

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/>

February 1, 2024

The Honorable Sharon Carson, Chair
Senate Judiciary Committee
Statehouse Room 100
Concord, NH 03301

RE: SB 533 - AN ACT relative to physical quorums at public meetings.

Dear Chair Carson and Members of the Committee:

The Lakes Management Advisory Committee (LMAC) is writing to express its **support of Senate Bill 533**, which will allow a greater portion of members of public bodies to participate in public meetings remotely.

Many public bodies in New Hampshire consist of volunteers for whom drive time is a significant barrier to participation. The LMAC has had to cancel or reschedule numerous meetings because of inclement weather and dangerous driving conditions. At times this had led to significant delays in accomplishing time-sensitive business. Our experience is that meetings can be conducted efficiently and effectively through the use of current technology. Remote options can increase the ability of elderly, disabled, or sick volunteers to participate. We have also had successful participation by members of the public during remote meetings. Members agree that fully remote meetings are easier to facilitate and easier to participate in than are hybrid meetings. Lowering the in-person quorum requirement to two people would facilitate more timely and effective meetings.

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 supports SB 533 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

ec: Senators Altschiller, Watters, and Perkins Kwoka
LMAC Representatives
Robert R. Scott, Commissioner, NHDES

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