LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

SB325

Bill as Introduced

SB 325 - AS INTRODUCED

2022 SESSION

22-3060 07/04

SENATE BILL

325

AN ACT

relative to local organization for emergency management and first responders.

SPONSORS:

Sen. Cavanaugh, Dist 16; Sen. Watters, Dist 4; Sen. Bradley, Dist 3; Sen. Soucy,

Dist 18; Rep. Edgar, Rock. 21; Rep. Buco, Carr. 2; Rep. Cushing, Rock. 21; Rep.

Mullen, Hills. 7

COMMITTEE:

Election Law and Municipal Affairs

ANALYSIS

This bill defines the emergency personnel included in a local organization for emergency management.

......

Explanation:

Matter added to current law appears in bold italics.

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

Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Two

AN ACT

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relative to local organization for emergency management and first responders.

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

- 1 Homeland Security and Emergency Management; Local Organization for Emergency Management; Local Organization Definition. Amend RSA 21-P:39, I to read as follows:
- I. Each political subdivision of the state shall establish a local organization for emergency management in accordance with the state emergency management plan and program. Each local organization for emergency management shall have a local director who shall be appointed and removed by the county commissioners of a county, the city council of a city, or board of selectmen of a town, and who shall have direct responsibility for the organization, administration and operation of such local organization for emergency management, subject to the direction and control of such appointing officials. The local organization span of control is to include all emergency management personnel and first responders: state, county, and local law enforcement personnel, fire department personnel, emergency medical personnel, emergency management personnel, and public works personnel who may be deployed to bioterrorism attacks, terrorism attacks, catastrophic or natural disasters, and emergencies. Each local organization shall have jurisdiction only within its respective political subdivision, and the director appointed by that political subdivision shall be responsible to his or her appointing authority. The appointing authority may appoint one of its own members or any other citizen or official to act as local director and shall notify the state director in writing of such appointment. If a local director is removed, the state director shall be notified immediately. Each local organization for emergency management shall perform emergency management functions within the territorial limits of the political subdivision within which it is organized.
 - 2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

SB 325 - AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

02/24/2022 0705s

2022 SESSION

22-3060 07/04

SENATE BILL

325

AN ACT

relative to local organization for emergency management and first responders.

SPONSORS:

Sen. Cavanaugh, Dist 16; Sen. Watters, Dist 4; Sen. Bradley, Dist 3; Sen. Soucy,

Dist 18; Rep. Edgar, Rock. 21; Rep. Buco, Carr. 2; Rep. Cushing, Rock. 21; Rep.

Mullen, Hills. 7

COMMITTEE:

Election Law and Municipal Affairs

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill defines first responders and includes first responders in the definitions of emergency management and local organization for emergency management within the division of homeland security and emergency management.

Explanation:

Matter added to current law appears in bold italics.

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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Two

AN ACT

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relative to local organization for emergency management and first responders.

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

- 1 Department of Safety; Homeland Security and Emergency Management; First Responders.
 2 Amend RSA 21-P:35 to read as follows:
 - 21-P:35 Definitions. In this subdivision:
 - I. "Commissioner" means the commissioner of safety.
- 5 II. [Repealed.]
- 6 III. "Council" means the advisory council on emergency preparedness and security.
 - IV. "Director" means the director of the division of homeland security and emergency management.
 - V. "Emergency management" means the preparation for and the carrying out of all emergency functions, including but not limited to emergency response, [and] training functions, or the utilization of first responders, in order to prepare for, prevent, minimize, and repair injury or damage resulting from the occurrence or threat of widespread or severe damage, injury, or loss of life or property resulting from any natural or human cause, including but not limited to fire, flood, earthquake, windstorm, wave actions, technological incidents, oil or chemical spill, or water contamination requiring emergency action to avert danger or damage, epidemic, air contamination, blight, drought, infestation, explosion, terrorist act, or riot.
 - VI. "Local organization for emergency management" means an organization created in accordance with the provisions of this subdivision by state, county, or local authority to perform local emergency management functions, which may direct the utilization of first responders.
 - VII. "Political subdivision" means counties, cities, towns, and duly established village precincts.
 - VIII. "State of emergency" means that condition, situation, or set of circumstances deemed to be so extremely hazardous or dangerous to life or property that it is necessary and essential to invoke, require, or utilize extraordinary measures, actions, and procedures to lessen or mitigate possible harm.
 - IX. "First responders" means state, county, and local governmental and nongovernmental emergency public safety fire, law enforcement, public safety telecommunications or dispatcher, emergency response, emergency medical services providers including hospital emergency facilities, emergency management, public health, clinical care, public works, and other skilled support personnel, such as equipment

SB 325 - AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE - Page 2 -

- 1 operators, that provide immediate support services necessary to perform emergency
- 2 management functions.
- 3 2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

CHAPTER 166 SB 325 - FINAL VERSION

02/24/2022 0705s

2022 SESSION

22-3060 07/04

SENATE BILL

325

AN ACT

relative to local organization for emergency management and first responders.

