

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

# **SB334**

# Bill as Introduced

SB 334-LOCAL - AS INTRODUCED

2022 SESSION

22-3082

10/05

SENATE BILL        ***334-LOCAL***

AN ACT            enabling municipalities to establish a vacant building registry.

SPONSORS:        Sen. Prentiss, Dist 5; Sen. Watters, Dist 4; Sen. Whitley, Dist 15; Sen. Sherman,  
Dist 24; Sen. Perkins Kwoka, Dist 21; Sen. Soucy, Dist 18; Sen. Carson, Dist 14;  
Rep. Cloutier, Sull. 10; Rep. Stavis, Graf. 13; Rep. Stapleton, Sull. 5

COMMITTEE:      Election Law and Municipal Affairs

---

ANALYSIS

This bill allows municipalities by vote of the governing body to establish a registration of certain vacant and abandoned properties.

---

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Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.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 enabling municipalities to establish a vacant building registry.

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

1 1 New Chapter; Vacant Building Registry. Amend RSA by inserting after chapter 204-D the  
2 following new chapter:

3 CHAPTER 204-E

4 VACANT BUILDING REGISTRY

5 204-E:1 Definitions. In this chapter:

6 I. "Responsible party" means the title holder of a vacant and abandoned property or a  
7 creditor responsible for the maintenance of a property.

8 II. "Street address" means an address at which a natural person who is the responsible  
9 party or an authorized agent actually resides or actively uses for business purposes, and shall  
10 include a street name or rural delivery route.

11 III. "Vacant and abandoned property" means any residential or commercial real estate  
12 which is not legally occupied by a mortgagor or tenant, which is in such condition that it cannot be  
13 legally reoccupied, and at which at least 2 of the following conditions exist:

14 (a) Overgrown or neglected vegetation;

15 (b) The accumulation of newspapers, circulars, flyers, or mail on the property;

16 (c) Disconnected gas, electric, or water utility services to the property;

17 (d) The accumulation of hazardous, noxious, or unhealthy substances or materials on the  
18 property;

19 (e) The accumulation of junk, litter, trash, or debris on the property;

20 (f) The absence of window treatments such as blinds, curtains, or shutters;

21 (g) The absence of furnishings and personal items;

22 (h) Statements of neighbors, delivery persons, or government employees indicating that  
23 the property is vacant and abandoned;

24 (i) Windows or entrances to the property that are boarded up or closed off, or multiple  
25 window panes that are damaged, broken, and unrepaired;

26 (j) Doors to the property that are smashed through, broken off, unhinged, or  
27 continuously unlocked;

28 (k) A risk to the health, safety, or welfare of the public or any adjoining or adjacent  
29 property owners due to acts of vandalism, loitering, criminal conduct, or the physical destruction or  
30 deterioration of the property;

1 (l) An uncorrected violation of a municipal building, housing, or similar code during the  
2 preceding year, or an order by municipal authorities declaring the property to be unfit for occupancy  
3 and to remain vacant and unoccupied;

4 (m) The mortgagee or other authorized party has secured or winterized the property due  
5 to the property being deemed vacant and unprotected or in danger of freezing;

6 (n) A written statement issued by a mortgagor expressing the clear intent of all  
7 mortgagors to abandon the property; or

8 (o) Any other reasonable indicia of abandonment.

9 204-E:2 Application of Chapter; Local Adoption Required. The provisions of this chapter shall  
10 be in force in such town or city as may adopt the same by vote of the governing body, which shall  
11 perform all the duties and possess all the powers conferred by this chapter.

