Bill as Introduced

SB 455 - AS INTRODUCED

2000 SESSION

00-2810
08/09

SENATE BILL ***455***

AN ACT relative to campgrounds.

SPONSORS: Sen. F. King, Dist 1

COMMITTEE: Wildlife and Recreation

ANALYSIS

This bill makes definitional changes in RSA 216-I, relative to recreational campgrounds and camping parks. This bill also requires that a minimum of 1,000 square feet be provided for camping cabin campsites, and that a recreational camping cabin which has water plumbed to it shall have a connection to an approved sewage disposal system.

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Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

SB 455 - AS INTRODUCED

00-2810
08/09

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand

AN ACT relative to campgrounds.

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

1 Recreational Campgrounds and Camping Parks; Definition of Campsite. Amend RSA 216-I:1, II to read as follows:

II. "Campsite" means a parcel of land [~~in a recreational campground or camping park~~] ***used*** for the placement of a tent, [~~or a~~] recreational vehicle, ***or a recreational camping cabin*** for the [~~exclusive~~] ***overnight*** use of its occupants.

2 Recreational Campgrounds and Camping Parks; Definition of Recreational Campground or Camping Park. Amend RSA 216-I:1, VII to read as follows:

VII. "Recreational campground or camping park" means a parcel of land on which [~~5~~] ***2*** or more campsites are occupied or are intended for temporary occupancy for recreational dwelling purposes only, and not for permanent year-round residency, excluding recreation camps as defined in RSA 485-A:23.

3 New Paragraph; Recreational Campgrounds and Camping Parks; Definition of Recreational Camping Cabin. Amend RSA 216-I:1 by inserting after paragraph VII the following new paragraph:

VII-a. "Recreational camping cabin" means a structure on a campsite, 400 square feet or less, calculated by taking the measurements of the exterior of the cabin, including all siding, corner trim, molding and area enclosed by windows, but not the roof or porch overhang, or log overhang at corners. It shall be designed not for use as a permanent dwelling but as a temporary dwelling for recreational camping and vacation use.

4 Recreational Campgrounds and Camping Parks; Density Requirement. Amend RSA 216-I:2 to read as follows:

216-I:2 Density Requirement. A minimum of 600 square feet shall be provided for each tent site and a minimum of 1,000 square feet shall be provided for each recreational vehicle ***and recreational camping cabin*** campsite, with or without connections to an approved sewage disposal system.

5 New Paragraph; Recreational Campgrounds and Camping Parks; Recreational Camping Cabins; Disposal Systems. Amend RSA 216-I:4 by inserting after paragraph V the following new paragraph:

VI. A recreational camping cabin which has water plumbed to it shall have a connection to an approved sewage disposal system.

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

Amendments

Wildlife and Recreation
March 16, 2000
2000-3817s
08/09

Amendment to SB 455

Amend the bill by replacing section 6 with the following:

6 Effective Date. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

Committee Minutes

Date: March 15
Time: 2:30 p.m.
Room: 101 LOB

The Senate Committee on Wildlife Recreation held a hearing on the following:

SB 455 relative to campgrounds.

Members of Committee present: Senator Disnard
Senator Eaton

The Chair, Senator George F. Disnard, opened the hearing.

Senator George F. Disnard, D. 8: I am opening the hearing on SB 455, and act relative to campgrounds. I will call the prime sponsor, Sen. Fred King.

Senator Frederick W. King, D. 1: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, members of the committee. For the record I am Senator Fred King. I represent Senate District 1, all the towns in Coos County and 5 towns in Grafton County. This is a piece of legislation that I was asked to introduce late in the process with the permission from the Senate Rules Committee to introduce this bill.

There are other people here who will better explain the reason for this legislation and it seems like it's designed really to clarify something that is missing in the legislation. I would ask that you address your questions to the people who are here who asked me to introduce this bill.

Senator George F. Disnard, D. 8: Thank you, Senator.

Senator Frederick W. King, D. 1: Thank you very much.

Senator George F. Disnard, D. 8: I apologize for two people, but as you know they are held at meetings also.

Senator Frederick W. King, D. 1: I believe that I am here because I thought that I should show up anyway. Especially since I am the sponsor.

Senator George F. Disnard, D. 8: Mr. Ronald Brown, please. I don't know if you have been here before Mr. Brown, but you have to give your name and in what community you live, for the record.

Ronald Brown: Yes, sir. Thank you Mr. Chairman. My name is Ronald F. Brown, and I reside in the Town of Carroll in Coos County.

