

# 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/>

March 28, 2023

The Honorable Howard Pearl, Chair  
Senate Executive Departments and Administration Committee  
Statehouse Room 103  
Concord, NH 03301

**RE: HB 655 - AN ACT relative to the Office of Professional Licensure and Certification.**

Dear Chair Pearl and Members of the Committee:

The Lakes Management Advisory Committee (LMAC) is writing to **comment** on **House Bill 655**, which proposes reforms to the Office of Professional Licensure and Certification. The LMAC is **neutral on the bill as amended** by the House. The LMAC **opposed the bill as originally filed** and encourages the Senate to keep the existing processes of licensure renewal and disciplinary actions.

The bill as filed eliminated roles of the board of natural scientists that are vital to the success of certification in protecting the public. Soil analyses and wetland delineations are complex and require expertise to perform. Improperly conducted delineations risk adverse impacts to wildlife and to homeowners' interests. By removing the requirement for licensure renewal and the disciplinary processes associated with the board, the bill removed mechanisms for accountability that are important for ensuring that state and municipal permits contain reliable information. Elimination of these provisions would have introduced confusion and delayed the issuance of the many types of permits that require work by a certified soil or wetlands scientist. The LMAC believes that the current licensure process is effective and does not need the types of reform proposed in HB 655 as originally filed. The bill as amended addressed these concerns.

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.

**In conclusion, the LMAC encourages the Senate to keep the scope of the bill as amended, 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

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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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ec: Senators Carson and Lang  
LMAC Representatives  
Robert R. Scott, Commissioner, NHDES