

HB 335 – AS INTRODUCED

2015 SESSION

15-0243
05/04

HOUSE BILL **335**

AN ACT relative to the disposition of rangeways.

SPONSORS: Rep. Wright, Carr 8

COMMITTEE: Municipal and County Government

ANALYSIS

This bill provides for the disposition of rangeways and establishes a committee to study the issue.

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 Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.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

AN ACT relative to the disposition of rangeways.

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

1 1 New Chapter; Rangeways. Amend RSA by inserting after chapter 51 the following new
2 chapter:

3 CHAPTER 51-A

4 RANGEWAYS

5 51-A:1 Disposition of Rangeways.

6 I. New Hampshire municipalities own the remaining portions of rangeways shown on or
7 reserved from the proprietary plans or reserved as demonstrated from subsequent records.

8 II. Title to those portions of rangeways “sold”, “allowed”, “exchanged” or otherwise conveyed
9 in good faith by vote of the municipality to various parties is hereby ratified and confirmed upon the
10 passage of this section to the heirs and successors of the various parties cited in the relevant records.

11 III. Remaining portions of the rangeways may be disposed of in the following manner and
12 not otherwise:

13 (a) The disposition of the soil, timber growing in the rangeway, and public access rights
14 shall be subject to the same principles of due process as those established by the legislature for the
15 discontinuance of public roads.

16 (b) Upon authorization by majority vote of the town, the selectpersons of the town shall
17 duly execute and sign a deed for the approved disposition.

18 2 Committee Established. There is established a committee to study the disposition of
19 rangeways.

20 I. The members of the committee shall be as follows:

21 (a) Three members of the house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the
22 house of representatives.

23 (b) Two members of the senate, appointed by the president of the senate.

24 II. Members of the committee shall receive mileage at the legislative rate when attending to
25 the duties of the committee.

26 III. The committee shall study the history and case law governing the disposition of
27 rangeways in New Hampshire.

28 IV. The members of the study committee shall elect a chairperson from among the members.
29 The first meeting of the committee shall be called by the first-named house member. The first
30 meeting of the committee shall be held within 45 days of the effective date of this section. Three
31 members of the committee shall constitute a quorum.

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1 V. The committee shall report its findings and any recommendations for proposed legislation
2 to the speaker of the house of representatives, the president of the senate, the house clerk, the
3 senate clerk, the governor, and the state library on or before November 1, 2015.

4 3 Effective Date.

5 I. Section 1 of this act shall take effect January 1, 2016.

6 II. The remainder of this act shall take effect upon its passage.