

# 2022 Legislative Wrap-up



*Presented by:*

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# HB1033 - Anti- Lobbying Bill

Died in the House



# SB 344 - Remote Meetings



Died in the House  
(Along w/almost all other remote meeting bills)

# HB 1567/SB 405 - Fining Municipalities

Largely duplicative - allows the attorney general investigate misconduct by an election official, and if convicted, remove the official's right to vote. The bill also authorizes the attorney general to impose a civil penalty against the local government entity in which an election official was found to have negligently engaged in misconduct.

Any public officer upon whom a duty relating to elections is imposed who shall negligently fail to perform such duty or who shall negligently perform it in such a way as to hinder the objects thereof, as found pursuant to RSA 666:2, shall cause the county, city, town, school district, village district, or other political subdivision, where such conduct occurred to be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$250 nor more than \$1,000 for each act.

# Vaccine Legislation

- ▶ HB 1210, Omnibus Vaccine Exemption Bill, failed leaving municipalities to continue to exercise their rights as employers.







# Assessor- Related Bills



- ▶ SB 312, providing that the assessors and selectmen shall, as part of creating an annual revised inventory of taxable property, correct any errors in existing appraisals.
  - ▶ Allows errors in assessments to be corrected on an annual basis rather than requiring the town to wait for the 5-year reappraisal, rectifying the effect of the recent New Hampshire Supreme Court decision in Merrimack Premium Outlets, et al. v. Town of Merrimack.
- ▶ SB 317, a NHMA Policy Bill, that would reduce the interest rate for abatements of property taxes from six percent to four percent. This reduction reflects the proportional adjustments that the legislature made to the late property tax bill interest rate in 2018.



- HB 1494 - Telephone Company ROW Exemption  
Died in the House
- HB 1328 -allows telephone companies to be  
relieved of their carrier of last resort  
obligations.  
Killed in the Senate

# SB 325

Defines first responders and includes first responders in the definitions of emergency management and local organization within the division of homeland security and emergency management. RSA 21-P:35



- *"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 operators, that provide immediate support services necessary to perform emergency management functions.*

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# HB 536

relative to death benefits for public works employees killed in the line of duty, and relative to workers' compensation offsets for certain retirement system benefits.

- This bill establishes a state death benefit for a municipal or state public works employee killed in the line of duty. The bill also eliminates the offset for workers' compensation benefits applicable to group I accidental death benefit annuities in state retirement system.



# HB 1070 - Default Budget Recalculation Bill- *Killed*



HB 1026 - “Active Spreadsheet Format” for Municipal Budgets Committees. *Killed*

HB 1194-This bill would require a 3/5 majority vote, by written ballot, of a town meeting to approve any appropriation that would cause the amount of local taxes raised to exceed the town’s tax cap. *Killed*

G1481 Mogale City - Table A2 Budgeted Financial Performance (revenue)

Standard Classification Description	Ref	2005/06	2006/07
R thousand	1	Audited Outcome	Audited Outcome
<b>Revenue - Standard</b>			
<b>Municipal governance and administration</b>		190,648	255,1
Executive and council		2	
Mayor and Council		2	
Municipal Manager		-	
Budget and treasury office		-	58,1
Corporate services		190,646	197,0
Human Resources		2,100	1,8
Information Technology		1,042	
Property Services		1,811	10,6
Other Admin		185,693	184,4
<b>Community and public safety</b>		26,779	19,4
Community and social services		6,061	4,8
Libraries and Archives		62	2
Museums & Art Galleries etc		2	
Community halls and Facilities		128	1
Cemeteries & Crematoriums		1,513	1,8
Child Care		-	
Aged Care		-	
Other Community		-	

# Finance Related Bills



- ▶ SB-343- establishing a committee to study room occupancy tax revenues and fees and the formula for distribution to municipalities. *Killed*
- ▶ HB 1204, Meals & Rooms Increase Percent/Decrease Tax Bill - *Interim Study*
- ▶ SB 437, local option fee for municipal transportation- *Killed*
- ▶ SB 338, local option municipal occupancy fee- *Killed*
- ▶ HB 1665, establishing a municipal road and bridge disaster relief fund- *Interim Study*
- ▶ SB 402 and SB 409, relative to disaster relief loans. *Passed*
  - ▶ SB 402 allows the director of the division of homeland security and emergency management, with the approval of the fiscal committee, the governor, and the executive council, to disburse financial assistance to municipalities affected by federally-declared disasters in certain circumstances.
  - ▶ SB 409 modifies the circumstances under which the governor may approve exceptional disaster relief loans. RSA 21-P:37-c

# Compliance



- ▶ HB 1318- establishes penalties for non-compliance with NHRS reporting requirements.
- ▶ SB 239 establishes a fine for noncompliance with municipal audit requirements.



