

CHAPTER 174
SB 38 – FINAL VERSION

01/29/2015 0050s
15Apr2015... 1239h
05/21/2015 1940EBA

2015 SESSION

15-0516
08/04

SENATE BILL **38**

AN ACT establishing a commission to develop a land conservation plan.

SPONSORS: Sen. Fuller Clark, Dist 21; Sen. Feltes, Dist 15; Sen. Little, Dist 8; Sen. Forrester, Dist 2; Rep. Spang, Straf 6; Rep. Suzanne Smith, Graf 8

COMMITTEE: Energy and Natural Resources

ANALYSIS

This bill establishes a commission to develop a land conservation plan.

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Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

CHAPTER 174
SB 38 – FINAL VERSION

01/29/2015 0050s
15Apr2015... 1239h
05/21/2015 1940EBA

15-0516
08/04

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Fifteen

AN ACT establishing a commission to develop a land conservation plan.

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

1 174:1 New Subdivision; Commission to Develop a Land Conservation Plan. Amend RSA 162-C
2 by inserting after section 11 the following new subdivision:

3 Commission to Develop a Land Conservation Plan

4 162-C:12 Commission Established.

5 I. The general court finds that adequate protection of New Hampshire's natural assets is
6 essential to maintaining and safeguarding the state's economy and character for today's population
7 and for future generations. Continued and increased state investment in land and natural resource
8 protection is not a luxury item in the state budget but is essential to our state's continued prosperity.
9 To further this objective, there is established a commission to develop a long-term New Hampshire
10 state conservation plan. The members of the commission shall be as follows:

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

12 (b) One member of the resources, recreation and development committee of the house of
13 representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives.

14 (c) One member from the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions to
15 represent municipal conservation interests, appointed by that association.

16 (d) Three representatives of statewide or regional conservation organizations, appointed
17 by the governor.

18 (e) One person representing business and industry, appointed by the Business and
19 Industry Association.

20 (f) One person representing hunting, fishing, and other outdoor recreation, appointed by
21 the fish and game commission.

22 (g) One person representing real estate interests, appointed by the New Hampshire
23 Association of Realtors.

24 (h) One member of the New Hampshire Farm Bureau Federation, appointed by that
25 organization.

26 (i) One person representing the forest products industry, appointed by the
27 New Hampshire Timberland Owners Association.

CHAPTER 174
SB 38 – FINAL VERSION
- Page 2 -

1 II. Legislative members of the commission shall receive mileage at the legislative rate when
2 attending to the duties of the commission.

3 III. The commission shall develop an implementation plan based in part on the findings and
4 future next steps contained in the SB 388 (2014, 148) report. In developing this plan, the
5 commission shall:

6 (a) Review the final report of the SB 388 (2014, 148) study committee, and any
7 additional reports and studies it deems appropriate on the status of voluntary land conservation and
8 the protection of New Hampshire's natural resources.

9 (b) Solicit input from state agencies, including but not limited to, the department of
10 resources and economic development, the department of environmental services, the fish and game
11 department, the department of agriculture, markets, and foods, and the department of revenue
12 administration.

13 (c) Solicit input from the public, nonprofit organizations, the land and community
14 heritage investment program, regional planning commissions, the university of New Hampshire
15 cooperative extension service, businesses and other stakeholders, and from representatives of land
16 conservation initiatives in other states.

17 IV. The commission's final report shall identify specific natural resource protection priorities
18 requiring further state investment over the next 5 years, a process for reviewing and revising
19 priorities on a periodic basis, and a strategy for collaboration and funding among federal, state,
20 regional, municipal, and nongovernmental partners to achieve the commission's stated conservation
21 goals. In developing these priorities, the commission shall ensure:

22 (a) Adequate quality and quantity of current and future water supplies for domestic,
23 industrial, and recreational uses;

24 (b) Protection of adequate areas of productive soils to support current and future
25 agricultural activities;

26 (c) The maintenance of an adequate forest land base to enable sustainable production of
27 forest products for present and future generations;

28 (d) The protection of adequate core habitat and linkage areas to maintain the state's
29 diverse native plant and animal populations.

30 (e) The maintenance of an adequate land base to support motorized and non-motorized
31 recreational activities;

32 (f) The protection of scenic vistas and land with unique physical features that support
33 the state's quality of life and a strong tourism economy; and

34 (g) Any other conservation benefits that the commission deems appropriate.

35 V. The chairperson shall be the senate member. The first meeting of the commission shall
36 be called by the chairperson and shall be held within 60 days of the effective date of this section.

CHAPTER 174
SB 38 – FINAL VERSION
- Page 3 -

1 Appropriate legislative research entities shall provide assistance and support to the commission as
2 necessary. Eight members of the commission shall constitute a quorum.

3 VI. The commission may accept financial support and other resources in the development of
4 its work and reports.

5 VII. The commission may form subcommittees or appoint technical committees composed of
6 commission members and nonmembers to advance the goals of this section.

7 VIII. The commission shall report its findings and any recommendations for proposed
8 legislation to the speaker of the house of representatives, the president of the senate, the house
9 clerk, the senate clerk, the governor, the chairperson of the house resources, recreation and
10 development committee, the chairperson of the house finance committee, the chairperson of the
11 senate energy and natural resources committee, the chairperson of the senate finance committee,
12 and the state library on or before September 15, 2016.

13 174:2 Repeal. RSA 162-C:12, relative to the commission to develop a land conservation plan, is
14 repealed.

15 174:3 Effective Date.

16 I. Section 2 of this act shall take effect December 31, 2016.

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

18
19 Approved: June 26, 2015

20 Effective Date: I. Section 2 shall take effect December 31, 2016

21 II. Remainder shall take effect June 26, 2015