SPONSORS:

Sen. Cavanaugh, Dist 16; Sen. Watters, Dist 4; Sen. Bradley, Dist 3; Sen. Soucy,

Dist 18; Rep. Edgar, Rock. 21; Rep. Buco, Carr. 2; Rep. Cushing, Rock. 21; Rep.

Mullen, Hills. 7

COMMITTEE:

Election Law and Municipal Affairs

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Explanation:

Matter added to current law appears in bold italics.

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

22-3060 07/04

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Two

AN ACT

relative to local organization for emergency management and first responders.

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

- 1 166:1 Department of Safety; Homeland Security and Emergency Management; First 2 Responders. Amend RSA 21-P:35 to read as follows:
- 3 21-P:35 Definitions. In this subdivision:
- 4 I. "Commissioner" means the commissioner of safety.
- 5 II. [Repealed.]

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- 6 III. "Council" means the advisory council on emergency preparedness and security.
- 7 IV. "Director" means the director of the division of homeland security and emergency 8 management.
 - V. "Emergency management" means the preparation for and the carrying out of all emergency functions, including but not limited to emergency response, [end] training functions, or the utilization of first responders, in order to prepare for, prevent, minimize, and repair injury or damage resulting from the occurrence or threat of widespread or severe damage, injury, or loss of life or property resulting from any natural or human cause, including but not limited to fire, flood, earthquake, windstorm, wave actions, technological incidents, oil or chemical spill, or water contamination requiring emergency action to avert danger or damage, epidemic, air contamination, blight, drought, infestation, explosion, terrorist act, or riot.
 - VI. "Local organization for emergency management" means an organization created in accordance with the provisions of this subdivision by state, county, or local authority to perform local emergency management functions, which may direct the utilization of first responders.
 - VII. "Political subdivision" means counties, cities, towns, and duly established village precincts.
 - VIII. "State of emergency" means that condition, situation, or set of circumstances deemed to be so extremely hazardous or dangerous to life or property that it is necessary and essential to invoke, require, or utilize extraordinary measures, actions, and procedures to lessen or mitigate possible harm.
 - IX. "First responders" means state, county, and local governmental and nongovernmental emergency public safety fire, law enforcement, public safety telecommunications or dispatcher, emergency response, emergency medical services providers including hospital emergency facilities, emergency management, public health, clinical care, public works, and other skilled support personnel, such as equipment

CHAPTER 166 SB 325 - FINAL VERSION - Page 2 -

- 1 operators, that provide immediate support services necessary to perform emergency
- 2 management functions.

166:2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

Approved: June 07, 2022

Effective Date: August 06, 2022

Amendments

Sen. Cavanaugh, Dist 16 February 11, 2022 2022-0684s 07/10

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Amendment to SB 325

1	Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:
2	
3	1 Department of Safety; Homeland Security and Emergency Management; First Responders.
4	Amend RSA 21-P:35 to read as follows:
5	21-P:35 Definitions. In this subdivision:
6	I. "Commissioner" means the commissioner of safety.
7	II. [Repealed.]
8	III. "Council" means the advisory council on emergency preparedness and security.
9	IV. "Director" means the director of the division of homeland security and emergency
10	management.
11	V. "Emergency management" means the preparation for and the carrying out of all
12 ·	emergency functions, including but not limited to emergency response, [and] training functions, or
13	the utilization of first responders, in order to prepare for, prevent, minimize, and repair injury
14	or damage resulting from the occurrence or threat of widespread or severe damage, injury, or loss of
15	life or property resulting from any natural or human cause, including but not limited to fire, flood,
16	earthquake, windstorm, wave actions, technological incidents, oil or chemical spill, or water
17	contamination requiring emergency action to avert danger or damage, epidemic, air contamination,
18	blight, drought, infestation, explosion, terrorist act, or riot.
19	VI. "Local organization for emergency management" means an organization created in
20	accordance with the provisions of this subdivision by state, county, or local authority to perform local
21	emergency management functions, which may direct the utilization of first responders.
22	VII. "Political subdivision" means counties, cities, towns, and duly established village
23	precincts.
24	VIII. "State of emergency" means that condition, situation, or set of circumstances deemed
25	to be so extremely hazardous or dangerous to life or property that it is necessary and essential to
26	invoke, require, or utilize extraordinary measures, actions, and procedures to lessen or mitigate
27	possible harm.
28	IX. "First responders" means state, county, and local governmental and

