

HB 586-FN-A-LOCAL - AS INTRODUCED

2021 SESSION

21-0511

11/10

HOUSE BILL

586-FN-A-LOCAL

AN ACT relative to training and procedures for zoning and planning boards and relative to financial investments and incentives for affordable housing development.

SPONSORS: Rep. Alexander Jr., Hills. 6; Rep. Lascelles, Hills. 20; Rep. Burroughs, Carr. 1; Rep. Umberger, Carr. 2; Rep. Griffith, Hills. 18; Sen. Hennessey, Dist 1; Sen. Perkins Kwoka, Dist 21

COMMITTEE: Municipal and County Government

ANALYSIS

This bill:

I. Provides for free training materials for members of a zoning board of adjustment or planning board.

II. Modifies the appeals process for zoning decisions.

III. Provides for fee shifting and posting of bond in appeals to superior court from decisions of boards of adjustment.

IV. Permits municipal economic development and revitalization districts in RSA 162-K to be used to increase workforce housing and other residential development within the municipality.

V. Increases the community revitalization tax relief incentive period for eligible housing projects under RSA 79-E.

VI. Establishes the New Hampshire housing champion certification program in the office of strategic initiatives.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.
Matter removed from current law appears ~~[in brackets and struckthrough]~~
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty One

AN ACT relative to training and procedures for zoning and planning boards and relative to financial investments and incentives for affordable housing development.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 1 Local Land Use Boards; Training. Amend RSA 673:3-a to read as follows:
2 673:3-a Training. ~~[Within the first year of assuming office, a new]~~ **Any** member of a zoning
3 board of adjustment or planning board may complete training offered by the office of strategic
4 initiatives **or another organization that provides similar training covering the processes,**
5 **procedures, regulations, and statutes related to the board on which the member serves.**
6 ~~[The office of strategic initiatives may provide this training, which may be designed in a variety of~~
7 ~~formats including, but not limited to, web-based, distance learning, traditional classroom style, or~~
8 ~~self study.]~~ **The office of strategic initiatives shall develop standard self-training materials**
9 **and corresponding tests for zoning boards of adjustment and planning boards which shall**
10 **be provided to members free of charge. The office of strategic initiatives may provide other**
11 **types of training, which may be designed in a variety of formats including, but not limited**
12 **to, web-based, distance learning, or traditional classroom style. For purposes of this**
13 **section, the term "member" includes regular and alternate members of zoning boards of**
14 **adjustment and planning boards.**

15 2 New Paragraph; Local Land Use Boards; Staff; Finances. Amend RSA 673:16 by inserting
16 after paragraph II the following new paragraph:

17 III. Any fee which a city or town imposes on an applicant pursuant to this title shall be
18 published in a location accessible to the public during normal business hours. Any fee not published
19 in accordance with this paragraph at the time an applicant submits an application shall be
20 considered waived for purposes of that application. A city or town may comply with the
21 requirements of this section by publicly posting a list of fees at the city or town hall or by publishing
22 a list of fees on the city or town's Internet website.

23 3 Local Land Use Planning and Regulatory Powers; Innovative Land Use Controls. Amend RSA
24 674:21, II to read as follows:

25 II.(a) An innovative land use control adopted under RSA 674:16 may be required when
26 supported by the master plan and shall contain within it the standards which shall guide the person
27 or board which administers the ordinance. An innovative land use control ordinance may provide for
28 administration, including the granting of conditional or special use permits, by the planning board,
29 board of selectmen, zoning board of adjustment, or such other person or board as the ordinance may
30 designate. If the administration of the innovative provisions of the ordinance is not vested in the

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1 planning board, any proposal submitted under this section shall be reviewed by the planning board
2 prior to final consideration by the administrator. In such a case, the planning board shall set forth
3 its comments on the proposal in writing and the administrator shall, to the extent that the planning
4 board's comments are not directly incorporated into its decision, set forth its findings and decisions
5 on the planning board's comments.