I am also the Executive Director of the New Hampshire Campground Owners Association, representing 140 private campgrounds and the State Park System which is a member of our association as well. In this particular issue we were the initial sponsors of RSA 216-I in 1989 and the primary purpose for coming in today is really a housekeeping measure on some areas that have become concerns over the past 11 years with the bill.

Overall it has stood the test of time. In some instances I might add, the General Court should be applauded for the manner in which it was originally written because it stood up to a test in court as well.

We have worked very closely with the Department of Environmental Services over the past couple of years in order to try to work out some of these housekeeping difficulties, primarily being the new thing which has come on to the camping industry over the last few years called camping cabins.

Camping cabins are simply a cabin that is put on a camp site, has in most instances no amenities and it allows people to bring their sleeping bags and all their equipment except for the tent and be inside, out of the elements if you will, in a cabin offering just the bare necessities.

In order to be able to do this and comply with zoning and in other areas around the state, with the towns, with their problems around the state, we met, I guess I said, with the DES Sub-Surface Bureau to make sure that what

we were doing would be acceptable to them and to the state relative to water going into the aquifer.

They are here and I'm sure can answer any questions that anybody might have in that regard. We are very pleased that we are able to come up with a definition that is shown. I'd like to point out that the definition of a camping cabin that is shown in the RSA also closely lines with the definition of a recreational vehicle. What we have done is that recreational vehicle cannot be over 400 sq. feet in the RSA. This change says that a camping cabin will not be over 400 sq. ft.

So we've tried to stay within those guidelines and definitions which is what we were requested to do by that department.

We do respectfully request one change in the bill if we could, as presented, and that is that if possible with successful passage of this bill that it be *effective upon passage* rather than 60 days because the 2000 camping season is rapidly upon us and we would like to be able to disseminate this information to the industry.

I'd be pleased to answer any questions that you might have.

Senator George F. Disnard, D. 8: Questions? You did an excellent job explaining it. We always appreciate compliments. Thank you, sir.

Rays S. Cowan does not wish to speak...***does*** wish to speak. I apologize.

Ray Cowan: Thank you Mr. Chairman. My name is Ray Cowan. I live in Loudon, Merrimack County. I represent the campground industry on the Water Bureau, of the Water Council of the DES, and basically would simply add to Ron's testimony that, re-iterate that the Sub-Surface Bureau...Bill Evans is here today, and I and Ron have worked very closely in developing this particular language.

It became evident that it was needed over about 10 years of the implementation of the 269 and the compliance regulations that the DES Sub-Surface Bureau put into effect in the year 1990, camp grounds are going to need to be in compliance by the end of September 5th, in the year 2000. In working towards that it became evident that this is one area that has not been covered and to pull that together, this is being proposed.

I think that is really all I wanted to say. If you have any questions...

Senator George F. Disnard, D. 8: Did you say compliance is this September?

Ray Cowan: Compliance September 5th, 2000. Yes.

Senator George F. Disnard, D. 8: Thank you very much. Mr. Evans does not wish to speak.

William E. Evans: Well I can...

Senator George F. Disnard, D. 8: If I could ask you a question would you agree to that?

William E. Evans: Certainly, certainly. For the record, my name is William Evans. I am the administrator of the Sub-Surface Systems Bureau within the Department on Environmental Services and I can only echo the comments that were stated by the previous speakers that we worked closely together to develop this language to fine tune 269. The piece of legislation has worked well over the last ten years. We have an awful lot of the campground industry on its way to full compliance with our water supplies rules and regulations. And I just want to add for the record that the department is in favor of these amendments and fully support them. Any questions feel free to ask?

Senator George F. Disnard, D. 8: Thank you very much. Anyone else wish to speak that did not sign up? Anybody else? Anyone who signed up wish to speak a second time?

Seeing no one I would like to close the hearing on SB 455.

The hearing on SB 455 was closed at 2:39 p.m.

This verbatim transcript respectfully submitted by
Jennifer Ruffing, Senate Wildlife Secretary

attachment I

NEW HAMPSHIRE
CAMPGROUND OWNERS' ASSOCIATION (NeHaCa)
P.O. Box 320 # 427 Rte. 115 Twin Mountain, NH 03595
Tel: 603-846-5511 Fax: 603-846-2151
E-mail: info@ucampnh.com

Executive Director
Ronald F Brown

New Hampshire State Senate
Wildlife & Recreation Committee
Room 101 L.O.B.

March 15, 2000
2:30PM

Mr. Chairman,

My name is Ronald F Brown, I reside in the town of Carroll in Coos County.

