

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

**SB124**

# Bill as Introduced

SB 124-FN-A - AS INTRODUCED

2023 SESSION

23-0882  
05/08

SENATE BILL        ***124-FN-A***

AN ACT            making an appropriation for the Eastern Slopes Regional Airport.

SPONSORS:        Sen. Bradley, Dist 3

COMMITTEE:       Finance

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ANALYSIS

This bill makes an appropriation to the department of transportation to support the Eastern Slopes Regional Airport.

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Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

SB 124-FN-A - AS INTRODUCED

23-0882  
05/08

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

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

AN ACT making an appropriation for the Eastern Slopes Regional Airport.

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

- 1       1 Department of Transportation; Appropriation; Eastern Slopes Regional Airport. The sum of
- 2 \$100,000 for the biennium ending June 30, 2025, is appropriated to the department of
- 3 transportation, aeronautics division for the purpose of providing local matching funds for Federal
- 4 Aviation Administration grants to support the Easter Slopes Regional Airport, located in Fryeburg,
- 5 Maine and serving Conway, New Hampshire. The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said
- 6 sum out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.
- 7       2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.

**SB 124-FN-A- FISCAL NOTE  
 AS INTRODUCED**

AN ACT making an appropriation for the Eastern Slopes Regional Airport.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**  State  County  Local  None

STATE:	Estimated Increase / (Decrease)			
	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
<b>Appropriation</b>	\$0	\$100,000	\$0	\$0
<b>Revenue</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Expenditures</b>	\$0	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$0
<b>Funding Source:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Highway	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

**METHODOLOGY:**

This bill appropriates \$100,000 of general funds for the biennium ending June 30, 2025, to the Department of Transportation for the purpose of providing local matching funds for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) grants to support the Eastern Slopes Regional Airport. The Department states the funds would be expended at \$50,000 in each FY 2024 and FY 2025.

**AGENCIES CONTACTED:**

Department of Transportation

# Committee Minutes

ATTENDANCE

**SENATE CALENDAR NOTICE**  
**Finance**

11

- ✓ Sen James Gray, Chair
- ✓ Sen Daniel Innis, Vice Chair
- ✓ Sen Jeb Bradley, Member
- ✓ Sen Regina Birdsell, Member
- ✓ Sen Howard Pearl, Member
- ✓ Sen Lou D'Allesandro, Member
- ✓ Sen Cindy Rosenwald, Member

START: 2:14 PM

STOP: 2:25 PM

Date: January 25, 2023

**HEARINGS**

Tuesday		01/31/2023	
(Day)		(Date)	
Finance		State House 103	1:00 p.m.
(Name of Committee)		(Place)	(Time)
1:00 p.m.		Department of Justice Presentation - Medicaid Enhancement Tax (MET) and the Disproportionate Share Hospital Program (DSH) Senior Assistant Attorney General Laura Lombardi	
1:20 p.m.	SB 122-FN-A	relative to construction of a public pier on Hampton Beach and making an appropriation therefor.	
<del>1:30 p.m.</del>	<del>SB 124-FN-A</del>	<del>making an appropriation for the Eastern Slopes Regional Airport.</del>	
1:40 p.m.	SB 125-FN-A	relative to annual grants to regional development corporations.	
1:55 p.m.	SB 114-FN-LOCAL	relative to payment by the state of a portion of retirement system contributions of political subdivision employers.	

**EXECUTIVE SESSION MAY FOLLOW**

**Sponsors:**

**SB 122-FN-A**

Sen. Avard

Sen. Rosenwald

Sen. Birdsell

Rep. Hill

**SB 124-FN-A**

Sen. Bradley

**SB 125-FN-A**

Sen. Gendreau

Sen. Gannon

Sen. Avard

Sen. Bradley

Sen. Birdsell

Sen. Carson

Sen. Pearl

Sen. Lang

**SB 114-FN-LOCAL**

Sen. Rosenwald

Sen. Altschiller

Sen. Prentiss

Sen. Fenton

Sen. Perkins Kwoka

Sen. D'Allesandro

Sen. Whitley

Sen. Watters

Sen. Chandley

Sen. Soucy

Rep. Edgar

Rep. O'Brien

Rep. Telerski

Rep. Wilhelm

Rep. Simpson

Deb Martone 271-4980

James P. Gray  
Chairman

# Senate Finance Committee

*Deb Martone 271-4980*

SB 124-FN-A, making an appropriation for the Eastern Slope Regional Airport.