6 ***(b) If a municipality allows an increased density, reduced lot size, expedited***
7 ***approval, or other dimensional or procedural incentive under this section for the***
8 ***development of housing for older persons, as defined and regulated pursuant to RSA 354-***
9 ***A:15, it shall allow the same incentive for the development of workforce housing as defined***
10 ***in RSA 674:58, IV. Beginning July 1, 2022, incentives established for housing for older***
11 ***persons shall be deemed applicable to workforce housing development, regardless of***
12 ***whether a local land use ordinance or regulation specifically provides for their***
13 ***application to workforce housing development.***

14 4 Local Land Use Planning and Regulator Powers; Innovative Land Use Controls. Amend RSA
15 674:21, IV(a) to read as follows:

16 (a) "Inclusionary zoning" means land use control regulations which ***require a property***
17 ***owner to produce, as part of a development which meets certain characteristics, housing***
18 ***units which are affordable to persons or families of low and moderate income or*** provide a
19 voluntary incentive or benefit to a property owner in order to induce the property owner to produce
20 housing units which are affordable to persons or families of low and moderate income. Inclusionary
21 zoning includes, but is not limited to, density bonuses, growth control exemptions, and a streamlined
22 application process. ***Inclusionary zoning ordinances shall include standards that do not***
23 ***reduce the economic viability of developments in comparison to developments that do not***
24 ***require housing affordability. Such ordinances shall also enable the planning board to***
25 ***waive or modify in individual cases any standards that are demonstrated by an applicant***
26 ***to render a development economically infeasible.***

27 5 Planning and Zoning; Administrative and Enforcement Procedures; Issuance of Decision.
28 Amend RSA 676:3, I to read as follows:

29 I. The local land use board shall issue a final written decision which either approves or
30 disapproves an application for a local permit and make a copy of the decision available to the
31 applicant. ***The decision shall include specific written findings of fact that support the***
32 ***decision. Failure of the board to make specific written findings of fact supporting a***
33 ***disapproval shall be grounds for automatic reversal and remand by the superior court***
34 ***upon appeal, in accordance with the time periods set forth in RSA 677:5 or RSA 677:15,***
35 ***unless the court determines that there are other factors warranting the disapproval.*** If the
36 application is not approved, the board shall provide the applicant with written reasons for the

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disapproval. If the application is approved with conditions, the board shall include in the written decision a detailed description of all conditions necessary to obtain final approval.

6 New Paragraph; Powers of Zoning Board of Adjustment. Amend RSA 674:33 by inserting after paragraph VII the following new paragraph:

VIII. Upon receipt of any application for action pursuant to this section, the zoning board of adjustment shall begin formal consideration and shall approve or disapprove such application within 90 days of the date of receipt, provided that the applicant may waive this requirement and consent to such extension as may be mutually agreeable. If a zoning board of adjustment determines that it lacks sufficient information to make a final decision on an application, the board may, in its discretion, deny the application without prejudice, in which case the applicant may submit a new application for the same or substantially similar request for relief.

7 Workforce Housing; Definitions. Amend RSA 674:58, IV to read as follows:

IV. "Workforce housing" means housing which is intended for sale and which is affordable to a household with an income of no more than ~~[400]~~ **120** percent of the median income for a 4-person household for the metropolitan area or county in which the housing is located as published annually by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. "Workforce housing" also means rental housing which is affordable to a household with an income of no more than 60 percent of the median income for a 3-person household for the metropolitan area or county in which the housing is located as published annually by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. Housing developments that exclude minor children from more than 20 percent of the units, or in which more than 50 percent of the dwelling units have fewer than two bedrooms, ***or are subject to age restrictions***, shall not constitute workforce housing for the purposes of this subdivision.

8 Planning Board; Board's Procedures on Plats. Amend RSA 676:4, I(c) to read as follows:

(c)(1) The board shall, at the next regular meeting or within 30 days following the delivery of the application, for which notice can be given in accordance with the requirements of subparagraph (b), determine if a submitted application is complete according to the board's regulation and shall vote upon its acceptance. Upon determination by the board that a submitted application is incomplete according to the board's regulations, the board shall notify the applicant of the determination in accordance with RSA 676:3, which shall describe the information, procedure, or other requirement necessary for the application to be complete. Upon determination by the board that a submitted application is complete according to the board's regulations, the board shall begin formal consideration and shall act to approve, conditionally approve as provided in subparagraph (i), or disapprove within 65 days, subject to extension or waiver as provided in subparagraph (f). ~~[Upon failure of the board to approve, conditionally approve, or disapprove the application, the selectmen or city council shall, upon request of the applicant, immediately issue an order directing the board to act on the application within 30 days.]~~ ***If the board determines that it lacks sufficient***