nongovernmental emergency public safety fire, law enforcement, public safety telecommunications or dispatcher, emergency response, emergency medical services providers including hospital emergency facilities, emergency management, public health, clinical care, public works, and other skilled support personnel, such as equipment

Amendment to SB 325 - Page 2 -

- 1 operators, that provide immediate support services necessary to perform emergency
- 2 management functions.

Amendment to SB 325 - Page 3 -

2022-0684s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill defines first responders and includes first responders in the definitions of emergency management and local organization for emergency management within the division of homeland security and emergency management.

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Election Law and Municipal Affairs
February 14, 2022
2022-0705s
07/08

Amendment to SB 325

Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

- 1 Department of Safety; Homeland Security and Emergency Management; First Responders. Amend RSA 21-P:35 to read as follows:
- 21-P:35 Definitions. In this subdivision:
 - I. "Commissioner" means the commissioner of safety.
- 7 II. [Repealed.]
 - III. "Council" means the advisory council on emergency preparedness and security.
- 9 IV. "Director" means the director of the division of homeland security and emergency management.
 - V. "Emergency management" means the preparation for and the carrying out of all emergency functions, including but not limited to emergency response, [and] training functions, or the utilization of first responders, in order to prepare for, prevent, minimize, and repair injury or damage resulting from the occurrence or threat of widespread or severe damage, injury, or loss of life or property resulting from any natural or human cause, including but not limited to fire, flood, earthquake, windstorm, wave actions, technological incidents, oil or chemical spill, or water contamination requiring emergency action to avert danger or damage, epidemic, air contamination, blight, drought, infestation, explosion, terrorist act, or riot.
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Amendment to SB 325 - Page 2 -

- 1 operators, that provide immediate support services necessary to perform emergency
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Amendment to SB 325 - Page 3 -

 $2022\text{-}0705\mathrm{s}$

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill defines first responders and includes first responders in the definitions of emergency management and local organization for emergency management within the division of homeland security and emergency management.

Committee Minutes

SENATE CALENDAR NOTICE Election Law and Municipal Affairs

Sen James Gray, Chair Sen Regina Birdsell, Vice Chair Sen Ruth Ward, Member Sen Donna Soucy, Member Sen Rebecca Perkins Kwoka, Member

Date: February 1, 2022

HEARINGS

Monday			02/07/2022		
Election I	aw and Municipal Af	ffairs	State House 100	1:00 p.m.	
(Name of Committee)			(Place)	(Time)	
1:00 p.m. SB 250 enabling municipalities community property own		unicipalities to adopt a tax credit for property owners.	or qualified private		
1:15 p.m.	SB 251	relative to the advisory board of a tax increment financing district			
1:30 p.m.	SB 252	relative to information on property tax bills.			
1:45 p.m.	SB 325	relative to responders	local organization for emergency ma	anagement and first	
	EX	ECUTIVE S	ESSION MAY FOLLOW		

Sponsors:			
SB 250			
Sen. Carson	Sen. Watters	Sen. Birdsell	Rep. Lundgren
Rep. Thomas	Rep. Baldasaro	Rep. Dolan	
SB 251			
Sen. Birdsell	Sen. Gray		
SB 252			
Sen. Soucy	Sen. Whitley	Sen. Rosenwald	Sen. Watters
Sen. Perkins Kwoka	Sen. Cavanaugh	Sen. Sherman	Sen. Prentiss
Rep. Cote	Rep. Heath	Rep. Egan	
SB 325			
Sen. Cavanaugh	Sen. Watters	Sen. Bradley	Sen. Soucy
Rep. Edgar	Rep. Buco	Rep. Cushing	Rep. Mullen

Tricia Melillo 271-3077

<u>James P. Gray</u> Chairman

Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee

Tricia Melillo 271-3077

SB 325, relative to local organization for emergency management and first responders.