12 204-E:3 Certificate of Registration. The responsible party for a vacant and abandoned property  
13 that is vacant and abandoned on the effective date of the adoption of this chapter by the governing  
14 body shall file a certificate of registration with the planning board, or the responsible entity  
15 designated by the governing body, of the municipality in which the property is located within 30 days  
16 after such effective date. The responsible party for a property that becomes vacant and abandoned  
17 subsequent to the effective date of the adoption of this chapter shall file a certificate of registration  
18 with the planning board, or the responsible entity designated by the governing body, of the  
19 municipality in which the property is located within 90 days after the property becomes vacant and  
20 abandoned or within 30 days after the responsible party assumes ownership of or responsibility for  
21 an already vacant and abandoned property, whichever is later. The certificate of registration shall  
22 be filed on forms developed and adopted by the local municipal government, including:

23 I.(a) The name, street address, and telephone number of a natural person who resides or  
24 maintains an office within the state and who is either the responsible party or an authorized agent  
25 designated by the responsible party to receive notices and complaints of property maintenance and  
26 code violations on behalf of the responsible party;

27 (b) The name, street address, and telephone number of the person responsible for  
28 maintaining the property, if different; and

29 (c) Evidence of any liability insurance required by an ordinance adopted pursuant to  
30 subparagraph IV(c).

31 II. A responsible party for a vacant and abandoned property shall file an amended certificate  
32 of registration within 30 days after any change in the information required to be included thereon.

33 III. A certificate of registration shall remain valid for one year and shall be renewed on an  
34 annual basis if the property remains vacant and abandoned.

35 IV. A municipality may by ordinance require that, no sooner than 45 days after the property  
36 becomes vacant and abandoned and until the property is reoccupied, the responsible party for a  
37 vacant and abandoned property:

SB 334-LOCAL - AS INTRODUCED

- Page 3 -

1 (a) Enclose and secure the property against unauthorized entry;

2 (b) Post a sign affixed to the inside of the property and visible to the public indicating  
3 the name, address, and telephone number of the responsible party, any authorized agent designated  
4 by the responsible party for the purpose of receiving service of process, and the person responsible  
5 for maintaining the property if different from the responsible party or authorized agent; or

6 (c) Acquire and otherwise maintain liability insurance by procuring a vacancy policy,  
7 covering any damage to any person or any property caused by any physical condition of the property.

8 204-E:4 Enforcement. A responsible party that violates any provision of this section or any  
9 ordinance adopted pursuant hereto, shall be liable for administrative enforcement by the local  
10 municipality pursuant to RSA 31:39-c, RSA 31:39-d, or RSA 47:17-b.

11 2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect January 1, 2023.

SB 334-LOCAL - AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

03/17/2022 1008s

2022 SESSION

22-3082

10/05

SENATE BILL **334-LOCAL**

AN ACT establishing a committee to study property blight in New Hampshire cities and towns.

SPONSORS: Sen. Prentiss, Dist 5; Sen. Watters, Dist 4; Sen. Whitley, Dist 15; Sen. Sherman, Dist 24; Sen. Perkins Kwoka, Dist 21; Sen. Soucy, Dist 18; Sen. Carson, Dist 14; Rep. Cloutier, Sull. 10; Rep. Stavis, Graf. 13; Rep. Stapleton, Sull. 5

COMMITTEE: Election Law and Municipal Affairs

---

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill establishes a committee to study property blight in New Hampshire cities and towns.

-----

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 establishing a committee to study property blight in New Hampshire cities and towns.

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

1       1 Committee Established. There is established a committee to study strategies and barriers to  
2 managing real property blight within New Hampshire cities and towns and establishing responsible  
3 parties for these properties.

4       2 Membership and Compensation.

5       I. The members of the committee shall be as follows:

6           (a) One member of the senate, appointed by the president of the senate.

7           (b) Two members of the house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house  
8 of representatives, one of whom shall be from the majority party and one of whom shall be from the  
9 minority party.

10       II. Members of the committee shall receive mileage at the legislative rate when attending to  
11 the duties of the committee.

12       3 Duties.

