

HB 1242 - AS INTRODUCED

2024 SESSION

24-2198
02/05

HOUSE BILL **1242**

AN ACT relative to the establishment of county-wide communication districts.

SPONSORS: Rep. H. Howard, Straf. 4; Rep. Ankarberg, Straf. 7; Rep. D. Ford, Hills. 40; Rep. Wheeler, Hills. 33

COMMITTEE: Municipal and County Government

ANALYSIS

This bill allows counties to initiate the establishment of county-wide communications districts.

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 Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.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

AN ACT relative to the establishment of county-wide communication districts.

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

1 1 Communications Districts; Definitions. Amend RSA 53-G:1, II to read as follows:

2 II. "District" means a communications district of 2 or more municipalities, ***or one county***,
3 established under this chapter.

4 2 Definitions. Amend RSA 53-G:1, VII to read as follows:

5 VII. "Member" means any city, town, unincorporated town, ~~[or]~~ unorganized place, ***or***
6 ***county*** that elects to form or join a communications district under this chapter.

7 3 Communications District Planning Committee; Formation and Responsibilities. Amend RSA
8 53-G:2, I to read as follows:

9 I. The governing bodies of 2 or more municipalities, ***or one county***, may at their discretion
10 create a special unpaid committee to be known as a communications district planning committee,
11 consisting of at least 2 persons, ***or one person if the district is county-wide***, from each
12 municipality appointed by the respective governing bodies. ***Governing bodies of municipalities***
13 ***located within county-wide districts may vote to exclude themselves from this committee,***
14 ***and may join later pursuant to RSA 53-G:7.*** The committee shall elect a chairperson, clerk, and
15 treasurer. Members may be reimbursed by the committee for costs of performing duties directly
16 related to the committee.

17 4 Communications District Planning Committee. Amend RSA 53-G:2, IV to read as follows:

18 IV. If the committee determines that the formation of a district is desirable, it shall prepare
19 a proposed district agreement in accordance with RSA 53-G:4 and hold a public information session
20 in each municipality which is named in the district agreement as a site. Copies of the proposed
21 agreement and of RSA 53-G shall be made available at and prior to any hearing. Notice of any
22 hearing shall be published in one or more newspapers of general circulation in the proposed district
23 or posted on the website of each member municipality ***and on the county website, if applicable,***
24 and posted in one public place in each member municipality, and sent to the governing bodies of
25 participating municipalities.

26 5 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.