Hearing Date:

February 7, 2022

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

Members of the Committee Absent: None

Bill Analysis: This bill defines the emergency personnel included in a local organization for emergency management.

Sponsors:

Sen. Cavanaugh Sen. Soucy

Sen. Watters Rep. Edgar

Edgar Rep. Buco

Sen. Bradley

Rep. Cushing

Rep. Mullen

Who supports the bill: Senator Kevin Cavanaugh, Senator Jeb Bradley, Senator David Watters, Senator Donna Soucy, Representative Mike Edgar, Shelagh Connelly, Patricia Anastasia, David Dellsola, Glenn Brackett, Timothy Clougherty, Dan Hudson, Ed Emond, Scott Kinmand, James Durkin, Dennis Bourgeois, Natch Greyes, Sean Toomey

Who opposes the bill: Alvin See, Cindy Kudlik

Summary of testimony presented in support:

Senator Kevin Cavanaugh

- This bill defines the emergency personnel included in the local organization for emergency management.
 - The intent of this bill is really to define a first responder and get it into New Hampshire law.
 - There is some language and maybe RSA placement that needs to be changed.
 - Initially the language was intended to match the Homeland Security Act of 2002.
 - During the shutdown they saw how many DPW first responders we had.
 - DPW workers stepped up to keep the cities and towns running.
 - The mechanics and water works professionals throughout the state were on the front line managing repairs and service work.
 - Another group that he would like to add are the public health professionals.
 - They worked seven days a week and had an emergency operations center at the state armory in Manchester where they were doing the first drive up testing.
 - He has some work to do on the language in this bill and he spoke with the state fire marshal as well as the emergency management director to get their input.
 - He would be happy to get together with all stakeholders to make sure this bill balances the needs of everyone.
 - This bill is really just to define first responders in statute and by no means wanted to take away any kind of control over an emergency disaster situation or any kind of emergency management.
 - Senator Birdsell commented that the RSA that he has put this legislation into is for emergency management and asked if it is his intention to keep it there or is it his intention to add it to the police, fire and dispatchers RSA.

- Senator Cavanaugh replied that he wants to find the right place to put it. The fire marshal did point out a statute that he can speak to but wherever the appropriate spot is, that is where he wants it.
- Senator Birdsell commented that her only concern is that she is working on similar legislation with the PTSD commission. That is for emergency responders which is firefighters, police dispatchers, and now corrections officers. She asked if they are going to be added into this definition as well and is he looking to put this into that RSA.
 - o Senator Cavanaugh replied that he wasn't thinking about putting this into that RSA. It was more about getting the definition into statute.
- Senator Ward asked if this local organization that he is proposing is going to be made up of already existing personnel or is he looking to get more people in. She asked for example, who is the director going to be, is that person within the organization already or is it going to be somebody from the outside that's going to be hired to run it.
 - o Senator Cavanaugh replied that he received a lot of inquiries from emergency management asking that same question. He is not intending to change any of that. He is open to eliminating the part of the bill regarding the local organization span of control. His intent is just to define the first responder.

Representative Mike Edgar

- This bill amends RSA 21-P:39 which addresses local organizations for emergency management.
- He quoted the new paragraph "The local organization span of control is to include all emergency
 management personnel and first responders: state, county, and local law enforcement personnel,
 fire department personnel, emergency medical personnel, emergency management personnel,
 and public works personnel who may be deployed to bioterrorism attacks, terrorism attacks,
 catastrophic or natural disasters and emergencies."
- This language helps define public works employees as one of the groups that are authorized to be designated emergency management personnel and responders.
- It is important to recognize and ensure that Department of Public Works employees are included when emergency responders are identified in the plans, exercises and implementation to bioterrorism attacks, terrorism attacks, catastrophic or natural disasters and emergencies.
- Many times, public works employees are the first on the scene.
- Public workers are essential workers and critical to the town of Hampton's response to emergencies and natural disasters.
- Storms, including frequent flooding, handling snow and ice and keeping the roads clear of obstacles are a few of the reoccurring events that public works employees deal with.
- If the roads are not safe, other emergency responders are hampered or prevented from performing their duties.