13       I. The committee shall study:

14           (a) The definition of vacant and abandoned real properties in New Hampshire;

15           (b) The prevalence and scope of real property blight and problems related to reaching  
16 the party responsible for the blight of a real property;

17           (c) The feasibility of establishing legislation requiring a party to register a blighted real  
18 property, to register that property with the relevant New Hampshire city or town in which it is  
19 located, and to take steps to mitigate the circumstances present; and

20           (d) Any other related information the committee believes to be relevant.

21       II. In completing the study, the committee shall solicit input from affected political  
22 subdivisions and municipalities, as well as any other entity the committee finds relevant.

23       4 Chairperson; Quorum. The members of the study committee shall elect a chairperson from  
24 among the members. The first meeting of the committee shall be called by the first-named senate  
25 member. The first meeting of the committee shall be held within 30 days of the effective date of this  
26 section. Two members of the committee shall constitute a quorum.

27       5 Report. The committee shall report its findings and any recommendations for proposed  
28 legislation to the president of the senate, the speaker of the house of representatives, the senate  
29 clerk, the house clerk, the governor, and the state library on or before November 1, 2022.

30       6 Effective Date. This act shall take effect upon its passage.



CHAPTER 167  
SB 334-LOCAL - FINAL VERSION

03/17/2022 1008s

2022 SESSION

22-3082  
10/05

SENATE BILL        ***334-LOCAL***

AN ACT                establishing a committee to study property blight in New Hampshire cities and towns.

SPONSORS:            Sen. Prentiss, Dist 5; Sen. Watters, Dist 4; Sen. Whitley, Dist 15; Sen. Sherman, Dist 24; Sen. Perkins Kwoka, Dist 21; Sen. Soucy, Dist 18; Sen. Carson, Dist 14; Rep. Cloutier, Sull. 10; Rep. Stavis, Graf. 13; Rep. Stapleton, Sull. 5

COMMITTEE:          Election Law and Municipal Affairs

---

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill establishes a committee to study property blight in New Hampshire cities and towns.

-----

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 167  
SB 334-LOCAL - FINAL VERSION

03/17/2022 1008s

22-3082  
10/05

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

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

AN ACT establishing a committee to study property blight in New Hampshire cities and towns.

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

1 167:1 Committee Established. There is established a committee to study strategies and barriers  
2 to managing real property blight within New Hampshire cities and towns and establishing  
3 responsible parties for these properties.

4 167:2 Membership and Compensation.

5 I. The members of the committee shall be as follows:

6 (a) One member of the senate, appointed by the president of the senate.

7 (b) Two members of the house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house  
8 of representatives, one of whom shall be from the majority party and one of whom shall be from the  
9 minority party.

10 II. Members of the committee shall receive mileage at the legislative rate when attending to  
11 the duties of the committee.

12 167:3 Duties.

13 I. The committee shall study:

14 (a) The definition of vacant and abandoned real properties in New Hampshire;

15 (b) The prevalence and scope of real property blight and problems related to reaching  
16 the party responsible for the blight of a real property;

17 (c) The feasibility of establishing legislation requiring a party to register a blighted real  
18 property, to register that property with the relevant New Hampshire city or town in which it is  
19 located, and to take steps to mitigate the circumstances present; and

20 (d) Any other related information the committee believes to be relevant.

21 II. In completing the study, the committee shall solicit input from affected political  
22 subdivisions and municipalities, as well as any other entity the committee finds relevant.

23 167:4 Chairperson; Quorum. The members of the study committee shall elect a chairperson  
24 from among the members. The first meeting of the committee shall be called by the first-named  
25 senate member. The first meeting of the committee shall be held within 30 days of the effective date  
26 of this section. Two members of the committee shall constitute a quorum.

27 167:5 Report. The committee shall report its findings and any recommendations for proposed  
28 legislation to the president of the senate, the speaker of the house of representatives, the senate  
29 clerk, the house clerk, the governor, and the state library on or before November 1, 2022.