I am the Executive Director of the New Hampshire Campground Owners' Association. Our membership consists of 140 Private Campgrounds and 17 State Parks located throughout the State.

We support Senate Bill 455 which amends RSA 216-I. Our organization in cooperation with the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services Sub-Surface Bureau submitted these changes in an effort to more clearly define the Recreational Campgrounds and Camping Parks in New Hampshire.

The proposed changes to RSA 216-I in SB 455 are mostly housekeeping measures. The new addition of a definition of Recreational Camping Cabins is the most significant change. This change is a result of meetings with the NHDES Sub-Surface Bureau personnel in an effort to insure that what we were proposing was acceptable to the bureau.

We do respectfully request one change, to the bill, and that is, that the bill be effective upon passage rather than 60 days after passage, as the 2000 Camping Season is rapidly coming upon us.

I would be pleased to answer any questions.

Respectfully,

Ronald F Brown

Ronald F Brown, Executive Director

Speakers

SENATE WILDLIFE & RECREATION COMMITTEE

Date March 15, 2000 Time 2:30 p.m. Public Hearing on **SB 455**

Appearing in **FAVOR**: *(Please print)* *Please check box at left to speak.*

Speaking?	Name	Address	Representing
☑	RONALD F. BROWN	P.O. BOX 320 TWIN MT	N.H. CAMPGROUND OWNERS ASSOC.
☑	RAY S COWAN	205 N VILLAGE RD Londa	NHCOA
☑	WILLIAM E. EVANS	6 HAZEN DR., CONCORD,	NHDES
☑	SENATOR FRED KING		DISTRICT 1
☐			
☐			
☐			
☐			
☐			
☐			

Appearing in **OPPOSITION**: *(Please Print)* *Please check box at left to speak.*

☐			
☐			
☐			
☐			
☐			
☐			
☐			
☐			
☐			
☐			

Testimony

NEW HAMPSHIRE
CAMPGROUND OWNERS' ASSOCIATION (NeHaCa)
P.O. Box 320 # 427 Rte. 115 Twin Mountain, NH 03595
Tel: 603-846-5511 Fax: 603-846-2151
E-mail: info@ucampnh.com

Executive Director
Ronald F Brown

New Hampshire State Senate
Wildlife & Recreation Committee
Room 101 L.O.B.

March 15, 2000
2:30PM

Mr. Chairman,

My name is Ronald F Brown, I reside in the town of Carroll in Coos County.

I am the Executive Director of the New Hampshire Campground Owners' Association. Our membership consists of 140 Private Campgrounds and 17 State Parks located throughout the State.

We support Senate Bill 455 which amends RSA 216-I. Our organization in cooperation with the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services Sub-Surface Bureau submitted these changes in an effort to more clearly define the Recreational Campgrounds and Camping Parks in New Hampshire.

The proposed changes to RSA 216-I in SB 455 are mostly housekeeping measures. The new addition of a definition of Recreational Camping Cabins is the most significant change. This change is a result of meetings with the NHDES Sub-Surface Bureau personnel in an effort to insure that what we were proposing was acceptable to the bureau.

We do respectfully request one change, to the bill, and that is, that the bill be effective upon passage rather than 60 days after passage, as the 2000 Camping Season is rapidly coming upon us.

I would be pleased to answer any questions.

Respectfully,

Ronald F Brown

Ronald F Brown, Executive Director

Committee Report

Date: March 15, 2000 Time: 2:30 p.m.

The Senate Committee on Wildlife Recreation held its hearing in Room 101 LOB, Concord, New Hampshire.

BILL NO.: SB 455 TITLE: relative to campgrounds.

Members of the Committee present: Senator Disnard
Senator Eaton

Those appearing in favor:

Name and Address Representing

See Attached.

Those appearing in opposition:

Name and Address Representing

See Attached.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE:

- ☐ Ought to Pass
- ☒ Ought to Pass w/ Amendment
- ☐ Inexpedient to Legislate
- ☐ Rereferred
- ☐ Interim Study
- ☐ Continued Hearing
- ☐ Postponed Hearing

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

SENATE

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

Date:

THE COMMITTEE ON Wildlife Recreation

to which was referred Senate Bill 455

AN ACT relative to campgrounds.

VOTE: 2-0

AMENDMENT DOC # 2000-3817s

Having considered the same, report the same with the following amendment and recommend that the bill: **AS AMENDED OUGHT TO PASS.**

Senator Thomas R. Eaton
For the Committee