

N.H. Lakes Management Advisory Committee

N.H. Lakes Management and Protection Program
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<https://www.des.nh.gov/water/rivers-and-lakes/lakes-management-and-protection>

Standing Legislative Positions of the LMAC

Adopted: By vote of the LMAC January 16, 2019 / Amended November 30, 2021¹/ Amended January 10, 2024

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 NHDES commissioner and lakes coordinator in carrying out the purposes of the LMPP and routinely tracks and provides testimony on legislation relating to the LMPP.

Within its document “Review of Legislation, Actions, and the LMAC Policy and Legislation Subcommittee,” the LMAC has determined that it will maintain a list of commonly occurring legislative bill topics important to the purpose and intent of the LMPP. The LMAC will maintain standing positions in conjunction with these bill topics that can be used 1) as guidance during LMAC deliberations on legislation and 2) to submit testimony on legislation that is proposed or changed between regular LMAC meetings. Topics and positions may be added, deleted, or changed at the will of the LMAC. The enabling policy statement in the above document is as follows:

The document “Standing Legislative Positions of the LMAC” will be approved by a quorum vote of the LMAC, and will be reviewed, edited as needed, and reapproved annually. Using this list, the LMAC Chair and Vice Chair may 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. 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.

Standing Positions

Support:

- Legislation directly related to a subject the LMAC has already voted to support.

¹ Readopted by vote of the LMAC: January 18, 2023

- Bills which will increase funds to the Lakes and Rivers Management and Protection Programs.
- Making appropriations to NHDES for the purposes of funding eligible drinking water and wastewater projects under the state aid grant program.
- Programs which support or fund the prevention or management of freshwater aquatic invasive species.
- NHDES programs which support or fund the prevention or management of cyanobacteria blooms.
- Funding for the state revolving fund and its infrastructure improvement projects.
- Funding for the Land & Community Heritage Invest Program (LCHIP).
- Funding for land conservation efforts that impact on watershed and water quality protection.
- Programs or funding to maintain or improve water quality, or reduce pollution from stormwater runoff.
- Bills which support or expand the Instream Flow Program.
- Bills that support the state's existing surface water protections in the "Fill and Dredge in Wetlands [Act]" (RSA 482-A) and its associated rules, Env-Wq 100 through 900.
- Bills that support the state's existing surface water protections in the Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act (RSA 483-B) and its associated rules, Env-Wq 1400.
- Programs or funding supporting climatic adaptability or sustainability of the state's surface waters, watersheds, and wetlands.

Oppose:

- Reductions, restrictions, or elimination of the State of New Hampshire's ability to receive and expend US EPA Section 319 and 604(b) funds.
- Sunsetting or abolishing the LMAC.
- Sunsetting or abolishing the Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act (RSA 483-B)
- Sunsetting or abolishing the "Fill and Dredge in Wetlands [Act]" (RSA 482-A)
- Reductions in state oversight of installation of new or extended docks on lakes.
- Reductions in protections in RSA 483-A.
- Reallocation of dedicated funds earmarked for conservation purposes for the general fund.