Timothy Clougherty - NH Public Works Association

- The term first responder refers to those individuals who, in the early stages of an incident, are responsible for the protection and preservation of life.
- It is their hope that this legislation will recognize the important role of emergency management personnel, including public works, during times of major and minor disasters.
- Formally recognizing their role as first responders within the state of New Hampshire statutes as has already been done by the federal government is the right thing to do.

Daniel Hudson - NH Public Works Association

- Public works employees are on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.
- They are often the first to arrive, setting up traffic control detours during incidents and often the last to leave completing final cleanup of scenes.
- Public works employees are dedicated in serving the public, they are not in it for the accolades.

• It is appropriate to recognize public works members as first responders because that is part of what they do.

Ed Emond - AFSCME

- He has worked for the DPW for 20 years in the city and he knows they are the hardest working guys in New Hampshire.
- Every DPW does their job in all different areas and for all disasters.

Scott Kinmand - NH Public Works Association

- This bill is very much in support of the unified aspect that is among all first responders.
- They respond to most types of emergencies all together and in a unified fashion.
- Police, Fire, emergency management officials and public works are there to support each other
 in all types of incidents or emergencies.
- They would like to have this as a recognition of their participation and support in a unified group of first responders.

James Durkin - Legislative Director, AFSCME Council 93

- They represent more than 2,600 public sector workers here in New Hampshire.
- This includes several hundred public works professionals in Manchester.
- This legislation along with the existing statute it seems to amend makes for sound public policy.
- If there is one thing we've all learned, over the past few years in particular, we can never be too prepared for emergencies.
- This will include public works professionals along with law enforcement, firefighters, EMS and
 other more traditionally known job titles when defining the span of control of this local
 emergency management organization.
- Governed under this statute, this legislation may help provide the state municipalities with expanded options when seeking federal grant funding.
- This legislation gives long overdue and well-deserved formal acknowledgment of the essential role that public works professionals play in responding to emergencies as well as the dangerous nature of their jobs.
- Public works professionals, including people out on the roads and in the trenches, as well as the
 people behind the scenes in jobs like fleet maintenance, are a vital component of our states and
 municipalities ability to effectively respond to emergencies of any and all degrees.
- More often than not, they are the first to respond.
- They would welcome the possibility of bringing public health into this.
- The public health nurses in Manchester were among the first in the country to staff a drive up mobile testing site.

Dennis Bourgeois - President, AFSCME, Local 298

- He represents approximately 210 members who work at the Department of Public Works central fleet management garage, wastewater treatment plant and health department.
- At one point, when people were advised to quarantine themselves, his members our were working every day.
- They are first responders whatever the emergency may be.
- Other first responders depend on them to make the roads accessible so they can do their jobs.

Natch Greyes - NHMA

 He wants to reiterate what everyone before him has said and that they are in support of this bill.

Sean Toomey - NH State Fire Marshall and Jennifer Harper - Director of Homeland Security and Emergency Management

- They have been working a little bit on the language and they are very supportive of updating the
 definition of first responders.
- The concern they have is about the definition and the language around span of control.
- It is not clear what the impacts are on the authorities and the relationship between the local and state level.
- He believes that it would create some conflicts between whose authority it is to manage a scene.
- They can work with Senator Cavanaugh, the public works crew and anyone else to refine those specifics.
- They are very supportive of this moving forward.
- Ms. Harper stated that they would like the definition of who is a first responder in the RSAs.
- Senator Birdsell asked if they are looking to put a definition in RSA 21-P:39, which is the homeland security emergency management RSA.
 - o Ms. Harper replied that just quickly looking, it may be better suited to be in RSA 21-P:35, the definitions section.
- Senator Birdsell clarified that it would still be in the section of homeland security and emergency management.
 - o Ms. Harper replied yes, she believes so but would like to defer and have a conversation with the Senator Cavanaugh to make sure that they have it in the right place.

Summary of testimony presented in opposition: None

TJM

Date Hearing Report completed: February 17, 2022

Speakers

Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee SIGN-IN SHEET

Date: February 7, 2022 Time: 1:45 p.m.

