

Below is a list of 2020 NH General Court (House and Senate) Bills that are potentially relevant to members of the Geological Society of New Hampshire. This table lists bills identified by keyword searches completed in March 2020.

Bill Number	Title	Bill Description	Legislative Action – Bill Status
Key Word “Environ”			
HCR-10	urging Congress to grant states broader authority to set higher environmental standards than those established in federal law	This concurrent resolution urges Congress to grant states broader authority to set higher environmental standards than those established in federal law.	On 3/11/2020 calendar Committee on State-Frderal Relations vote was split:11-9 Majority: Ought to Pass (OPT) Minority: Inexpediant to Legislate (ITL)
HB-1310	relative to authorizing the state to set higher environmental standards than those established in federal law	This bill authorizes the state to set higher environmental standards than those established in federal law.	Full House voted ITL on 3/11/2020
HB-1664	(New Title) establishing greenhouse gas emission reduction goals for the state and establishing a climate action plan.	This bill establishes greenhouse gas emission reduction goals for the state and gives the department of environmental services the authority to develop and update regularly a climate action plan.	Full House voted Ought to Pass w/ Amendment on 02/19/2020. Referred to ED&A Committee. Referral waived 3/3/2020
HB-1538	creating a commission to develop and implement environmental education, outreach, and training programs and initiatives for qualified health care professionals relative to environmental toxins and health	This bill creates a commission to develop and implement environmental education, outreach, and training programs and initiatives for qualified health care professionals relative to environmental toxins and health.	Full House voted Refer to Interim Study on 3/11/2020
HB-1569	requiring the department of environmental services to maintain a public registry of where certain fire suppressants have been used	This bill requires the department of environmental services to maintain a public registry of where certain fire suppressants have been used.	Full House voted Ought to Pass w/ Amendment on 02/19/2020.
SB-728	establishing the coastal program administered by the department of environmental services	This bill establishes a coastal program to be administered by the department of environmental services. This bill is a request of the department of environmental services.	Full Senate voted Ought to Pass on 03/05/2020.

SB-583	relative to the addition of climate and environmental sciences to the criteria for an adequate education	This bill adds climate and environmental science to the criteria for an adequate education.	Full Senate voted Ought to Pass on 01/09/2020. Referred to House E & WD Committee.
SB-517	relative to the public information and permitting functions of the office of the commissioner in the department of environmental services.	This bill changes the functions of the public information and permitting office of the commissioner of the department of environmental services. This bill is a request of the department of environmental services.	Full Senate voted Ought to Pass on 02/06/2020. Referred to House ED & A Committee.
Key Word "Water"			
LSR 2020-2119	abolishing fluoride in water	This LSR was withdrawn	
HB-1274	(New Title) requiring bottled drinking water sold to the public meet the same maximum contaminant levels established for public drinking water.	This bill requires bottled water to be tested for the presence of certain chemicals and labeled with certain results of such tests	Full House voted Ought to Pass with Amendment on 3/11/2020
HB-1120	requiring periodic water tests of rental property	This bill requires the landlord to make certain water tests for residential property available to the tenant. The bill also requires the landlord to install a water treatment system if the property has a well and the water does not meet water quality standards established by the department of environmental services.	On 3/11/2020 calendar Judiciary Committee vote on 3/4/2020 was split 12-8. Majority Ought to Pass with Amendment; Minority: ITL
HB-1252	relative to large groundwater withdrawals from replacement wells	This bill adds to the requirements for an application for an exemption for large groundwater withdrawals from replacement wells.	Full House voted Ought to Pass (OTP) 03/11/2020.
HB-1347	addressing impacts to other water users from new sources of water for community water systems.	This bill requires the department of environmental services to adopt rules concerning small groundwater withdrawals from new sources of water.	Full House voted Ought to Pass (OTP) 03/11/2020.
HB-1537	relative to standards for perfluorochemicals in drinking water and ambient groundwater	This bill directs the department of environmental services to set maximum contaminant limits for per and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).	Full House voted Ought to Pass (OTP) with Amendment 03/11/2020.
SB-599	relative to testing for lead in water in schools and child care facilities	This bill requires testing for lead in water in schools and child care facilities.	Hearing in Senate Health, Human Services Committee held on 02/20/2020.