1 *information to make a final decision on an application, the board may, in its discretion,*
2 *deny the application without prejudice, in which case the applicant may resubmit the same*
3 *or a substantially similar application.* If the planning board does not act on the application
4 within that [30-day] **65-day** time period, then [~~within 40 days of the issuance of the order,~~] the
5 selectmen or city council shall certify on the applicant's application that the plat is approved
6 pursuant to this paragraph[~~, unless within those 40 days the selectmen or city council has identified~~
7 ~~in writing some specific subdivision regulation or zoning or other ordinance provision with which the~~
8 ~~application does not comply~~]. Such a certification, citing this paragraph, shall constitute final
9 approval for all purposes including filing and recording under RSA 674:37 and 676:18, and court
10 review under RSA 677:15.

11 (2) Failure of the selectmen or city council to [~~issue an order to the planning board~~
12 ~~under subparagraph (1), or to~~] certify approval of the plat upon the planning board's failure to
13 [~~comply with the order,~~] **act within the required time period** shall constitute grounds for the
14 superior court, upon petition of the applicant, to issue an order approving the application [~~if the~~
15 ~~court determines that the proposal complies with existing subdivision regulations and zoning or~~
16 ~~other ordinances~~]. **The superior court shall act upon such a petition within 30 days.** If the
17 court determines that the failure of the selectmen or the city council to act was not justified, the
18 court may order the municipality to pay the applicant's reasonable costs, including attorney's fees,
19 incurred in securing such order.

20 9 Planning Board; Board's Procedures on Plats. Amend RSA 676:4, I(f) to read as follows:

21 (f) [~~The planning board may apply to the selectmen or city council for an extension not to~~
22 ~~exceed an additional 90 days before acting to approve or disapprove an application.~~] The applicant
23 may waive the requirement for planning board action within the time periods specified in
24 subparagraph (c) and consent to such extension as may be mutually agreeable.

25 10 Planning and Zoning; Rehearing and Appeal Procedures; Court Review. Amend RSA 677:15,
26 IV-V to read as follows:

27 IV. [~~The court shall give any hearing under this section priority on the court calendar.~~]
28 **Whenever an appeal to the superior court is initiated under this section, the court shall**
29 **give the appeal priority on its calendar and shall issue a final decision within 120 days of**
30 **the date upon which a certiorari order was delivered to the planning board pursuant to**
31 **paragraph II. If the court stays an appeal pursuant to subparagraph I(b), then it shall**
32 **issue a decision within 120 days of final resolution of all matters before the board of**
33 **adjustment.**

34 V. The court may reverse or affirm, wholly or partly, or may modify the decision brought up
35 for review when there is an error of law or when the court is persuaded by the balance of
36 probabilities, on the evidence before it, that said decision is unreasonable. Costs shall not be allowed

1 against the municipality unless it shall appear to the court that the planning board acted in bad
2 faith or with malice in making the decision appealed from.

3 ***VI. Whenever an appeal to the supreme court is initiated after superior court***
4 ***review, the court shall give the appeal priority on its calendar and shall issue a final***
5 ***decision within 90 days of the date upon which a certiorari order was delivered to the***
6 ***planning board.***

7 11 Planning and Zoning; Rehearing and Appeal Procedures; Priority. Amend RSA 677:5 to read
8 as follows:

9 677:5 Priority. ~~[Any hearing by the superior court upon an appeal under RSA 677:4 shall be~~
10 ~~given priority on the court calendar.]~~ ***Whenever an appeal to the superior court is initiated***
11 ***under RSA 677:4, the court shall give the appeal priority on its calendar and shall issue a***
12 ***final decision with 120 days of the date upon which the petition was served on the zoning***
13 ***board of adjustment or local legislative body.***

14 12 New Subdivision; Fee Shifting and Posting of Bond. Amend RSA 677 by inserting after
15 section 19 the following new subdivision:

16 Fee Shifting and Posting of Bond

17 677:20 Fee Shifting and Posting of Bond.

18 I. Whenever an appeal to the superior court is initiated under this chapter, the court may in
19 its discretion require the person or persons appealing to file a bond with sufficient surety for such a
20 sum as shall be fixed by the court to indemnify and save harmless the person or persons in whose
21 favor the decision was rendered from damages and costs which he or she may sustain in case the
22 decision being appealed is affirmed.

