

# N.H. Lakes Management Advisory Committee

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

January 19, 2023

The Honorable Bob Lynn, Chair  
House Judiciary Committee  
Legislative Office Building, Room 208  
Concord, NH 03301

**RE: HB 308 - AN ACT relative to a quorum for meetings open to the public to include remote presence.**

Dear Chair Lynn and Members of the Committee:

The Lakes Management Advisory Committee (LMAC) is writing to express its **support of House Bill 308**, which would allow public bodies to meet virtually.

The LMAC supports this bill because it would enable greater participation in our work. As a statewide body, some of our members drive over an hour to attend meetings. Participation by members and the public increased when remote meetings were an option, which enabled us to consider a greater diversity of stakeholder views when making our decisions. Our experience during the pandemic showed that most of our business can be conducted effectively and efficiently meeting remotely.

The LMAC also supports this bill because it protects member privacy. Medical reasons sometimes prevent members from attending our meetings in person. The current requirement to state the reason for remote participation is either overly intrusive by having members disclose a medical condition or other difficulty, or overly broad, such as by citing "personal reasons" for remote participation.

The LMAC is a legislatively created stakeholder body charged to work with the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) to administer RSA 483-A, the Lakes Management and Protection Program. The LMAC appreciates the opportunity to comment on House Bill 308.

**In conclusion, the LMAC supports HB 308 for the reasons stated above.** Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Should you have questions, please feel free to contact me at (603) 366-5531 or [jared@cruisenh.com](mailto:jared@cruisenh.com).

Respectfully,



Jared Maraio, Chair

ec: Representatives Nutter-Upham, N. Murphy, Read, and W. Thomas  
LMAC Representatives  
Robert R. Scott, Commissioner, NHDES  
Erin Holmes, Administrator, Watershed Management Bureau, NHDES  
Tracie Sales, Rivers and Lakes Programs Administrator, NHDES

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**LMAC VOTING MEMBERS:** Jared Maraio, Chair, NH Travel Council • Shane Bradt, Scientific Community • Ryan Cardella, Marine Trades Association • Tiffany Grade, Conservation Community • Sara Holland, NH Association of Realtors • Janet Kidder, Planning Boards • Frank Lemay, NH Business & Industry Assoc. • Andrea LaMoreaux, NH LAKES • Lisa Morin, State Conservation Committee • Susan Price, NH Fish & Game Commission • Dick Smith, Fishing Interests • Meredith Smith, Municipal Official • Steve Wingate, Conservation Commissions

**LMAC NON-VOTING MEMBERS:** Garret Graaskamp, Vice Chair, NH Fish & Game Dept. • Capt. Tim Dunleavy, NH Dept. of Safety • Eric Feldbaum, NH Dept. of Natural and Cultural Resources • Jennifer Gilbert, NH Dept. of Business and Economic Affairs • Mark Hemmerlein, NH Dept. of Trans. • Shawn Jasper, NH Dept. of Ag, Markets & Food