**Hearing Date:** January 31, 2023

**Time Opened:** 2:14 p.m.

**Time Closed:** 2:25 p.m.

**Members of the Committee Present:** Senators Gray, Innis, Bradley, Birdsell, Pearl, D'Allesandro and Rosenwald

**Bill Analysis:** This bill makes an appropriation to the department of transportation to support the Eastern Slopes Regional Airport.

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**Sponsors:**

Sen. Bradley

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**Who supports the bill:** Senator Bradley

**Who is neutral on the bill:** Tricia Lambert

**Summary of testimony presented in support:**

**Senator Bradley, Prime Sponsor**

- Senator Bradley sponsored the bill on behalf of the town of Conway, which is adjacent to the town of Fryeburg, Maine, which is served by the Eastern Slope Regional Airport. The airport also serves the western Maine and Mount Washington Valley areas.
- The airport receives funding from both New Hampshire and Maine, and serves businesses, first responders, medical evacuation, tourism and education.
- It has recently enjoyed the addition of a new hanger, which has brought over 8,000 operations to the airport over the last year.
- Conway lost an airport approximately 20-25 years ago.
- If the expansion of the airport is to go forward, both the Maine and New Hampshire Departments of Transportation would need to raise 5 percent of the overall funding. The federal government will provide 90 percent. Conway's share would be roughly \$200,000. SB 124-FN-A would appropriate \$100,000 towards this project.
- Senator Rosenwald understood this would be a one-time expenditure. She inquired if Senator Bradley would be willing to use 2023 surplus funds for the expenditure. Senator Bradley agreed.
- Senator Innis wondered how many New Hampshire residents/businesses actually use the airport. Senator Bradley didn't have exact figures but noted Conway is a huge economic driver for the entire Mount Washington Valley,



which is the gateway to the White Mountains. It probably has far more economic activity than Fryeburg. Eastern Slope is a regional airport, used often by Granite Staters. Senator Innis then inquired if any of the flights are part of the essential air program. Senator Bradley was unsure.

- Senator D'Allesandro asked about the total cost of implementation. Senator Bradley indicated the project would extend the taxiways and lighting to current standards, to the tune of approximately \$3.5 million federal dollars, plus the 10 percent share by both Maine and New Hampshire. The appropriation would help Conway with its portion of the 5 percent. Senator D'Allesandro asked if the FAA has flight control at Eastern Slope. Is the airport manned by the FAA? Senator Bradley agreed to obtain that information. Senator Gray remarked he sits on the Skyhaven Airport Advisory Council where all operations are radio-controlled. There are no permanent personnel. Senator Bradley believes it is a 24-hour airport. He reiterated he would obtain the information Senator D'Allesandro is seeking.
- Senator Gray tends to support the proposal due to the lack of health care in the North Country. We need to insure med flights continue to run out of Eastern Slope Airport.

#### **Neutral Information Presented:**

#### **Tricia Lambert, Bureau of Aeronautics Administrator, New Hampshire Department of Transportation:**

- Eastern Slope is a federal systems airport supported by the FAA. It is not a towered airport. It is fully automated for pilots to come and go as they please. It is open 24/7, but is not part of the central air service program.
- Senator Innis again asked about passenger volume counts. Administrator Lambert did not have statistics available, but commented at least half of the services and pilots based at Eastern Slope are utilized by New Hampshire residents.

dm  
Date Hearing Report completed: February 2, 2023

# Speakers



# Testimony



The Eastern Slope Regional Airport (IZG) was created by joint legislation in Maine and New Hampshire in 1961 to serve the Mount Washington Valley and Western Maine. Funding for the airport comes largely from its own operations with support from towns in the region, the Federal Aviation Administration, MDOT, and NHDOT in recognition of the contribution to New Hampshire's economy and airspace system. That State of New Hampshire contributed to the initial construction of the airfield and recently contributed money for the construction of a large new hangar, an investment which has already started paying dividends for the state by attracting new traffic and extending the stays of existing passengers.

The municipality of Fryeburg owns the property and contracts the operation, maintenance and administration of the airport to the Eastern Slope Airport Authority (ESAA), an eleven member board. Conway is represented by two directors. Three directors represent Fryeburg and the remainder of the directors are at-large with one director serving as pilot/tenant liaison. In 2022 the board hired a part time professional airport director to provide guidance, policy updates, procedures and management as the Airport continues to develop and better serve the region.

