

SB 263 - AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

03/17/2022 1063s

2022 SESSION

22-2982

07/08

SENATE BILL

**263**

AN ACT establishing the New Hampshire youth environmental education and conservation council.

SPONSORS: Sen. Watters, Dist 4; Sen. Perkins Kwoka, Dist 21; Sen. Hennessey, Dist 1; Sen. Sherman, Dist 24; Sen. Kahn, Dist 10; Sen. Whitley, Dist 15; Sen. Prentiss, Dist 5; Sen. Soucy, Dist 18; Rep. Myler, Merr. 10; Rep. Suzanne Smith, Graf. 8

COMMITTEE: Energy and Natural Resources

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ANALYSIS

This bill establishes the New Hampshire youth environmental education and conservation council, its membership, and the duties of the council.

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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Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.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 Two*

AN ACT establishing the New Hampshire youth environmental education and conservation council.

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

1 Declaration of Purpose. New Hampshire youth rely on the benefits of a clean and healthy  
2 environment, including clean water, air, renewable energy, open spaces, recreational opportunities,  
3 and the economic growth and employment opportunities dependent on such features of New  
4 Hampshire's environment. New Hampshire youth and their families will be affected for decades to  
5 come by current and future decision making to conserve natural resources and wildlife, to develop  
6 renewable energy, to improve and protect clean water supplies, to prevent pollution, and to prevent  
7 and mitigate the effects of climate change, including warming, sea level rise, storm surge, and  
8 changing precipitation patterns. It is essential that New Hampshire youth have opportunities to  
9 deliberate on these matters and make recommendations to state policy makers regarding laws,  
10 rules, and practices of state agencies and local and state governments.

11 2 New Chapter; New Hampshire Youth Environmental Education and Conservation Council.  
12 Amend RSA by inserting after chapter 19-P the following new chapter:

CHAPTER 19-Q

NEW HAMPSHIRE YOUTH ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND CONSERVATION COUNCIL

15 19-Q:1 Council Established. There is established the New Hampshire youth environmental  
16 education and conservation council to advise the speaker of the house of representatives, the  
17 president of the senate, the house and senate committees having jurisdiction over education, natural  
18 resources, fish and game, energy, and outdoor recreation, and the state board of education.

19 19-Q:2 Council Membership. Members of the council shall be between the ages of 12 and 25,  
20 and have demonstrated academic competency in science and other fields related to the council's  
21 duties, and shall each serve for a term of 2 years, which may be renewed once and which shall not be  
22 affected by change of grade level, and shall be as follows:

23 I. One resident of each county who shall be nominated by a parent, teacher, or school  
24 administrator and appointed by the chairperson of the county delegation.

25 II. Two middle school students who shall be nominated by a parent, teacher, school  
26 administrator, or their principals and appointed by the New Hampshire school administrators  
27 association.

28 III. Two high school students who shall be nominated by their principals, a parent, teacher,  
29 or school administrator and appointed by the New Hampshire school administrators association.

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1           IV. Two college or university students who shall be nominated by the relevant student  
2 council, student senate, or other student governing body and appointed by the New Hampshire  
3 delegation of the New England Board of Higher Education.

4           V. A member of the legislative youth advisory council who shall be appointed by the  
5 legislative youth advisory council's chairperson.

6           19-Q:3 Duties. The council shall:

7           I. Consider current scientific reports, from a wide range of sources and viewpoints, on the  
8 conditions and challenges to a clean and healthy environment, including clean water, air, renewable  
9 energy, open spaces, recreational opportunities, and on the benefits of environmental education and  
10 outdoor recreation to inform students on these matters, and on any costs or negative economic  
11 impacts on businesses and industries, and the economic growth and employment opportunities  
12 dependent on such features of New Hampshire's environment.

13           II. Consult with state agencies, municipal officials, representatives of related policy  
14 advocacy groups, business, industry, educational leaders, and scientists. The council shall make  
15 recommendations on policies, laws, and practices to the legislature relative to these matters.

16           III. Make recommendations on educational programs, including environmental education  
17 and outdoor recreation programs, in schools, directed at youth and their families, concerning New  
18 Hampshire's environment and changing climate, land conservation, and the recreational other uses  
19 of natural resources. Make recommendations on current and future legislative and state agency  
20 actions arising from council deliberations.

21           19-Q:4 Reporting Requirements.

22           I. The council shall meet quarterly. Approved minutes shall be submitted to the speaker of  
23 the house of representatives, the president of the senate, and the chairpersons of the house and  
24 senate standing committees having jurisdiction over climate, energy, conservation, and recreation.

25           II. The council shall submit a report of activities and recommendations by June 30 of each  
26 year to the speaker of the house of representatives, the president of the senate, and the chairpersons  
27 of the house and senate standing committees having jurisdiction over education, natural resources,  
28 fish and game, energy, and outdoor recreation, and the state board of education.

29           III. The chairpersons of such committees shall provide an opportunity for the council to  
30 report in person on its findings and recommendations.

31           IV. The first meeting of the council shall be called by the speaker of the house of  
32 representatives, or designee. A chairperson and clerk shall be elected at the first meeting of the  
33 council. A simple majority of council members shall constitute a quorum. The council may establish  
34 committees from its membership for the purpose of examining specific policy issues.

35           3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.