SB-496	(New Title) establishing a per and polyfluoroalkyl substances fund and programs and making an appropriation therefor.	This bill: 1) Establishes the per and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) fund. 2) Establishes a low interest loan program for certain water and waste water systems affected by PFAS contamination. 3) Makes an appropriation to the department of environmental services for the remediation of PFAS contamination. 4) Allows the department of environmental services to borrow money.	Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee voted Ought to Pass with Amendment On 02/13/2020 Senate Finance Committee voted Ought to Pass on 03/9/2020
SB-641	establishing a state assistance to public drinking water systems program and fund.	This bill establishes the per and polyfluoroalkyl substances fund and enables the department of environmental services to make grants, loans, contracts, and reimbursements from the fund for projects related to PFAS remediation.	Senate Finance Committee voted Refer to Interim Study on 03/9/2020
Key Word "Wetland"			
HB-1124	relative to the definition of prime wetland	This bill further defines prime wetland for local protection in fill and dredge permits.	On 3/11/2020 calendar Resources Recreation and Development Committee vote on 3/5/2020 was split 11-9. Majority Ought to Pass with Amendment; Minority: ITL
Key Word "Shoreland"			
SB-491	relative to shoreland water quality	This bill clarifies the definitions of shoreland frontage, structure, and pervious surface and makes changes to the minimum shoreland protection standards regarding such subjects.	Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee voted on 03/05/2020 to Lay on Table
Key Word "Waste"			
HB-1422	establishing a moratorium on the issuance of permits for new landfills or the expansion of existing landfills for the purpose of studying the creating of municipal waste districts	This bill establishes a 2 year moratorium on the issuance of permits for new landfills or the expansion of existing landfills for the purpose of studying the creating of municipal waste districts.	Full House voted on 3/12/2020 Refer to Interim Study
SB-591	establishing a statewide solid waste disposal reduction goal	This bill establishes a statewide solid waste disposal reduction goal.	Full Senate voted on 03/12/2020 OTP with Amendment

SB-629	establishing the solid waste management fund and establishing a solid waste disposal surcharge	This bill: I. Establishes the solid waste reduction management fund. II. Establishes a solid waste disposal surcharge. III. Repeals the existing surcharge on out-of-state waste.	On calendar for 3/19/2020 Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee voted on 03/04/2020 OTP with Amendment.
HB-1702	establishing a solid waste working group on solid waste management planning	This bill establishes a solid waste working group on solid waste management planning. This bill is a request of the study committee on recycling and solid waste, established pursuant to 2019, 265 (HB 617).	Full House voted Ought to Pass (OTP) on 03/11/2020.
HB-1706	establishing a committee to study the solid waste practices of state agencies	This bill establishes a committee to study the solid waste practices of state agencies. This bill is a request of the 2019, HB 617 study committee on recycling and solid waste.	Full House voted Ought to Pass (OTP) on 02/19/2020.
Key Word "Soil"			
HB-1562	including soil health and soil conservation in the state soil conservation plan	This bill amends current provisions relative to soil conservation to include soil health and climate change mitigation and adaptation.	On 3/11/2020 calendar Committee of Environment and Agriculture voted unanimously Ought to Pass with Amendment on 3/3/2020
Key Word "Professional" as potentially related to Geologists			
HB-1538	creating a commission to develop and implement environmental education, outreach, and training programs and initiatives for qualified health care professionals relative to environmental toxins and health.	This bill creates a commission to develop and implement environmental education, outreach, and training programs and initiatives for qualified health care professionals relative to environmental toxins and health.	Full House voted Refer to Interim Study on 03/11/2020.
SB-568	establishing an oversight committee on the office of professional licensure and certification.	This bill establishes a permanent statutory oversight committee to promote efficiency and effectiveness in professional licensing and certification administered by the office of professional licensure and certification.	Full Senate voted ITL on 03/05/2020

SB-576	revising the authority of boards and commissions for technical and health professions regulated by the office of professional licensure and certification. – provisions impact Professional Geologists	This bill makes changes to the statutory provisions governing the regulatory boards and commissions for technical professions and health professions in order to conform to oversight and administration by the office of professional licensure and regulation.	Full Senate voted Ought to Pass with Amendment on 3/11/2020; referred to Senate Finance
---------------	--	--	---

Key word searches with no returns: **geology, rock**

Senate Bill 576 revising the authority of boards and commissions for technical and health professions regulated by the office of professional licensure and certification

250 Board of Professional Geologists. Amend RSA 310-A:120, V-VII to read as follows:

V. The board shall hold at least 3 regular meetings each year and special meetings at such times as it may deem necessary. Notice of all meetings shall be given in such a manner as rules adopted by the board may provide. The board shall biennially elect a chairperson, vice-chairperson, and secretary. ~~[Three members]~~ **A majority of members of the board who have been approved by the governor and council** shall constitute a quorum.