SB 325

AN ACT relative to local organizations for emergency management and

first responders

PRIME: Senator Cavanaugh

Name/Representing (please print neatly)				_	
here and a	Support	Oppose	Speaking?	Yes	No
DAN HUDSON / NH PUBLIC WORKS ASSOC.	Support 🛛	Oppose	Speaking?	Yes	No
Ed EMOND / AFSCME	Support	Oppose	Speaking?	Yes 💹	No □
Sen, Kevin Continony la	Support	Oppose	Speaking?	Yes	No
Les Mile Edgar.	Support	Oppose \Box	Speaking?	Yes 🔼	No
· / /	Support	Oppose .	Speaking?	Yes 🔀	No □
V Scott Kinmand, NH Rublic Works Assac Tames W. Durkin-AFSCME Council	Support	Oppose	Speaking?	Yes	No
Devero Roungeois AFSCARPRES, Lot	Support	Oppose	Speaking?	Yes	No □
Notch Greyes NHMA	Support	Oppose	Speaking?	Yes	No
Sean Toomey, SFMO	Support	Oppose .	Speaking?	Yes	No □
CAVANAUGH.	Support	Oppose	Speaking?	Yes	No
· ·	Support	Oppose	Speaking?	Yes	No
	Support	Oppose	Speaking?	Yes	No
	Support	Oppose	Speaking?	Yes	No
	Support	Oppose	Speaking?	Yes	No
	Support	Oppose	Speaking?	Yes	No
	Support	Oppose	Speaking?	Yes	No
	Support	Oppose	Speaking?	Yes	N₀
	Support	Oppose	Speaking?	Yes	No □

Senate Remote Testify

Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee Testify List for Bill SB325 on 202 Support: 7 Oppose: 2

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	Representing	<u>Positio</u>
Watters, Senator David	An Elected Official	Myself	Support
Bradley, Senator Jeb	An Elected Official	SD3	Support
Connelly, Shelagh	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Anastasia, Patricia F	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Soucy, Donna	An Elected Official	SD 18	Support
DellIsola, David	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Brackett, Glenn	A Lobbyist	NH AFL-CIO	Support
See, Alvin	A Member of the Public	Myself .	Oppose
Kudlik, Cindy	An Elected Official	Myself	Oppose

Testimony

SB325 - Relative to Local Organizations for Emergency Management and First Responders

For the record my name is Mike Edgar and I represent Hampton in the New Hampshire House.

Thank you, mister Chairman and committee members for allowing me to speak to you today concerning SB325. I am here to speak in favor of SB325.

This bill amends RSA 21-P:39(2015) which addresses Local Organization for Emergency Management.

It inserts into the existing law the following:

The local organization span of control is to include all emergency management personnel and first responders: state, county, and local law enforcement personnel, fire department personnel, emergency medical personnel, emergency management personnel, and public works personnel who may be deployed to bioterrorism attacks, terrorism attacks, catastrophic or natural disasters, and emergencies.

This helps define Public Works employees as one of the groups that are authorized to be designated emergency management personnel and first responders.

It is important to recognize and ensure Department of Public Works employees are included when emergency responders are identified in the plans, exercises and implementation to bioterrorism attacks, terrorism attacks, catastrophic or natural disasters, and emergencies.

Many times, Public Works employees are the first on the scene. Some may liken it to when in WWII the US Navy Seabees cleared the obstructions for landing craft so the US Marine Corps can reach the beach. I know many would take exception to this scenario, but hope you understand that most times Public Works employees are the first on the scene.

Public Works personnel are essential workers, critical to the Town of Hampton's response to emergencies and natural disasters. Storms including frequent flooding, handling snow and ice and keeping the roads clear of obstacles, are a few of the reoccurring events that Public Works deals with. If the roads are not safe, other emergency responders are hampered or prevented from performing their duties.

I hope you recognize the important role Public works personnel perform before, during and following emergencies and natural disasters.

Thank you for considering this bill and please vote OTP on SB325

Mike Edgar New Hampshire House of Representatives Rockingham 21 - Hampton 7 February 2022

Town of Hampton



February 4, 2022

Senator James Gray State House Room 302 107 North Main Street Concord, NH 03301 Via Email: James.Gray@leg.state.nh.us

Re: SB 325 — Emergency Management and First Responders: Public Works

Dear Senator Gray and Honorable Committee Members:

As the Director of Public Works in Hampton, NH with a staff of 42 employees, we are fully supportive of the Public Works profession being included in SB 325. A part of the Emergency Management Team, Public Works Departments across the State are always first to respond when needed, in any condition and under any circumstance. We respond to all types of emergencies and natural disasters.