The airport is a year-round economic hub for businesses, tourists, flight training and education. Thirty-six pilots call IZG their home base, some of them moving to the area and contributing to the tax base because of the availability of a nearby location for their aircraft. Businesses such as ski areas, hotels, and summer camps weigh the airport in their decisions as well and also benefit from direct and indirect revenues from the airport. The airport supports jobs both directly and indirectly with one full time airport operations supervisor, several part-time employees and contracted professional services such as accounting and management. IZG serves as the home for the new Kennett High School and Fryeburg Academy STEM Aviation Education program and summer STEM Aviation Camps for middle school students housing a classroom and FAA approved simulator on the field.

There are about 8,000 operations, defined as take-offs or landings, per year at the Airport. This number is primarily derived by using a radio recorder that receives transmissions on the frequency dedicated to IZG. It uses the duration and quantity of transmissions inserted into an algorithm to estimate the number of takeoffs and landings. This is also compared with known fuel sales and approaches to the airport which utilize air traffic control and are recorded in an FAA database. Of these 8,000 operations, approximately 150 are military, on missions or training, and 200 are air charter or air taxi, hired to bring people to the region for business, tourism, and/ or to enjoy the amenities the White Mountain Valley Region has to offer. Over 50% of traffic coming into the Airport has NH as a final destination.

The airport is a vital portal for emergency services in the region. Life Flight, charitable pet relocation, medical patient treatment flights, organ transportation, Civil Air Patrol, law enforcement and military training, and search and rescue operations all take place at IZG. It is important to note that even if emergency aircraft are not landing directly at IZG, they are still using the airport for weather reporting, instrument approaches, and alternates. Every helicopter trip – and there are thousands over the years- to Bridgton's hospital and Memorial in North Conway uses IZG for those purposes. The availability of jet fuel, 24 hour call-in services, and the ability to hangar aircraft in inclement weather and for passive de-icing with the addition of the newly completed large aircraft hangar make IZG even more of a factor for emergency services.

Recently Sanford High School experienced a potentially catastrophic live shooter scenario. Although this was a hoax, it demonstrated the importance of a nearby airport to emergency responders. Five emergency medical helicopters staged at the Sanford Airport within an hour. In these cases time is critical, patients are unstable, and the emergency area is tumultuous; helicopters cannot land at the scene. The nearby airport becomes the remote staging area for the victims to receive the fastest evacuation to a hospital while still receiving continuous care. If such an event occurred in Fryeburg or surrounding towns, Fryeburg Airport would be the staging area for emergency evacuation.

*Respectfully submitted, Allison Navia, Airport Director IZG  
January 30, 2023*



Current projects include the reconstruction of Lyman Drive, the airport access road built in 1961, desperately in need of maintenance. A Northern Borders Grant and \$127,000 of funding set aside by the Town of Fryeburg will pay for the project. A web-based weather camera will be installed in 2023 which will be accessible to the public, providing a real time view of the horizon in all four directions. Planning is ongoing to reflect demand for more hangars along with continual maintenance and tenant improvements to airport-owned hangars. Of paramount importance is the design and construction of an extension to the runway to accommodate aircraft safely in all weather conditions year-round. This development will also bring taxi ways and lighting up to current standards. Congress recognized the importance of this project and set aside \$3.5 million federal dollars toward its completion and the State of Maine will contribute 5% toward project costs. The \$100,000 from the state of New Hampshire is needed to help match this funding and bring the project to fruition. The continued success of the airport and viability of the Mountain Valley Region depend on these investments in transportation infrastructure.

The Eastern Slope Airport Authority thank the State of New Hampshire for its continued support.

*Respectfully submitted, Allison Navia, Airport Director IZG  
January 30, 2023*

## **Debra Martone**

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**From:** Rick Hiland <rhiland@myfairpoint.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 30, 2023 1:32 PM  
**To:** James Gray; Daniel Innis; Regina Birdsell; Howard Pearl; Jeb Bradley; Cindy Rosenwald; Lou D'Allesandro; Debra Martone  
**Subject:** RE: SB 124 Testimony

Caution! This message was sent from outside your organization.

January 31, 2023

To the NH Senate Finance Committee members: Chairman James Gray, Vice Chairman Daniel Innis, Jeb Bradley, Regina Birdsell, Howard Pearl, Lou D'Allesandro, Cindy Rosenwald

RE: SB 124

My name is Rick Hiland from Albany NH, and I am unable to attend the Public Hearing on January 31, 2023 (Tuesday) at 1:30PM. Please accept this testimony in support of SB 124.

I am a semi-retired local businessman and a former Albany NH Selectman (Chairman) and Planning Board member for several years. I am also a former member of the Eastern Slopes Airport Authority Board of Directors as the representative of the Town of Albany for several years.

The Eastern Slopes Airport Authority operates the Eastern Slope Regional Airport for the Town of Fryeburg Maine.