23 II. In any appeal initiated under this chapter the court may, subject to the provisions of this
24 paragraph or any other provision of law, award attorney's fees and costs to the prevailing party.
25 Costs and attorney's fees shall not be allowed against a local land use board unless it shall appear to
26 the court that the board, in making the decision from which the appeal arose, acted with gross
27 negligence, in bad faith, or with malice. Costs and attorney's fees shall not be allowed against the
28 party appealing from the decision of a local land use board unless it shall appear to the court that
29 said party acted in bad faith or with malice in appealing to court.

30 13 Municipal Economic Development and Revitalization Districts; Definition of Public Use.
31 Amend RSA 162-K:2, IX-a to read as follows:

32 IX-a. "Public use" means:

33 (a)(1) The possession, occupation, and enjoyment of real property by the general public
34 or governmental entities[;].

35 (2) The acquisition of any interest in real property necessary to the function of a
36 public or private utility or common carrier either through deed of sale or lease[;].

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1 (3) The acquisition of real property to remove structures beyond repair, public
2 nuisances, structures unfit for human habitation or use, and abandoned property when such
3 structures or property constitute a menace to health and safety~~;~~~~and~~].

4 (4) Private use that occupies an incidental area within a public use; provided, that
5 no real property shall be condemned solely for the purpose of facilitating such incidental private use.

6 ***(5) The acquisition of real property to construct housing units which meet***
7 ***the definition of workforce housing contained in RSA 674:58, IV, whether or not such***
8 ***construction results from private development or private commercial enterprise.***

9 (b) Except as provided in subparagraphs (a)(2), ~~[and]~~ (4), ***and (5)*** of this paragraph,
10 public use shall not include the public benefits resulting from private economic development and
11 private commercial enterprise, including increased tax revenues and increased employment
12 opportunities.

13 14 Municipal Economic Development and Revitalization Districts; District Establishment and
14 Development Programs; Authority to Acquire, Construct, and Promote Residential Development and
15 Housing Stock. Amend RSA 162-K:6, III(h) and (i) to read as follows:

16 (h) Lease all or portions of basements, ground and second floors of the public buildings
17 constructed in the district; ~~and~~

18 (i) Negotiate the sale or lease of property for private development if the development is
19 consistent with the development program for the district; ***and***

20 ***(j) Acquire, construct, reconstruct, improve, alter, extend, operate, maintain or***
21 ***promote residential developments aimed at increasing the available housing stock within***
22 ***the municipality.***

23 15 Community Revitalization Tax Relief; Duration of Tax Relief Period. Amend RSA 79-E:5, II
24 to read as follows:

25 II. The governing body may, in its discretion, add up to an additional ~~[2]~~ ***4*** years of tax relief
26 for a project that results in new residential units and up to ~~[4]~~ ***an additional 8*** years for a project
27 that includes ~~[affordable]~~ housing ***that meets the definition of workforce housing in RSA***
28 ***674:58, IV, and up to additional 8 years for a project that includes residential units located***
29 ***on the second story or higher of a downtown building. For purposes of this paragraph, the***
30 ***term downtown shall be defined by the governing body.***

31 16 New Subdivision; Office of Strategic Initiatives; New Hampshire Housing Champion
32 Certification. Amend RSA 4-C by inserting after section 37 the following new subdivision:

33 New Hampshire Housing Champion Certification

34 4-C:38 New Hampshire Housing Champion Certification.

35 I. The office of strategic initiatives shall develop a New Hampshire housing champion
36 certification program for all qualifying municipalities. The office of strategic initiatives shall adopt
37 rules to establish qualifications and procedures for a municipality to earn the New Hampshire

1 housing champion certification. The procedure for a municipality to earn the New Hampshire
2 housing champion certification shall be based on a scoring system.

3 II. The New Hampshire housing champion certification program shall be voluntary. Each
4 municipality shall have the option, in its sole discretion, to apply to the office of strategic initiatives
5 to receive the New Hampshire housing champion certification. In exchange for housing champion
6 certification, a municipality shall receive preferential access to state resources including, but not
7 limited to, discretionary state infrastructure funds, as available.

8 III. Qualifications to receive the New Hampshire housing champion certification shall
9 include, but are not limited to:

10 (a) Adoption of such land use regulations and ordinances which the office of strategic
11 initiatives determines to be necessary to promote the development of workforce housing, as that
12 term is defined in RSA 674:58, and other types of housing necessary for the economic development of
13 the state. In this paragraph, "land use regulations and ordinances" shall include, but are not limited
14 to, innovative land use controls described in RSA 674:21.