VI. The board shall keep a record of its proceedings ~~[and a register of all applications for licensure, which shall show:]~~ **in accordance with the retention policy established by the office of professional licensure and certification.**

~~(a) The name, age, and residence of each applicant.~~

~~(b) The date of application.~~

~~(c) The place of business of such applicant.~~

~~(d) The applicant's educational and other qualifications.~~

~~(e) Whether or not an examination was required.~~

~~(f) Whether the applicant was rejected and the reasons for such rejection.~~

~~(g) Whether a license or permit was granted.~~

~~(h) The date of the action of the board.~~

~~(i) Such other information as may be deemed necessary by the board.]~~

VII. The records of the board shall be prima facie evidence of the proceedings of the board, and a transcript of such records certified by the secretary of the board under seal shall be admissible in evidence with the same force and effect as if the original were produced. ~~[Biennially, as of December 31, the board shall submit to the governor a report of the transactions of the preceding biennium, and a complete statement of the receipts and expenditures of the board.]~~

251 Board of Professional Geologists; Continuing Education. Amend RSA 310-A:127, I to read as follows:

I. Applications for licensure shall be ~~[on forms prescribed and furnished by the board,]~~ **made using the method prescribed and furnished by the office of professional licensure and certification.**

Applications shall contain statements made under oath, showing the applicant's education and a detailed summary of the applicant's technical work, and shall contain not less than 5 references, of whom at least 3 shall be professional geologists having personal knowledge of the applicant's professional experience.

252 Board of Professional Geologists; Examinations. Amend RSA 310-A:129 to read as follows:

310-A:129 Examinations. Written technical examinations in geology shall be held at least annually as the board shall determine. The scope of the technical and professional examination and the methods of procedure shall be prescribed by the board. A candidate failing an examination may apply for reexamination upon payment of an additional fee determined by the ~~[board]~~ **office of professional licensure and certification** and shall be reexamined on the next regularly scheduled examination date.

A candidate failing the examination 3 consecutive times shall be required to furnish evidence of additional experience, study, or education credits acceptable to the board before being allowed to proceed with the examination.

253 Board of Professional Geologists; Certificates; Seals. Amend RSA 310-A:130 to read as follows:

310-A:130 Certificates; Seals. The board shall issue a license, upon payment of the licensing fee established by the ~~[board]~~ **office of professional licensure and certification**, to any applicant who has satisfactorily met all the requirements of this subdivision. Licenses shall show the full name of the licensee, have a serial number, and be signed by the chairperson and the secretary of the board under seal of the board. The issuance of a license by the board shall be prima facie evidence that the person named in the license is entitled to all the rights and privileges of a licensed professional geologist while the license remains valid. Each licensee shall upon licensure obtain a seal of the design authorized by the

board, bearing the registrant's name and the legend, "Licensed Professional Geologist." All papers or documents involving the practice of geology affecting public health, safety, and welfare, under this subdivision, when issued or filed for public record, shall be dated and bear the signature and seal of the licensed professional geologist who prepared or had responsibility for and approved them.

254 Board of Professional Geologists; License Expiration and Renewals. Amend RSA 310-A:132, II to read as follows:

II. Failure to remit the renewal fee when due shall automatically suspend the license. A person whose license is canceled for such failure may reinstate the license by paying, within one year of suspension, all fees due, plus a late fee as established by the ~~[board]~~ **office of professional licensure and certification**.

255 Repeal; Board of Professional Geologists. The following are repealed:

I. RSA 310-A:120, VIII, relative to the roster of professional geologists published by the secretary of state.

II. RSA 310-A:121, I(a) and (f), II, and III, relative to certain rulemaking of the board of professional geologists.

III. RSA 310-A:123, relative to receipts and disbursements of the board of professional geologists.

256 Board of Landscape Architects; Establishment. Amend RSA 310-A:142, V and VI to read as follows:

V. The board shall hold at least 3 regular meetings each year and special meetings at such times as it may deem necessary. Notice of all meetings shall be given in such a manner as rules adopted by the board may provide. The board shall biennially elect or appoint a chairperson, vice-chairperson, and secretary. ~~[Three members]~~ **A majority of the members of the board who have been approved by the governor and council** shall constitute a quorum.

VI.(a) The board shall keep a record of its proceedings ~~[and a register of all applications for licensure, which shall show:]~~ **in accordance with the retention policy established by the office of professional licensure and certification.**

~~(1) The name, age, and residence of each applicant.~~

~~(2) The date of application.~~

~~(3) The place of business of such applicant.~~

~~(4) The applicant's educational and other qualifications.~~

~~(5) Whether or not an examination was required.~~

~~(6) Whether the applicant was rejected and the reasons for such rejection.~~

~~(7) Whether a license was granted.~~

~~(8) The date of the action of the board.~~

~~(9) Such other information as may be deemed necessary by the board.]~~

(b) The records of the board shall be prima facie evidence of the proceedings of the board, and a transcript of such records certified by the secretary of the board under seal shall be admissible in evidence with the same force and effect as if the original were produced. ~~[Biennially, as of December 31, the board shall submit to the governor a report of the transactions of the preceding biennium, and a complete statement of the receipts and expenditures of the board.]~~