**CHAPTER 167**  
**SB 334-LOCAL - FINAL VERSION**  
**- Page 2 -**

167:6 Effective Date. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

Approved: June 07, 2022  
Effective Date: June 07, 2022

# Amendments

Sen. Prentiss, Dist 5  
March 7, 2022  
2022-0987s  
07/10

Amendment to SB 334-LOCAL

1 Amend the title of the bill by replacing it with the following:

2

3 AN ACT establishing a committee to study property blight in New Hampshire cities and  
4 towns.  
5

6 Amend the bill by replacing all after the enacting clause with the following:

7

8 1 Committee Established. There is established a committee to study strategies and barriers to  
9 managing real property blight within New Hampshire cities and towns and establishing responsible  
10 parties for these properties.

11 2 Membership and Compensation.

12 I. The members of the committee shall be as follows:

13 (a) Two members of the senate, appointed by the president of the senate, one of whom  
14 shall be from the majority party and one of whom shall be from the minority party.

15 (b) Two members of the house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house  
16 of representatives, one of whom shall be from the majority party and one of whom shall be from the  
17 minority party.

18 II. Members of the committee shall receive mileage at the legislative rate when attending to  
19 the duties of the committee.

20 3 Duties.

21 I. The committee shall study:

22 (a) The definition of vacant and abandoned real properties in New Hampshire;

23 (b) The prevalence and scope of real property blight and problems related to reaching  
24 the party responsible for the blight of a real property;

25 (c) The feasibility of establishing legislation requiring a party to register a blighted real  
26 property, to register that property with the relevant New Hampshire city or town in which it is  
27 located, and to take steps to mitigate the circumstances present; and

28 (d) Any other related information the committee believes to be relevant.

29 II. In completing the study, the committee shall solicit input from affected political  
30 subdivisions and municipalities, as well as any other entity the committee finds relevant.

31 4 Chairperson; Quorum. The members of the study committee shall elect a chairperson from  
32 among the members. The first meeting of the committee shall be called by the first-named senate

Amendment to SB 334-LOCAL

- Page 2 -

1 member. The first meeting of the committee shall be held within 30 days of the effective date of this  
2 section. Three members of the committee shall constitute a quorum.

3 5 Report. The committee shall report its findings and any recommendations for proposed  
4 legislation to the president of the senate, the speaker of the house of representatives, the senate  
5 clerk, the house clerk, the governor, and the state library on or before October 15, 2022.

6 6 Effective Date. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

Amendment to SB 334-LOCAL  
- Page 3 -

2022-0987s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill establishes a committee to study property blight in New Hampshire cities and towns.

AMENDED

Amendment to SB 334-LOCAL

1 Amend the title of the bill by replacing it with the following:

2

3 AN ACT establishing a committee to study property blight in New Hampshire cities and  
4 towns.

5

6 Amend the bill by replacing all after the enacting clause with the following:

7

8 1 Committee Established. There is established a committee to study strategies and barriers to  
9 managing real property blight within New Hampshire cities and towns and establishing responsible  
10 parties for these properties.

11 2 Membership and Compensation.

12 I. The members of the committee shall be as follows:

13 (a) One member of the senate, appointed by the president of the senate.

14 (b) Two members of the house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house  
15 of representatives, one of whom shall be from the majority party and one of whom shall be from the  
16 minority party.

17 II. Members of the committee shall receive mileage at the legislative rate when attending to  
18 the duties of the committee.

19 3 Duties.

20 I. The committee shall study:

21 (a) The definition of vacant and abandoned real properties in New Hampshire;

22 (b) The prevalence and scope of real property blight and problems related to reaching  
23 the party responsible for the blight of a real property;

24 (c) The feasibility of establishing legislation requiring a party to register a blighted real  
25 property, to register that property with the relevant New Hampshire city or town in which it is  
26 located, and to take steps to mitigate the circumstances present; and

27 (d) Any other related information the committee believes to be relevant.

