

CHAPTER 115  
SB 20-FN-LOCAL – FINAL VERSION

02/12/2015 0106s  
02/12/2015 0249s  
15Apr2015... 1129h  
05/14/2015 1566EBA

2015 SESSION

15-0524  
06/03

SENATE BILL        ***20-FN-LOCAL***

AN ACT            establishing a commission on historic burial grounds and cemeteries.

SPONSORS:        Sen. Watters, Dist 4

COMMITTEE:       Public and Municipal Affairs

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AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill establishes the commission on historic burial grounds and cemeteries.

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                         Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

*In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Fifteen*

AN ACT                    establishing a commission on historic burial grounds and cemeteries.

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

1            115:1 New Subdivision; Historic Burying Grounds. Amend RSA 227-C by inserting after section  
2 12 the following new subdivision:

Commission on Historic Burying Grounds

4            227-C:12-a Commission Established.

5            I. There is established a commission on historic burying grounds and cemeteries.

6            II. The members of the commission shall be as follows:

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

8            (b) Three members of the house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the  
9 house of representatives.

10            (c) One member of a historic district commission, appointed by the governor.

11            (d) One member of a local historical society, appointed by the governor.

12            (e) The chairperson of the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance, or designee.

13            (f) The chairperson of the New Hampshire Historical Society, or designee.

14            (g) The commissioner of the department of cultural resources, or designee.

15            (h) The director of the division of historic resources, or designee.

16            (i) One representative of the New Hampshire commission on Native American affairs,  
17 appointed by that commission.

18            (j) The executive director of the New Hampshire Municipal Association, or designee.

19            (k) The president of the New Hampshire Old Graveyard Association, or designee.

20            (l) A member of the New Hampshire State Organization Daughters of the American  
21 Revolution, appointed by the state regent of that organization.

22            (m) A member of the New Hampshire Funeral Directors Association, appointed by the  
23 president of that association.

24            (n) A member of a cemetery commission or a cemetery trustee, appointed by the  
25 governor.

26            (o) The Roman Catholic bishop of Manchester, or designee.

27            III. Legislative members of the commission shall receive mileage at the legislative rate when

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1 attending to the duties of the commission.

2 IV. The commission shall make recommendations:

3 (a) On the documentation and preservation of the state’s historic burying grounds and  
4 cemeteries.

5 (b) On the establishment and criteria for a New Hampshire state register of historic  
6 burying grounds and cemeteries, including their markers, walls, gates, and other associated and  
7 identifying features and artifacts that are meaningful to the history, historic landscape, cultural,  
8 religious, craft, and architectural traditions of the state.

9 (c) Concerning the protection of property owners, and owners of contiguous or  
10 surrounding properties, with respect to a listed property.

11 (d) On the persons permitted to nominate a state historic burying ground or cemetery for  
12 a state register in accordance with RSA 289.

13 (e) Concerning notice to potentially interested parties for proposals that affect burial  
14 grounds, and the adoption of a “public good” standard.

15 V. The members of the commission shall elect a chairperson from among the members. The  
16 first meeting of the commission shall be called by the senate member. The first meeting of the  
17 commission shall be held within 45 days of the effective date of this section. Nine members of the  
18 commission shall constitute a quorum.

19 VI. The commission shall file interim reports of its findings and any recommendations for  
20 proposed legislation to the president of the senate, the speaker of the house of representatives, the  
21 senate clerk, the house clerk, the governor, and the state library on or before November 1, 2015,  
22 November 1, 2016, and November 1, 2017, and a final report on or before November 1, 2018.

23 115:2 Repeal. RSA 227-C:12-a, relative to historic burying grounds and cemeteries, is repealed.

24 115:3 Effective Date.

25 I. Section 2 of this act shall take effect November 1, 2018.

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

27  
28 Approved: June 8, 2015

29 Effective Date: I. Section 2 shall take effect November 1, 2018

30 II. Remainder shall take effect June 8, 2015