Public Works Departments are responsible for the roadways that get our residents, visitors, commerce, and emergency services from Point A to Point B. We are first to respond to clear roadways of snow, downed trees, debris and flooding events. As part of the Emergency Management Response Team, we are responsible for transportation management, deploying barricades, signage and staffing while assisting with evacuations as requested. We are responsible every single day (365 days a year – 24 hours a day) to protect the health of our community and natural resources by the collection and treatment of wastewater. We are responsible for stabilization efforts to prevent erosion and to maintain and repair our infrastructure that upon failure could have catastrophic results and put at risk the health and safety of our Towns and Cities.

Under any situation listed in this bill - bioterrorism attacks, terrorism attacks, catastrophic or natural disasters and emergencies — Public Works is part of the solution and should be included and recognized as part of Emergency Management Personnel. Like others, with a mission to serve and protect - Public Works Makes It Happen! We respectfully request that you support this bill.

Thank you for considering these comments and the support of Public Works Divisions across the State.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer L. Hale, P.E.

Director of Public Works - Hampton, NH

CC: Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee Members and SB325 Sponsors Via Email

H:\JHale\Letter of Support SB325_02-04-22.docx

Tricia Melillo

From:

bsmith@nhwwa.org

Sent:

Friday, February 11, 2022 2:14 PM

To:

Donna Soucy; James Gray; Rebecca Perkins Kwoka; Regina Birdsell; Ruth Ward; Tricia

Melillo

Subject:

SB325 - SUPPORT

Attachments:

SB325-First Responders-Support-Revised-11Feb2022.pdf

Dear Senators. I just re-read our February 4, 2022 written testimony IN SUPPORT of SB325, and realized I left a description of a different bill in the subject line.

I want to clarify and confirm that our Association supports SB325 for the reasons outlined in our 4Feb2022 letter, and have attached a revised letter of support for your records.

I apologize for not having the correct bill summary in the 4Feb2022 letter's subject line.

Please let me know if you have any questions, and thank you for your consideration and patience.

Sincerely,

Boyd Smith

President and CEO NH Water Works Association 18 N. Main St., Suite 308 Concord, NH 03301 603-415-3959 www.nhwwa.org



February 4, 2022

Honorable James Gray, Chairman Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee State House Room 100 Concord, NH 03301

Re: Testimony Regarding SB 325 (An Act prohibiting recipients of state or local grants or appropriations from using such funds for lobbying) <u>Support</u>

Dear Chairman Gray and Committee Members:

I am writing on behalf of the NH Water Works Association (NHWWA) and our 300+ supporters who represent roughly 2,500 regulated public drinking water suppliers serving two-thirds of New Hampshire residents and businesses with safe, reliable, and affordable drinking water. We are testifying in support of SB 325 for the following reasons:

• The proposed legislation is necessary. Treating public works personnel as first responders recognizes the foundational services they provide. Without safe and clear roads, fire and rescue personnel cannot respond. Without wastewater treatment, drinking water becomes polluted. Without clean drinking water, manufacturing, firefighting, and our economy grind to a halt.

With the 2020 COVID outbreak, drinking water and wastewater operators sacrificed their time and comfort, and risked their safety to maintain levels of service, but were not prioritized for vaccination.

The proposed legislation should be expanded. Public water supplies for tens of thousands of
citizens are provided by private entities contracted with their customers (e.g. Pennichuck Water,
Hampton Area Water Co., Aquarion). Village Districts and Precincts also provide clean water to
thousands of citizens. All workers that provide public services must be considered public workers
to avoid substantial system failures.

We recommend that SB 325 be voted Ought to Pass, and that additional work on this important topic continue with minimal interruption.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

Sincerely,

Boyd Smith

President and CEO BSmith@NHWWA.org*

New Hampshire Water Works Association - 18 North Main St., Suite 308, Concord, NH 03301 603-415-3959 [info@nhwwa.org | www.nhwwa.org

Voting Sheets

Senate Election Law & Municipal Affairs Committee EXECUTIVE SESSION RECORD

2022 Session

01-148-00	Bill 58325
Hearing date: 2/7/832	
Executive Session date: $2/14/22$	
Motion of:	Vote:
Committee Member Present Made by Sen. Gray, Chair Sen. Birdsell, Vice Chair Sen. Ward Sen. Soucy Sen. Perkins-Kwoka Present Made by X X X X X X X X X X X X X	Second Yes No
Motion of: 06845 1005	vote: 5-0
Committee Member Sen. Gray, Chair Sen. Birdsell, Vice Chair Sen. Ward Sen. Soucy Sen. Perkins-Kwoka Present X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X	Second Yes No
Motion of: OTP/A	
Committee Member Present Made by Sen. Gray, Chair Sen. Birdsell, Vice Chair Sen. Ward Sen. Soucy Sen. Perkins-Kwoka Comment RB And Scott	Second Yes, No
Reported out by:	r
Notes:	