15 (b) Adoption of financial tools that incentivize the development of workforce housing,
16 including adoption of the community revitalization tax relief incentive program under RSA 79-E and
17 establishment of municipal economic development and revitalization districts under RSA 162-K.

18 (c) Training of planning board and zoning board of adjustment members using training
19 materials and programs, including online materials and programs, provided by the office of strategic
20 initiatives pursuant to RSA 673:3-a; or training materials and programs, including online materials
21 and programs, provided by the New Hampshire Municipal Association, that cover the processes,
22 procedures, regulations, and statutes related to the board on which the member serves; or any other
23 training materials and programs, including online materials and programs, approved by the office of
24 strategic initiatives, that cover the processes, procedures, regulations, and statutes related to the
25 board on which the member serves.

26 (d) Adoption of energy efficiency residential building standards, pursuant to RSA 674:51,
27 or adoption of an energy efficiency and clean energy district, pursuant to RSA 53-F.

28 IV. A New Hampshire housing champion certification shall be valid for 3 years from the
29 date such certification is awarded. A municipality may renew its housing champion certification for
30 subsequent 3-year periods. The office of strategic initiatives shall include in the criteria for renewal
31 performance metrics including, but not limited to, the qualifications listed in paragraph III, total
32 housing production, and production of workforce housing in a municipality during the period since a
33 municipality last received New Hampshire housing champion certification.

34 V. There is hereby established the New Hampshire housing champion certification program
35 advisory board. The advisory board shall review and approve proposed rules, and any amendments
36 thereto, used by the office of strategic initiatives to administer the housing champion certification

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1 program and shall advise the office regarding ongoing program administration. The advisory board
2 shall consist of:

3 (a) One member of the senate, appointed by the senate president.

4 (b) Two members of the house of representatives, at least one of whom shall be a
5 member of the municipal and county government committee, appointed by the speaker of the house
6 of representatives.

7 (c) The commissioner of the department of business and economic affairs, or designee.

8 (d) The executive director of the business finance authority, or designee.

9 (e) The executive director of the New Hampshire housing finance authority, or designee.

10 (f) The executive director of the community development finance authority, or designee.

11 (g) The executive director of the state commission for human rights, or designee.

12 (h) One member appointed by each of the following entities:

13 (1) The New Hampshire Municipal Association.

14 (2) The New Hampshire Association of Regional Planning Commissions.

15 (3) Housing Action New Hampshire.

16 (4) Clean Energy New Hampshire.

17 (5) The Home Builders and Remodelers Association of New Hampshire.

18 (6) The New Hampshire Association of Realtors.

19 (7) The New Hampshire Planners Association.

20 (8) Plan New Hampshire.

21 VI. Members of the advisory board shall serve without compensation, except that legislative
22 members of the board shall receive mileage at the legislative rate when attending to the duties of the
23 board.

24 VII. The office of strategic initiatives shall adopt rules pursuant to RSA 541-A to implement
25 the provisions of this section no later than July 1, 2022. During the rulemaking process, the office of
26 strategic initiatives shall consult with relevant state agencies and entities that administer the
27 programs and funds identified under paragraph II to ensure the rules for the New Hampshire
28 housing champion certification program are not in conflict with the rules of these state agencies and
29 entities.

30 VIII. Each year the office of strategic initiatives shall develop a report which describes all
31 actions taken related to the operation of the housing champion certification program and assesses
32 the overall impact of the housing champion certification program, including an assessment of the
33 additional housing units produced in the state as a result of the program's operation and incentives.
34 The report required by this paragraph shall be submitted to the governor, the speaker of the house of
35 representatives, and the president of the senate on or before November 1 of each year, beginning in
36 2022, and upon such submission, the report shall be posted online on the website of the office of
37 strategic initiatives.

1 17 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

HB 586-FN-A-LOCAL- FISCAL NOTE
AS INTRODUCED

AN ACT relative to training and procedures for zoning and planning boards and relative to financial investments and incentives for affordable housing development.

