee Member	Present	Made by	Second	Yes	No
Sen. Avard, Chair	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Giuda, Vice Chair	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Gray	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Watters	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Perkins Kwoka	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Reported out by: Gray

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

# Senate Finance Committee

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

Bill # HB 1584-FW

Hearing date: N/A  
 Executive session date: 04/26/22  
 Motion of: FTL

*Hennessey  
Rosenwald*

VOTE: 4-2 ~~3-3~~

<u>Made by</u> Daniels <input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Seconded</u> Daniels <input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Reported</u> Daniels <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<u>Senator:</u> Reagan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>by Senator:</u> Reagan <input type="checkbox"/>	<u>by Senator:</u> Reagan <input type="checkbox"/>
Giuda <input type="checkbox"/>	Giuda <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Giuda <input type="checkbox"/>
Rosenwald <input type="checkbox"/>	Rosenwald <input type="checkbox"/>	Rosenwald <input type="checkbox"/>
D'Allesandro <input type="checkbox"/>	D'Allesandro <input type="checkbox"/>	D'Allesandro <input type="checkbox"/>
Morse <input type="checkbox"/>	Morse <input type="checkbox"/>	Morse <input type="checkbox"/>
Hennessey <input type="checkbox"/>	Hennessey <input type="checkbox"/>	Hennessey <input type="checkbox"/>

Motion of: \_\_\_\_\_ VOTE: \_\_\_\_\_

<u>Made by</u> Daniels <input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Seconded</u> Daniels <input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Reported</u> Daniels <input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Senator:</u> Reagan <input type="checkbox"/>	<u>by Senator:</u> Reagan <input type="checkbox"/>	<u>by Senator:</u> Reagan <input type="checkbox"/>
Giuda <input type="checkbox"/>	Giuda <input type="checkbox"/>	Giuda <input type="checkbox"/>
Rosenwald <input type="checkbox"/>	Rosenwald <input type="checkbox"/>	Rosenwald <input type="checkbox"/>
D'Allesandro <input type="checkbox"/>	D'Allesandro <input type="checkbox"/>	D'Allesandro <input type="checkbox"/>
Morse <input type="checkbox"/>	Morse <input type="checkbox"/>	Morse <input type="checkbox"/>
Hennessey <input type="checkbox"/>	Hennessey <input type="checkbox"/>	Hennessey <input type="checkbox"/>

<u>Committee Member</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Reported out by</u>
Senator Daniels, Chairman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Senator Reagan, Vice-Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Giuda	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Hennessey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Rosenwald	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Morse	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator D'Allesandro	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Amendments: \_\_\_\_\_

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

# Committee Report

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

SENATE

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

Thursday, April 14, 2022

THE COMMITTEE ON Energy and Natural Resources

to which was referred **HB 1584-FN**

AN ACT

establishing a capital improvement grant program  
for the benefit of state fairs and agricultural fairs.

Having considered the same, the committee recommends that the Bill

OUGHT TO PASS

BY A VOTE OF: 5-0

Senator James Gray  
For the Committee

Daley Frenette 271-3042

**ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

**HB 1584-FN**, establishing a capital improvement grant program for the benefit of state fairs and agricultural fairs.

Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0.

Senator James Gray for the committee.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
SENATE  
REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

Tuesday, April 26, 2022

THE COMMITTEE ON Finance

to which was referred **HB 1584-FN**

AN ACT                                        establishing a capital improvement grant program  
for the benefit of state fairs and agricultural fairs.

Having considered the same, the committee recommends that the Bill

IS INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE

BY A VOTE OF:    4-2

Senator Gary Daniels  
For the Committee

Deb Martone 271-4980

## General Court of New Hampshire - Bill Status System

**Docket of HB1584**

Docket Abbreviations

**Bill Title:** establishing a capital improvement grant program for the benefit of state fairs and agricultural fairs.

*Official Docket of HB1584.:*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Body</b>	<b>Description</b>
12/21/2021	H	<b>Introduced</b> 01/05/2022 and referred to Environment and Agriculture
1/25/2022	H	Public Hearing: 01/25/2022 1:30 p.m. LOB301-303
1/9/2022	H	Public Hearing: 01/25/2022 01:30 pm LOB 301-303
1/28/2022	H	Full Committee Work Session: 02/01/2022 10:00 am LOB 301-303
2/8/2022	H	Majority Committee Report: Ought to Pass ( <b>Vote 14-3; RC</b> )
2/8/2022	H	Minority Committee Report: Inexpedient to Legislate
2/16/2022	H	<b>Ought to Pass:</b> MA DV 236-105 02/16/2022
3/14/2022	H	Full Committee Work Session: 03/18/2022 10:00 am LOB 202-204
3/18/2022	H	Full Committee Work Session: 03/21/2022 10:00 am LOB 202-204
3/18/2022	H	==CANCELLED== Full Committee Work Session: 03/23/2022 10:00 am LOB 202-204
3/23/2022	H	Committee Report: Ought to Pass with Amendment <b>#2022-1156</b> (Vote 22-0; RC)
3/31/2022	H	Amendment <b>#2022-1156h:</b> AA VV 03/31/2022
3/31/2022	H	<b>Ought to Pass with Amendment</b> 2022-1156h: MA VV 03/31/2022
4/5/2022	S	Introduced 03/31/2022 and Referred to Energy and Natural Resources; <b>SJ 8</b>
4/7/2022	S	<b>Hearing:</b> 04/14/2022, Room 103, SH, 10:45 am; <b>SC 15</b>
4/14/2022	S	Committee Report: Ought to Pass, 04/21/2022; <b>SC 16</b>
4/21/2022	S	Ought to Pass: MA, VV; Refer to Finance Rule 4-5; 04/21/2022; <b>SJ 9</b>
4/26/2022	S	Committee Report: Inexpedient to Legislate, 05/05/2022; <b>SC 18</b>
5/5/2022	S	Inexpedient to Legislate, MF, VV; 05/05/2022; <b>SJ 11</b>
5/5/2022	S	Sen. Hennessey Moved Ought to Pass; 05/05/2022; <b>SJ 11</b>
5/5/2022	S	Sen. Hennessey Floor Amendment <b>#2022-1954s</b> , AA, VV; 05/05/2022; <b>SJ 11</b>
5/5/2022	S	<b>Ought to Pass with Amendment</b> 2022-1954s, MA, VV; OT3rdg; 05/05/2022; <b>SJ 11</b>
5/13/2022	H	House Concurs with Senate Amendment (Rep. Pearl): MA VV 05/12/2022 <b>HJ 13</b>
6/9/2022	S	Enrolled Adopted, VV, (In recess 05/26/2022); <b>SJ 13</b>
6/9/2022	H	Enrolled (in recess of) 05/26/2022
6/23/2022	H	Signed by Governor Sununu 06/17/2022; Chapter 208; eff. 07/01/2022 <b>HJ 14</b>