28 II. In completing the study, the committee shall solicit input from affected political  
29 subdivisions and municipalities, as well as any other entity the committee finds relevant.

30 4 Chairperson; Quorum. The members of the study committee shall elect a chairperson from  
31 among the members. The first meeting of the committee shall be called by the first-named senate  
32 member. The first meeting of the committee shall be held within 30 days of the effective date of this  
33 section. Two members of the committee shall constitute a quorum.



Amendment to SB 334-LOCAL

- Page 2 -

- 1       5 Report. The committee shall report its findings and any recommendations for proposed
- 2 legislation to the president of the senate, the speaker of the house of representatives, the senate
- 3 clerk, the house clerk, the governor, and the state library on or before November 1, 2022.
- 4       6 Effective Date. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

**Amendment to SB 334-LOCAL**  
**- Page 3 -**

2022-1008s

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill establishes a committee to study property blight in New Hampshire cities and towns.

# 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: January 20, 2022

### HEARINGS

Wednesday

01/26/2022

---

Election Law and Municipal Affairs	State House 103	1:00 p.m.
(Name of Committee)	(Place)	(Time)
1:00 p.m. <b>SB 247</b>	relative to broadband infrastructure bonds.	
1:15 p.m. <b>SB 334-LOCAL</b>	enabling municipalities to establish a vacant building registry.	
1:30 p.m. <b>SB 395</b>	relative to the broadband matching grant initiative.	
1:45 p.m. <b>HB 54</b>	apportioning county commissioner districts.	
1:45 p.m. <b>HB 55</b>	apportioning delegates to state party conventions.	

### EXECUTIVE SESSION MAY FOLLOW

#### Sponsors:

##### **SB 247**

Sen. Ricciardi  
Rep. Plett

Sen. Hennessey

Sen. Avard

Sen. Ward

##### **SB 334-LOCAL**

Sen. Prentiss  
Sen. Perkins Kwoka  
Rep. Stavis

Sen. Watters  
Sen. Soucy  
Rep. Stapleton

Sen. Whitley  
Sen. Carson

Sen. Sherman  
Rep. Cloutier

##### **SB 395**

Sen. Kahn  
Sen. Watters  
Sen. Perkins Kwoka  
Rep. Buco

Sen. Bradley  
Sen. Cavanaugh  
Sen. Hennessey  
Rep. Porter

Sen. Sherman  
Sen. Prentiss  
Rep. Maneval

Sen. Whitley  
Sen. Rosenwald  
Rep. Weber

##### **HB 54**

Rep. B. Griffin

##### **HB 55**

Rep. B. Griffin

Tricia Melillo 271-3077

James P. Gray  
Chairman

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

**SB 334-LOCAL**, enabling municipalities to establish a vacant building registry.

**Hearing Date:** January 26, 2022

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

**Members of the Committee Absent :** Senator Perkins Kwoka

**Bill Analysis:** This bill allows municipalities by vote of the governing body to establish a registration of certain vacant and abandoned properties.

---

**Sponsors:**

Sen. Prentiss

Sen. Watters

Sen. Whitley

Sen. Sherman

Sen. Perkins Kwoka

Sen. Soucy

Sen. Carson

Rep. Cloutier

Rep. Stavis

Rep. Stapleton

---

**Who supports the bill:** Senator Sue Prentiss, Senator Sharon Carson, Senator Tom Sherman, Representative Walter Stapleton, Margaret Byrnes (NHMA), Kim Fallon, Shaun Mulholland

