

N.H. Lakes Management Advisory Committee

[N.H. Lakes Management and Protection Program](https://www.lmac.des.nh.gov/)

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Review of Legislation, Actions, and the LMAC Policy and Legislation Subcommittee

(Adopted: By vote of the LMAC July 2014 / Amended: February 2018 / Amended: January 2019 / Amended: November 2021 / Amended: January 2023 / Amended: December 2023)

Introduction

RSA 483-A created the Lakes Management and Protection Program (LMPP) and established the Lakes Management Advisory Committee (LMAC). The LMPP compliments and reinforces existing state and federal water quality laws and supports “the uses and values that lakes provide” including, but not limited to: passive and active recreational activities such as swimming, fishing, and use of appropriate watercraft; aesthetic values such as scenic beauty, wilderness experiences, and educational opportunities; public uses such as drinking water supplies and flood control; ecosystem values such as providing ecological diversity and wildlife habitat; economic values such as revenue generated for the local, regional, and state economies; and social experiences and the opportunity to use our lakes for public enjoyment.

The LMAC, with its members appointed by the Governor and Council, advises the commissioner and lakes coordinator in carrying out the purposes of the LMPP and routinely tracks and provides testimony on legislation relating to the LMPP. The LMAC may: 1) consider pending legislation at its regular meeting and vote on positions and actions related to that legislation, or 2) utilize the P&L subcommittee to review pending legislation and make recommendations at the full LMAC’s regular meeting for a vote on actions related to that legislation, or 3) allow the LMAC Chair and Vice Chair to issue letters on behalf of the LMAC between regular meetings **only if** the proposed or changed legislation aligns with the Standing Legislative Positions which have been previously voted upon by the LMAC.

P&L Subcommittee Membership and Review of Proposed Legislation

The LMAC Chair, with assistance from the Lakes Program staff, may identify legislation on topics of concern to the LMAC. As an option aid the review of legislation by the entire LMAC, the LMAC Chair may convene a Policy and Legislation Subcommittee (P&L) to assist the LMAC with researching, tracking, and testifying on legislation. The P&L may also recommend legislative actions to the LMAC for its review and vote. Any member of the LMAC may chair the P&L, upon a vote of subcommittee members. Other members are at least three voting members of the LMAC who volunteer for the subcommittee; and may include non-voting members who may have interests or knowledge of the subject matter. The LMAC, and any subcommittee of the LMAC, must comply with RSA 91-A, “Access to Governmental Records and Meetings”, also known as the “Right-to-Know” law.

Common LMAC Actions on LSRs and Bills

In a publicly noticed meeting, the LMAC voting members may vote on LSRs and legislative bills and take any of the following positions:

- Support – LMAC supports the legislation as proposed.
- Support with amendments or comments – LMAC supports the legislation, but with changes and/or amendments.
- Oppose – LMAC opposes the legislation as proposed.

- Oppose but could support with amendments or modifications – LMAC opposes the legislation as proposed, but could support with described deletions, modifications and/or amendments.
- Track – Issue relevant to lake protection but not significant enough to take a position on.
- Research – More information is needed before the LMAC can make a decision.
- Delete – Issue is not relevant to lake protection and need not be tracked.

Votes may be taken by: 1) an unrecorded show of hands in support or opposition to the motion, or 2) a recorded roll call vote at the request of any member. Staff may request clarification from the chair about the vote outcome. If any member of the LMAC is attending the meeting remotely, the vote must be by roll call, but each member's vote need not be recorded unless requested. Votes may be taken as a consent calendar, where an LMAC voting member makes a motion to accept all positions recommended by the P&L. Any member may request to remove a bill from the consent calendar for discussion by the LMAC.

Submission of Letters of Testimony

For bills that the LMAC has voted to take a position upon and at the choice of the LMAC Chair, LMPP staff will draft an appropriate letter of testimony for review and approval by the LMAC Chair and P&L Chair. Once the letter has been approved, it will be signed by the LMAC Chair or P&L Chair and submitted to the General Court with copies to appropriate individuals in the legislature and DES. The letters shall also be posted to the LMAC's website. A LMAC representative may elect to submit the letter in person and/or provide oral testimony.

The document "Standing Legislative Positions of the LMAC" will be approved by a vote of the LMAC, and will be reviewed, edited as needed, and reapproved annually. Using this list, the LMAC Chair or P&L Chair may issue letters on behalf of the LMAC between regular meetings on bills other than those on which the LMAC has taken a position **only if** the proposed or changed legislation aligns with the Standing Legislative Positions previously voted upon by the LMAC. This may occur when bill text is unavailable at the time of the LMAC meeting or when bill amendments substantially alter the intent or subject of the previously reviewed legislation.