NH House

NH Senate

## General Court of New Hampshire - Bill Status System

**Docket of HB1584**

Docket Abbreviations

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2/8/2022	H	Minority Committee Report: Inexpedient to Legislate
2/16/2022	H	<b>Ought to Pass:</b> MA DV 236-105 02/16/2022
3/14/2022	H	Full Committee Work Session: 03/18/2022 10:00 am LOB 202-204
3/18/2022	H	Full Committee Work Session: 03/21/2022 10:00 am LOB 202-204
3/18/2022	H	==CANCELLED== Full Committee Work Session: 03/23/2022 10:00 am LOB 202-204
3/23/2022	H	Committee Report: Ought to Pass with Amendment <b>#2022-1156</b> (Vote 22-0; RC)
3/31/2022	H	Amendment <b>#2022-1156h:</b> AA VV 03/31/2022
3/31/2022	H	<b>Ought to Pass with Amendment</b> 2022-1156h: MA VV 03/31/2022
4/5/2022	S	Introduced 03/31/2022 and Referred to Energy and Natural Resources; <b>SJ 8</b>
4/7/2022	S	<b>Hearing:</b> 04/14/2022, Room 103, SH, 10:45 am; <b>SC 15</b>
4/14/2022	S	Committee Report: Ought to Pass, 04/21/2022; <b>SC 16</b>
4/21/2022	S	Ought to Pass: MA, VV; Refer to Finance Rule 4-5; 04/21/2022; <b>SJ 9</b>
4/26/2022	S	Committee Report: Inexpedient to Legislate, 05/05/2022; <b>SC 18</b>
5/5/2022	S	Inexpedient to Legislate, MF, VV; 05/05/2022; <b>SJ 11</b>
5/5/2022	S	Sen. Hennessey Moved Ought to Pass; 05/05/2022; <b>SJ 11</b>
5/5/2022	S	Sen. Hennessey Floor Amendment <b>#2022-1954s</b> , AA, VV; 05/05/2022; <b>SJ 11</b>
5/5/2022	S	<b>Ought to Pass with Amendment</b> 2022-1954s, MA, VV; OT3rdg; 05/05/2022; <b>SJ 11</b>
5/13/2022	H	House Concurs with Senate Amendment (Rep. Pearl): MA VV 05/12/2022 <b>HJ 13</b>
6/9/2022	S	Enrolled Adopted, VV, (In recess 05/26/2022); <b>SJ 13</b>
6/9/2022	H	Enrolled (in recess of) 05/26/2022
6/23/2022	H	Signed by Governor Sununu 06/17/2022; Chapter 208; eff. 07/01/2022 <b>HJ 14</b>

NH House

NH Senate



# Other Referrals

**Senate Inventory Checklist for Archives**

Bill Number: HB 1584-FN

Senate Committee: FINANCE

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~~

Hearing Report

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):

- amendment # \_\_\_\_\_  - amendment # \_\_\_\_\_

- 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 # 1954s  - 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 proposed by the committee of conference):

Enrolled Bill Amendment(s)

Governor's Veto Message

**All available versions of the bill: (Clerk's Office)**

as amended by the senate  as amended by the house

final version

Completed Committee Report File Delivered to the Senate Clerk's Office By:

Debra A. Martore  
Committee Aide

06/15/22  
Date

Senate Clerk's Office JM

# Senate Inventory Checklist for Archives

Bill Number: HB 1584-FN

Senate Committee: Energy

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

Hearing Report

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):

\_\_\_ - amendment # \_\_\_      \_\_\_ - amendment # \_\_\_

\_\_\_ - 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 proposed by the committee of conference):

Enrolled Bill Amendment(s)

Governor's Veto Message

### All available versions of the bill: {Clerk's Office}

\_\_\_ as amended by the senate      \_\_\_ as amended by the house

\_\_\_ final version

Completed Committee Report File Delivered to the Senate Clerk's Office By:

~~HB 1584-FN~~ John

Committee Aide

6/24/22

Date

Senate Clerk's Office AK