

Amendment to HB 591-FN

1 Amend the bill by replacing section 1 with the following:

2  
3 1 Recreational Prospecting. RSA 482-A:3, XI is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

4 XI.(a) In this paragraph:

5 (1) "Hand panning" means separating minerals from water by means of washing  
6 sediments in a pan with water.

7 (2) "Highbanker" or "power sluice" means a sluice box that uses a water pump to  
8 transport water through the box to mimic the flow of a stream or river where there is little water  
9 and requires a withdrawal of water and a discharge.

10 (3) "Recreational prospecting" means searching for mineral deposits in the surface  
11 waters of the state where such searching is undertaken primarily for recreational purposes.

12 (4) "Rocker box" means a mechanical device used to separate gold and other  
13 minerals from lighter sediments, but it used where there is little water and requires a withdrawal  
14 of water and a discharge.

15 (5) "Sluice box" means a trough or box through which water is directed to separate  
16 minerals from sediments and which does not exceed 10 square feet in size.

17 (6) "Vacuum dredge" or "suction dredge" means a machine that uses a vacuum to  
18 draw water and sediments through a hose to a recovery unit which separates minerals from the  
19 sediments.

20 (b) Prospecting by hand panning or by using sluice boxes is allowed on the surface  
21 waters of the state so long as:

22 (1) All necessary permissions and permits have been secured prior to initiation of  
23 the prospecting activities;

24 (2) Reasonable efforts are made to ensure that such prospecting activities shall not  
25 result in stream bank erosion when entering, exiting, and using the surface water for recreational  
26 prospecting activities; and

27 (3) Reasonable efforts are made to ensure that such recreational prospecting  
28 activities shall not result in water quality degradation.

29 (c) Recreational prospecting shall not be conducted on surface waters traversing or  
30 bordering private, nonprofit, or conservation trust lands without prior authorization from the  
31 landowner, or on state land without permission from the department of environmental services.

32 (d) No person shall use vacuum or suction dredges, highbankers, or rocker boxes when

**Amendment to HB 591-FN**  
**- Page 2 -**

1 engaged in recreational prospecting in any surface water of the state.

2 (e) The state shall retain the right to prohibit recreational prospecting at certain times  
3 or in certain locations when such activity would be detrimental to the public interest for reasons  
4 including, but not limited to, environmental and wildlife protection.

5 (f) The department may enter into a cooperative agreement with the fish and game  
6 department relative to enforcement of the provisions of this paragraph.