**Who opposes the bill:** Russan Chester, Michael Sciarappa

**Summary of testimony presented in support:**

**Senator Prentiss**

- This is enabling legislation that will allow municipalities to create vacant building registries.
- It was filed at the request of the city of Claremont.
- Neighborhood blight and the presence of abandoned properties have a profound negative effect on communities.
- They decrease property values, erode the health of the local housing market, impose safety hazards and could reduce local tax revenue.
- Establishing a requirement to register these properties by the responsible parties will create one consolidated list that fire or police officials can monitor.
- This list will also be helpful for code officials to keep track of compliance and upkeep.
- Currently cities and towns can obtain data from local code officials, purchase the post office database or convince the utilities to alert them to low usage.
- None of these systems are fool proof
- When there is a fire or water break in one of these properties time is of the essence.
- Officials have reported spending hours trying to find the responsible party.
- Taking care of our neighborhoods is a municipal responsibility and priority.
- One broken window can signify the decline of a property and left unchecked could affect property values.
- Maine, Massachusetts, New Jersey and New York have similar allowances for their communities to develop and maintain these registries.
- She does have an amendment to propose when appropriate.
- She read a letter from the city manager of Claremont which was distributed to the Committee members.
- The amendment does four things.

- It changes the definition of responsible party, it extends the notification time from 35 days to 90 days, it changes the format of how the municipality requests information and adds a line about liability insurance.
- Senator Birdsell asked how would the town get the information on the vacant properties.
  - Senator Prentiss replied that once the municipality built the registry, the information could come from any of the ways she mentioned, code officers, neighbors reporting or low use of utilities.
- Senator Birdsell clarified that everything she spoke of before would be the beginning of compiling this list.
  - Senator Prentiss replied yes.
- Senator Gray commented that the list could affect the privacy of individuals and asked who is going to have access to this registry and where in statute is she getting the definition of "legally occupied."
  - Senator Prentiss replied that if you look for it in all the different places, this is all publicly available information. This just puts the information all in one place.
- Senator Gray commented that he may be able to find out who owns a property but he cannot tell by looking at a property if it is legally occupied.
  - Senator Prentiss answered that the local health officials will make the determination if a property is legally occupied or not.
- Senator Gray stated that in Rochester he does not know of any place he can go to find out which buildings are legally occupied.
  - Senator Prentiss replied that the zoning office should have a list or know of those properties that cannot be legally occupied.
- Senator Gray replied that they could talk one on one later regarding the privacy issue.
  - Senator Prentiss replied that she will be happy to do that.
- Senator Soucy asked if ultimately the goal is to have the list so there is one place officials can quickly go in emergency situations.
  - Senator Prentiss replied that is correct, so they can talk to the appropriate responsible party. She mentioned one situation where there was a potential public threat and firefighters spent hours trying to find out who the responsibly party was.
- Senator Birdsell asked how they eventually get the person notified.
  - Senator Prentiss replied it is like a rolodex system. Typically, they will have to leave a public safety official at the property and dispatch will continue to keep calling around to find the correct person.

### **Representative Walter Stapleton**

- This bill is a tool, a remedy to an ongoing problem of vacant buildings in his city.
- Some buildings have become derelict and a danger to public safety.
- Many of them are owned by absentee owners, some are out of state and difficult to reach for complaint remedy and in some cases default on taxes.
- They attract vandals, trespassers and the homeless.
- In the winter fires are often started for people to stay warm and they get out of hand causing the building to burn.
- Drugs are also a problem.
- This bill requires owners to be responsible for reporting the status of their buildings.
- The city can then be ahead of a situation for monitoring for prevention and safety.
- Many of these situations have deteriorated to tax seizure for unpaid taxes and subsequent demolition.
- They had a case last year where pieces of a building were falling off onto the street.
- They want to be ahead of situations like that instead of at the costly tail end.
- This tool will be handy to have to keep the landlords and emergency services aware of where the problems may be.
- He understood legally occupied to mean by owners renters or lessees of the building as opposed to illegal trespassers, squatters or the homeless.

- Senator Ward commented that if this tool is going to be used to identify buildings that don't have anybody living in them at the time what about adding buildings that are temporarily not being lived in. She thinks it would be a good idea to have owners notify the municipality that they will be away for a period of time.
  - Representative Stapleton replied that he thinks that would be inclusive within the scope of the law and would be helpful for the fire and police to keep an eye on the building for safety and security. He is not sure if they would need to draft an amendment that would include temporary vacancies.