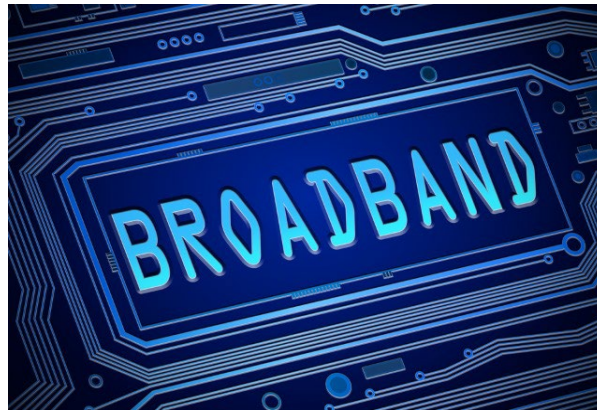
# Grants, Loans,

# State Aid and

# Revenue Sharing



# Broadband



- ✓ SB 273- allows a special meeting for broadband bonds.
- ✓ SB 445 - \$122 million for broadband matching grants using ARPA funds.
  - ✓ Administered through NH Office of Broadband Initiatives

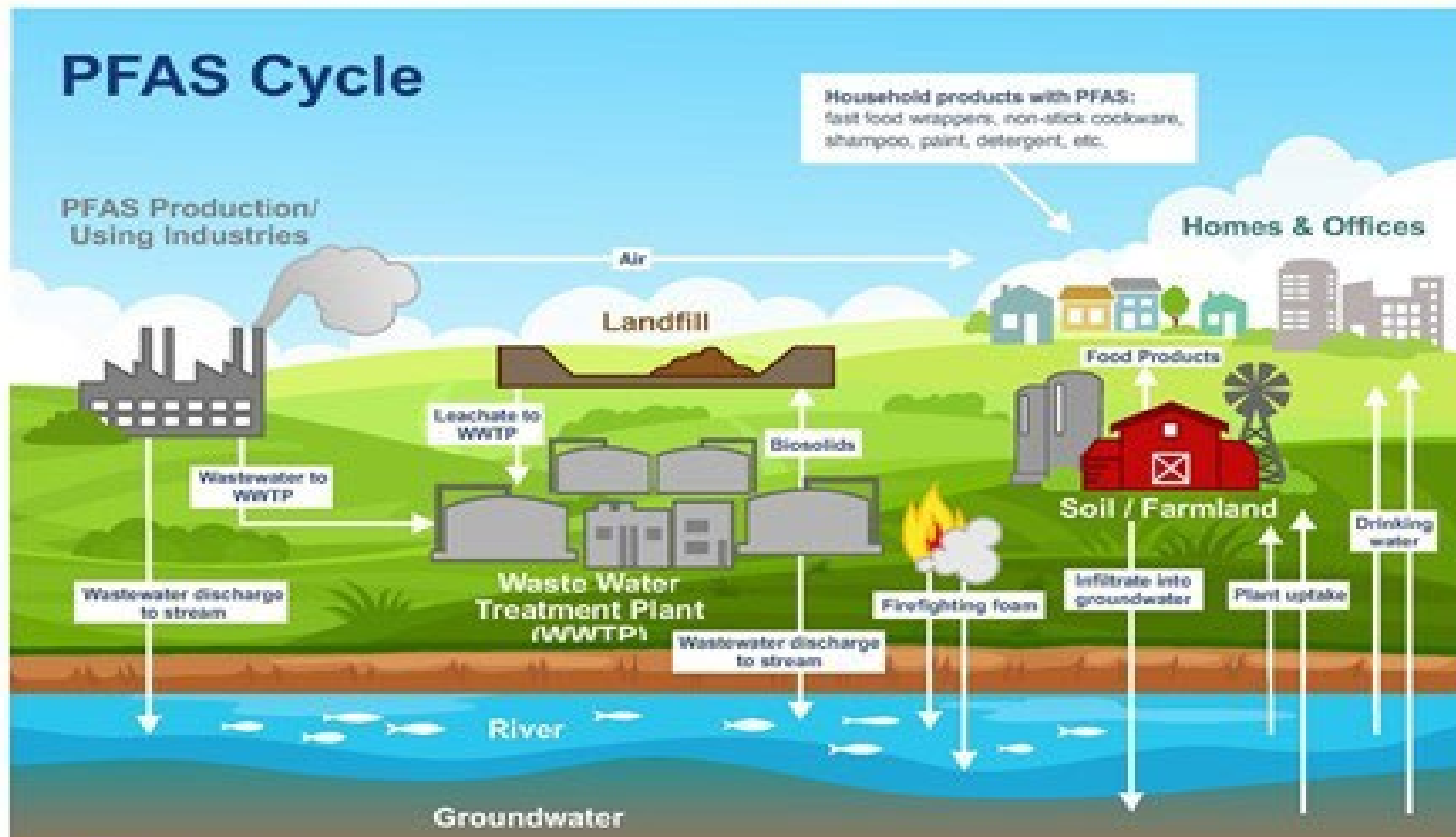
<https://www.nh.gov/osi/planning/resources/broadband.htm>



# HB 1547

► \$25 million to the existing perfluorinated chemical (PFAS) remediation loan fund. This new infusion of state dollars would increase the total loan fund from \$50 million to \$75 million and provide additional relief to cities and towns as they work to address PFAS chemicals in their water systems.