The Eastern Slopes Regional Airport which is located just over the NH/ME border serves the regions of Western Maine/Oxford County and New Hampshire's Mount Washington Valley.

The airport and its authority support and facilitate the necessary Emergency Services; Economic Development; Educational – Conway School System and Fryeburg Maine School System; the Annual Summer Aviation Camps for 8th and 9th Grader students from NH and Maine; Forest Services in NH & Maine; Aviation fuel services; hanger accommodations; recreational general aviation; and the Eastern Slopes Aviation Academy just to name a few to both regions of New Hampshire and Maine.

Eastern Slope Regional Airport is an asset in many ways to all the Towns in New Hampshire's Mount Washington Valley.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me anytime.

I ask that you support this financial legislation in SB 124 to support the Eastern Slopes Regional Airport and all the Towns in New Hampshire's Mount Washington Valley.

Thank you,

Rick Hiland  
2279 NH Route 16  
Albany NH 03818-7421 USA  
603-447-4833  
rhiland@myfairpoint.net



# Voting Sheets

# Senate Finance Committee

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

Bill #SB124-FN-A

Hearing date: 01/31/23

Executive session date: 01/31/23

Motion of: QTP

VOTE: 7-0

<u>Made by</u> Gray <input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Seconded</u> Gray <input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Reported</u> Gray <input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Senator:</u> Innis <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>by Senator:</u> Innis <input type="checkbox"/>	<u>by Senator:</u> Innis <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Bradley <input type="checkbox"/>	Bradley <input type="checkbox"/>	Bradley <input type="checkbox"/>
Birdsell <input type="checkbox"/>	Birdsell <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Birdsell <input type="checkbox"/>
Pearl <input type="checkbox"/>	Pearl <input type="checkbox"/>	Pearl <input type="checkbox"/>
D'Allesandro <input type="checkbox"/>	D'Allesandro <input type="checkbox"/>	D'Allesandro <input type="checkbox"/>
Rosenwald <input type="checkbox"/>	Rosenwald <input type="checkbox"/>	Rosenwald <input type="checkbox"/>

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

VOTE: \_\_\_\_\_

<u>Made by</u> Gray <input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Seconded</u> Gray <input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Reported</u> Gray <input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Senator:</u> Innis <input type="checkbox"/>	<u>by Senator:</u> Innis <input type="checkbox"/>	<u>by Senator:</u> Innis <input type="checkbox"/>
Bradley <input type="checkbox"/>	Bradley <input type="checkbox"/>	Bradley <input type="checkbox"/>
Birdsell <input type="checkbox"/>	Birdsell <input type="checkbox"/>	Birdsell <input type="checkbox"/>
Pearl <input type="checkbox"/>	Pearl <input type="checkbox"/>	Pearl <input type="checkbox"/>
D'Allesandro <input type="checkbox"/>	D'Allesandro <input type="checkbox"/>	D'Allesandro <input type="checkbox"/>
Rosenwald <input type="checkbox"/>	Rosenwald <input type="checkbox"/>	Rosenwald <input type="checkbox"/>

<u>Committee Member</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Reported out by</u>
Senator Gray, Chairman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Innis, Vice-Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Senator Bradley	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Birdsell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Pearl	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator D'Allesandro	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Rosenwald	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

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

# Committee Report



**Docket of SB124**

Docket Abbreviations

**Bill Title:** making an appropriation for the Eastern Slopes Regional Airport.*Official Docket of SB124.:*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Body</b>	<b>Description</b>
1/19/2023	S	<b>Introduced</b> 01/19/2023 and Referred to Finance; <b>SJ 5</b>
1/25/2023	S	<b>Hearing:</b> 01/31/2023, Room 103, SH, 01:30 pm; <b>SC 8</b>
2/1/2023	S	Committee Report: Ought to Pass, 02/09/2023; <b>SC 9</b>
2/9/2023	S	<b>Ought to Pass:</b> MA, VV; 02/09/2023; <b>SJ 6</b>
2/9/2023	S	Sen. Gray Moved Laid on Table, MA, VV; 02/09/2023; <b>SJ 6</b>
2/9/2023	S	Pending Motion OT3rdg; 02/09/2023; <b>SJ 6</b>

NH House

NH Senate

# Other Referrals

**Senate Inventory Checklist for Archives**

Bill Number: SB 124-FN-A

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

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 # \_\_\_\_\_      \_\_\_ - 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:

Debra C. Martone  
Committee Aide

07/14/23  
Date

Senate Clerk's Office AKP AK