**Summary of testimony presented in opposition:** None

TJM

Date Hearing Report completed: February 2, 2022

# Speakers





## Senate Remote Testify

### Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee Testify List for Bill SB334 on 202

Support: 4 Oppose: 2

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Position</u>
Carson, Senator Sharon	An Elected Official	Myself	Support
Fallon, Kim	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Mulholland, Shaun	A Member of the Public	City of Lebanon	Support
Sherman, Senator	An Elected Official	SD24	Support
Chester, Russan	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose
sciarappa, Micheal	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose

# Testimony



Mayor  
City of Claremont  
58 Opera House Square  
Claremont, New Hampshire 03743  
Ph: (603) 558-0860 Fax: (603) 542-7014  
Email: dgirard.ccc@gmail.com  
www.claremontnh.com

January 25, 2022

NH State Senate  
Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee  
North Main Street  
Concord NH 03301

Re: SB 334 Vacant Building Registry

Dear Senator Prentiss,

As you know the City of Claremont has a significant issue tracking down a responsible party when our services have been called to a residence. Currently, we attempt to contact the last known property owner. Many times, there is no forwarding information available.

The legislation would allow us to have a registry within our Planning and Development office. This would minimize the amount of time necessary to find the responsible party.

I also support requiring information to be posted inside and visible to the public, it will assist emergency services personnel when they respond after normal business hours.

Most importantly, the registry will allow the city to contact a responsible party to correct unhealthy substances, junk, trash, and litter in a timely manner. As you know city health inspectors must deal with blight in our neighborhoods and this legislation will greatly assist in doing so.

I feel the registry will cut back on the City's liability when we are able to communicate with a responsible party.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dale R. Girard", with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Dale R. Girard  
Mayor



City Manager's Office  
58 Opera House Square  
Claremont, New Hampshire 03743  
Ph: (603) 542-7002 Fax: (603) 542-7014  
Email: [citymanager@claremontnh.com](mailto:citymanager@claremontnh.com)  
[www.claremontnh.com](http://www.claremontnh.com)

January 25, 2022

NH State Senate  
Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee  
107 North Main Street  
Concord, NH 03301

Re: Testimony in Support of SB 334 Vacant Building Registry

Dear Senators:

We write to support the adoption of SB-334 Vacant Building Registry.

Claremont would like the ability to establish a vacant and abandoned property registry so that we can be more proactive on building issues. When a building becomes vacant or abandoned, it can deteriorate at a rapid rate causing an attractive nuisance, possible water and sewer issues, property maintenance concerns, potential fires, among other nuisances that draw on city resources and affect surrounding property owners. Without adoption of this enabling legislation, it is sometimes difficult for the city to know if a property has been abandoned or left vacant until obvious external signs start to show and many times the owner cannot be located. Because of these delays of awareness, buildings may be dilapidated beyond repair causing a strain on city resources and tax base.

If there is a registry for vacant and abandoned buildings, the city will have a known contact person for the property and will have the ability to notify the property owner quickly should a problem arise. This increases the chances of concerns regarding a vacant or abandoned property being addressed before it becomes dilapidated to a point that it can no longer be repaired. We view this legislation as a preventative measure.

The establishment of a registry for vacant and abandoned properties would greatly benefit our efforts to maintain a clean and safe city for all our citizens.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John MacLean", written over a white background.

