

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 24, 2024

The Honorable Len Turcotte, Chair
House Municipal and County Government Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 301
Concord, NH 03301

RE: HB 1250 - AN ACT enabling the creation of certain village districts.

Dear Chair Turcotte and Members of the Committee:

The Lakes Management Advisory Committee (LMAC) is writing to express its **support of House Bill 1250**, which will allow protection or remediation of water quality as a reason for the establishment of a village district.

Most lakes in New Hampshire span more than one municipality. Lake management plans, which are a commonly used tool for understanding how to protect or improve lake water quality, often contain recommendations for actions that are best accomplished with coordination across town lines. These actions include things like road work to reduce erosion on roads that may cross town lines, or land management ordinances that are more effective as protective buffers when they are consistent across town lines. Village districts would allow for easier communication and consistency across town lines for these types of protective measures.

Residents in different towns often experience poor water quality due to land management decisions in adjacent municipalities over which they have no control. Allowing village districts to be formed to protect or restore water quality would allow municipalities to be responsive to the needs of lake associations without imposing lake-related management decisions on residents in other parts of the municipality. Healthy waterbodies in turn benefits all residents and the municipality, including through the increased property tax revenue associated with good water quality.

Adding water quality protection or restoration as a possible reason for forming a village district gives municipalities an excellent voluntary tool to protect the public interest in clean water. Clean water in turn supports \$100 million annually in tourism from out-of-state boaters and \$215 million spent annually in New Hampshire on recreational fishing, according to a 2017 valuation. The LMAC supports HB 1250 as enabling legislation that retains municipal autonomy to decide whether a village district is an appropriate tool for the particulars of individual waterbodies.

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

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

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 • Mark Hemmerlein, NH Dept. of Trans. • Allen Wyman, NH Dept. of Ag, Markets & Food • Vacant, NH Dept. of Business and Economic Affairs

The Honorable Len Turcotte
Chair, House Municipal and County Government Committee
HB 1250 January 24, 2024
Page 2

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 supports HB 1250 for the reasons stated above. Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Should you have questions, please feel free to contact me at (603) 569-3114 or stevewingate@roadrunner.com.

Respectfully,



Steve Wingate, LMAC Legislation Subcommittee

cc: Representatives Wolf, Renzullo, Vail, Rung, and Darby
LMAC Representatives
Robert R. Scott, Commissioner, NHDES