Committee Report

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

SENATE

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE CONSENT CALENDAR

Monday, February 14, 2022

THE COMMITTEE ON Election Law and Municipal Affairs

to which was referred SB 325

AN ACT

relative to local organization for emergency management and first responders.

Having considered the same, the committee recommends that the Bill

OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT

BY A VOTE OF: 5-0

AMENDMENT # 0705s

Senator Regina Birdsell For the Committee

This bill as amended defines the emergency personnel included in a local organization for emergency management. In the event of an emergency, statewide or local, it is important for the Department of Safety and Homeland Security and Emergency Management to recognize and identify those groups of citizens that are first responders. This legislation will clarify who is prepared to respond when called upon by the Emergency Management team.

Tricia Melillo 271-3077

General Court of New Hampshire - Bill Status System

Docket of SB325

Docket Abbreviations

Bill Title: relative to local organization for emergency management and first responders.

Official Docket of SB325.:

Date	Body	Description
12/15/2021	S	To Be Introduced 01/05/2022 and Referred to Election Law and Municipal Affairs; SJ 1
2/1/2022	S	Hearing: 02/07/2022, Room 100, SH, 01:45 pm; SC 6
2/15/2022	S	Committee Report: Ought to Pass with Amendment #2022-0705s, 02/24/2022; Vote 5-0; CC; SC 8
2/24/2022	S	Committee Amendment #2022-0705s, AA, VV; 02/24/2022; SJ 4
2/24/2022	S	Ought to Pass with Amendment 2022-0705s, MA, VV; OT3rdg; 02/24/2022; SJ 4
3/23/2022	. H	Introduced 03/17/2022 and referred to Executive Departments and Administration
3/30/2022	Н	Public Hearing: 04/12/2022 10:00 am LOB 302-304
4/25/2022	Н	Executive Session: 04/12/2022 10:00 am LOB 302-304
4/25/2022	н	Majority Committee Report: Ought to Pass (Vote 15-4; RC)
4/25/2022	Н	Minority Committee Report: Inexpedient to Legislate
5/4/2022	Н	Ought to Pass: MA RC 248-84 05/04/2022 HJ 11
5/27/2022	н	Enrolled (in recess of) 05/26/2022 HJ 14
5/27/2022	S	Enrolled Adopted, VV, (In recess 05/26/2022); SJ 13
6/8/2022	S	Signed by the Governor on 06/07/2022; Chapter 0166; Effective 08/06/2022

NH House	NH Senate

Other Referrals

Senate Inventory Checklist for Archives

Bill Nu	umber: SB 305 Senate Committee: ELMH
	include all documents in the order listed below and indicate the documents which have been d with an "X" beside
X.	Final docket found on Bill Status
Bill He	earing Documents: {Legislative Aides}
X	Bill version as it came to the committee
X	All Calendar Notices
<u>X</u> X	Hearing Sign-up sheet(s)
<u>×</u>	Prepared testimony, presentations, & other submissions handed in at the public hearing
X	Hearing Report
N\\\	Revised/Amended Fiscal Notes provided by the Senate Clerk's Office
Comm	ittee Action Documents: (Legislative Aides)
	endments considered in committee (including those not adopted):
	<u>×</u> - amendment # <u>66845</u> amendment #
	<u>K</u> - amendment # <u>6705</u> 5 amendment #
\mathbf{X}	Executive Session Sheet
X	Committee Report
Floor A	Action Documents: {Clerk's Office}
All floo	r amendments considered by the body during session (only if they are offered to the senate):
	amendment # amendment #
	amendment # amendment #
Post F	loor 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 ava	ailable versions of the bill: {Clerk's Office}
	as amended by the senate as amended by the house
	final version
Compl	eted Committee Report File Delivered to the Senate Clerk's Office By:
1	ucia Merillo 6/20/22
	ittee Aide Date
Senate	e Clerk's Office