John MacLean  
City Manager

# Voting Sheets

**Senate Election Law  
& Municipal Affairs Committee  
EXECUTIVE SESSION RECORD  
2022 Session**

Bill **SB 334**

Hearing date: 1/26/22

Executive Session date: 3/7/22

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

Committee Member	Present	Made by	Second	Yes	No
Sen. Gray, Chair	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Birdsell, Vice Chair	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Ward	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Soucy	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Perkins-Kwoka	X	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Motion of: 0987s Vote: 5-0

Committee Member	Present	Made by	Second	Yes	No
Sen. Gray, Chair	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Birdsell, Vice Chair	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Ward	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Soucy	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Perkins-Kwoka	X	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Motion of: OTF/A Vote: 5-0

Committee Member	Present	Made by	Second	Yes	No
Sen. Gray, Chair	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Birdsell, Vice Chair	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Ward	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Soucy	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Perkins-Kwoka	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

B - Consent 5 → 5-0

Reported out by: Sen. Birdsell Senator Perkins Kwoka

Notes: Comm Amend <sup>Page 1</sup> line 13 → 1 member  
page 2 line 2 → 2 members  
Quorum

page 2 line 5 NOV 1st

# Committee Report



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

SENATE

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE  
FOR THE CONSENT CALENDAR

Monday, March 7, 2022

THE COMMITTEE ON Election Law and Municipal Affairs

to which was referred **SB 334-LOCAL**

AN ACT enabling municipalities to establish a vacant  
building registry.

Having considered the same, the committee recommends that the Bill

OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT

BY A VOTE OF: 5-0

AMENDMENT # 1008s

Senator Rebecca Perkins Kwoka  
For the Committee

This bill as amended will establish a committee to study strategies and barriers to managing real property blight within New Hampshire cities and towns. Neighborhood blight and the presence of abandoned properties have become problematic for many communities across the state. This committee will be a first step in determining how to mitigate the negative effects of these properties.

Tricia Melillo 271-3077

## General Court of New Hampshire - Bill Status System

**Docket of SB334**

Docket Abbreviations

**Bill Title:** (New Title) establishing a committee to study property blight in New Hampshire cities and towns.*Official Docket of SB334.:*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Body</b>	<b>Description</b>
12/15/2021	S	To Be <b>Introduced</b> 01/05/2022 and Referred to Election Law and Municipal Affairs; <b>SJ 1</b>
1/20/2022	S	<b>Hearing:</b> 01/26/2022, Room 103, SH, 01:15 pm; <b>SC 4</b>
3/9/2022	S	Committee Report: Ought to Pass with Amendment <b>#2022-1008s</b> , 03/17/2022; Vote 5-0; CC; <b>SC 11</b>
3/17/2022	S	Committee Amendment <b>#2022-1008s</b> , AA, VV; 03/17/2022; <b>SJ 5</b>
3/17/2022	S	<b>Ought to Pass with Amendment</b> 2022-1008s, MA, VV; OT3rdg; 03/17/2022; <b>SJ 5</b>
3/23/2022	H	Introduced 03/17/2022 and referred to Municipal and County Government
3/29/2022	H	Public Hearing: 04/07/2022 03:30 pm LOB 301-303
4/6/2022	H	Executive Session: 04/18/2022 10:00 am LOB 301-303
4/19/2022	H	Executive Session: 04/27/2022 10:00 am LOB 305-307
4/27/2022	H	Committee Report: Ought to Pass ( <b>Vote 18-0; CC</b> )
5/4/2022	H	<b>Ought to Pass:</b> MA VV 05/04/2022 <b>HJ 11</b>
5/27/2022	H	Enrolled (in recess of) 05/26/2022 <b>HJ 14</b>
5/27/2022	S	Enrolled Adopted, VV, (In recess 05/26/2022); <b>SJ 13</b>
6/8/2022	S	Signed by the Governor on 06/07/2022; Chapter 0167; Effective 06/07/2022

NH House

NH Senate

# Other Referrals

# Senate Inventory Checklist for Archives

Bill Number: SB 334

Senate Committee: ELMA

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

N/A 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 # 09875      \_\_\_ - amendment # \_\_\_\_\_

- amendment # 10085      \_\_\_ - 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:

Tucia Mello  
Committee Aide

6/21/22  
Date

Senate Clerk's Office AK