FISCAL IMPACT: ☒ **State** ☐ **County** ☒ **Local** ☐ **None**

STATE:	Estimated Increase / (Decrease)			
	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Appropriation	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Expenditures	\$0	Indeterminable	Indeterminable	Indeterminable
Funding Source:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Highway	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

LOCAL:

Revenue	\$0	Indeterminable	Indeterminable	Indeterminable
Expenditures	\$0	Indeterminable	Indeterminable	Indeterminable

METHODOLOGY:

This bill does the following:

- Amends the existing voluntary training provisions applicable to new planning or zoning board members by allowing all planning and zoning board members to receive training from the Office of Strategic Initiatives (OSI) free of charge. OSI training may be designed in a variety of formats, including web-based, distance learning or traditional classroom style.
- Modifies the appeals process for zoning decisions and process for fees for posting of bonds.
- Makes numerous changes to enhance the availability of workforce and available housing, including:
 - o Authorizes municipalities to establish municipal economic development and revitalization districts under RSA 162-K, also known as TIF (Tax Increment Financing), to construct workforce housing or generally increase the available housing stock.
 - o Extends the maximum duration of the community revitalization tax relief incentive period under RSA 79-E for certain housing projects, based on type of project.
 - o Establishes a voluntary housing champion certification program for qualifying municipalities to promote the development of workforce housing and other types of housing necessary for the economic development of the state. Certification is valid for 3 years and may be renewed for another 3 year period. The program is to be

administered by the Office of Strategic Initiatives. Municipalities would be eligible for preferential access to state resources such as discretionary state infrastructure funds.

The OSI indicates the requirements related to free training for planning and zoning board members could be interpreted broadly for the provision of course materials and reasonable access to training and tests statewide, resulting in an indeterminable fiscal impact on the agency's expenditures.

The OSI also states the proposed housing champion certification program for municipalities is to be administered by the office, but the uncertain nature of a voluntary program and its cyclical nature makes it difficult to reliably anticipate associated staffing needs. The additional responsibilities involved in adopting rules, establishing program qualifications,, consulting with relevant state agencies and entities to avoid conflicts and providing an annual report and overall program impact and assessment of additional housing units produced is beyond the office's current scope of work, necessitating an indeterminable increase in state expenditures to fulfill these requirements..

The New Hampshire Municipal Association (NHMA) indicates municipalities may utilize the provisions of RSA 162-K and RSA 79-E and may experience a shift in property tax revenues, without necessarily increasing or decreasing such revenues. Results would vary on a town by town basis. A municipality that qualifies as a housing champion may receive additional revenues associated with state infrastructure funding awards, but such amounts are unknown.

NHMA also states other provisions of the bill may negatively impact municipal expenditures, but due to the unknown number or extent of such occurrences, such impact is indeterminable. These provisions relate to the posting of a bond if a municipality appeals a land use board decision if ordered by a court, and the awarding of attorney fees if a land use board decision is reversed on appeal and such board acted with gross negligence, in bad faith or with malice. Municipal revenue may increase if a land use board decision is upheld on appeal and the appealing party acted in bad faith or with malice and attorney fees are awarded. Due to the unknown frequency of such an event the fiscal impact on municipal revenue is indeterminable. The other provisions of the bill are unlikely to affect municipal revenue or expenditures.

The Department of Revenue Administration indicates that a municipality that adopts RSA 162-K may experience an indeterminable revenue and expenditure impact based on the details of such tax increment financing and project expenses. A municipality that adopts RSA 79-E and grants tax relief under the expanded duration periods will experience a redistribution of the

overall tax burden but no drop in total revenue. The Department cannot project any impact on municipal expenditures associated with the changes to this provision.

The Judicial Branch indicates over the last 2 years, it has received 25-30 planning board appeals and 27-45 zoning board appeals. There are a number of existing laws, in addition to Constitutional requirements, that require expedited review or have deadlines by which a decision is required. Adding additional cases with compressed time frames may necessitate additional resources to fulfill these requirements. Changes implemented effective 60 days after passage rather than the traditional January 1st of the following year pursuant to RSA 14:9-a will affect the Branch's ability to make changes collectively from all legislation. This may result in duplicative efforts and expenditures for training of judges and staff, updating databases, modifying forms and changes to the e-filing system. The overall impact on expenditures is indeterminable.

It is assumed the bill will take effect July 1, 2021.

AGENCIES CONTACTED:

Office of Strategic Initiatives, New Hampshire Municipal Association, Department of Revenue Administration and Judicial Branch