

# N.H. Lakes Management Advisory Committee

[N.H. Lakes Management and Protection Program](https://www.lmac.des.nh.gov/)  
29 Hazen Drive; PO Box 95; Concord, NH 03302-0095; Tel: [603-271-8811](tel:603-271-8811)  
<https://www.lmac.des.nh.gov/>

February 1, 2023

The Honorable Andrew Renzullo, Chair  
House Resources, Recreation and Development Committee  
Legislative Office Building, Room 305  
Concord, NH 03301

**RE: HB 592 - AN ACT relative to buffers around wetlands.**

Dear Chair Renzullo and Members of the Committee:

The Lakes Management Advisory Committee (LMAC) is writing to express its **opposition to House Bill 592**, which will eliminate the ability of municipalities to create wetland regulations that are more protective than state standards.

New Hampshire has a long history of local governance, with state oversight implemented only where necessary. Water and wetlands, including lakes and rivers, are among those shared resources where the state has established minimum protective standards which apply across New Hampshire, but where local communities may enact more protective ordinances. Many municipalities have utilized this ability to better protect their lakes, ponds, streams and wetlands, recognizing that some of the biggest factors that attract residents and visitors to their communities are the clear lakes for swimming and boating, the rivers that attract fishermen, and clean water for drinking. These same wetlands bring revenues to the towns in the form property, meals and rooms taxes.

The LMAC understands that local ordinances and permits can cost extra money for homeowners, and that the variety of ordinances across municipalities can be confusing for developers. However, the committee feels that the benefit of local controls designed to protect water quality in the state's lakes and ponds is worth the additional cost and confusion, and will lead to long term environmental benefits and cost savings in the future. Passage of this bill would eliminate municipalities' ability to protect critical aquatic resources in their towns.

The LMAC is a legislatively created 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 Governor and Council appointed Committee is comprised of 19 members representing academia, business, conservation organizations, lake associations, tourism, fish and game commission, marine trades, realtors, municipal government as well as several state agencies.

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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

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Chair, House Resources, Recreation and Development Committee  
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**In conclusion, the LMAC opposes HB 592 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jared Maraio", written in a cursive style.

Jared Maraio, Chair

ec: Representative Horgan  
LMAC Representatives  
Robert R. Scott, Commissioner, NHDES