<https://www.des.nh.gov/blog/pfas-remediation-loan-fund-program>



# HB 398-Funding Wastewater Projects



<https://www.des.nh.gov/business-and-community/loans-and-grants>

## HB 412- Funding Water Projects-*Killed*



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- HB 1417- Restoring a permanent 7.5% state contribution to the employer's share of NHRS costs.  
Laid on the Table by the Senate
- HB 1535- COLA- one-time payment of \$500
- HB 1587-Changes Average Final Compensation for Group II members hired on or after July 1, 2011
- SB 363- Group II Service Credits

# SB 420 -establishes “extraordinary need grants” for schools.



Add \$25 Million in funding for schools with low property values, high number of low income students

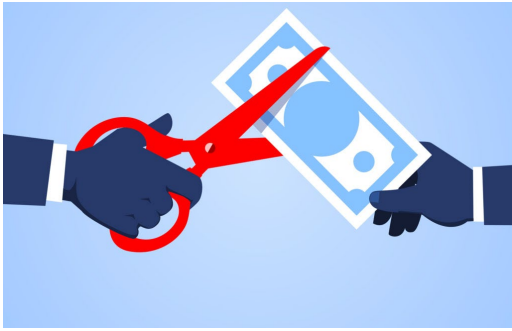
- ✓ Establishes an extraordinary need grant for schools in addition to regular adequate education grants and relief grants.
- ✓ Calculated on a sliding scale based on a district's total property values divided by the number of students eligible for free and reduced price lunch.
  - ✓ Details and Allocation estimates can be found in the bill text:  
[http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/bill\\_status/pdf.aspx?id=36769&q=billVersion](http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/bill_status/pdf.aspx?id=36769&q=billVersion)

# HB 1221 - One-time 7.5% State Contribution to Retirement System costs for Group I, Teachers and Group II, Police and Fire



- ▶ **HB 1221** will provide a *one-time* payment by the state equal to 7.5 percent (estimated \$27 million) of the New Hampshire Retirement System (NHRS) employer contribution costs for Group I teachers and Group II police and firefighters in state fiscal year 2023.
- ▶ These state payments will be issued to each town or city as a reimbursement.
- ▶ NHRS actuaries will calculate the reimbursement amount due to each municipal employer.
- ▶ It is anticipated that these funds will be reported as revenue on the MS 434 and be recorded as part of the tax rate certification process.





# Property Tax Relief

- ▶ SB 401- Using state general fund surplus generated in fiscal year 2022:
  - ▶ \$36 million in municipal bridge aid;
  - ▶ \$30 million in municipal highway block grants;
  - ▶ \$1 million toward the body worn and dashboard camera fund.\*

\*Municipalities can apply for this grant and be reimbursed up to \$50,000 for the purchase of body-worn or dashboard cameras, software maintenance for the cameras, and maintenance and storage of data related to the cameras.

# How will SB 401 funding be distributed?



- **Highway Block Grants:**
- The \$30 million allocated for roads will follow the Department of Transportation “Apportionment A” formula.
- These are **additional** funds to the already approved \$34 Million in Highway Block Grants.
- Funds will be distributed among the municipalities based on their population in proportion to the entire state’s population and the other half is disbursed based on a municipality’s Class IV and V road mileage in proportion to the total statewide Class IV and V mileage.
- It is anticipated to be distributed in a lump sum, rather than spread over four payments. *We are awaiting confirmation on distribution details and the timing of these funds.*

# How will SB 401 funding be distributed?



- ***Municipally-Owned Bridge Allocation:***
- The appropriation for bridges will be based on a similar 50/50 highway block grant formula:
  - \$18 million will be distributed based on a municipality's deck area proportional to the total deck area for municipally-owned bridges,
  - \$18 million will be ~~distribution~~ based on a municipality's total share of the state ~~population~~.
  - The bridge payment is anticipated to be a lump sum payment which we can expect closer to year end. *We will update our members as details and allocations become available.*

# What can this money be used for?



- SB 401 will provide funding with restricted uses:
  - It may be used to supplement (not supplant) local budgets;
  - The “supplement not supplant” provision requires that these funds must add to (supplement) and not replace (supplant) local budgeted funds.
  - The funds must be used to provide services that repair, maintain, and construct municipal bridges; repair and maintain class IV and V roads; or acquire the equipment necessary to maintain Class IV and V roads.

# How can a municipality accept and expend these funds?



The bill allows all three categories of funds to be considered “unanticipated revenue.”

A municipality may accept and expend the funds under the provisions of RSA 31:95-b, II-IV, whether or not a municipality has adopted that statute.

For unanticipated money in the amount of \$10,000 or more, RSA 31:95-b requires the governing body to hold a public hearing on the action to be taken, with notice of the time, place and subject of the hearing published at least seven days before the hearing is held.

For unanticipated money less than \$10,000, the governing body must post notice of the funds in the agenda and include notice in the minutes of the public meeting at which the money is discussed.





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