REGULAR CALENDAR

May 3, 2023

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The Majority of the Committee on Resources, Recreation and Development to which was referred SB 164-FN-LOCAL,

AN ACT (New Title) relative to consideration of biodiversity in the land and community heritage investment program. Having considered the same, report the same with the following resolution: RESOLVED, that it is INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.

Rep. Andrew Renzullo

FOR THE MAJORITY OF THE COMMITTEE

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

MAJORITY
COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee:	**Resources, Recreation and Development**
Bill Number:	**SB 164-FN-LOCAL**
Title:	**(New Title) relative to consideration of biodiversity in the land and community heritage investment program.**
Date:	**May 3, 2023**
Consent Calendar:	**REGULAR**
Recommendation:	**INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE**

STATEMENT OF INTENT

This bill is an act relative to the consideration of biodiversity in the Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP). LCHIP is an independent state authority charged by statute with preserving and conserving New Hampshire's most important natural, cultural and historic resources. It does this by providing matching grants to New Hampshire municipalities and non-profits to preserve and conserve the state's heritage. The bill looks to insert the concept of biodiversity into the enacting LCHIP statute. During the hearings, the complexity of the biodiversity concept became apparent. Biodiversity meant different things to different people. A single definition of biodiversity, as presented in the bill, might not be appropriate for all situations. That is to say that biodiversity needed to be viewed in the context of the specific project. Since 2000, LCHIP has been an outstandingly successful organization focused on preserving and enhancing New Hampshire's culture, environment, beauty, and history. What it has accomplished with the resources available is a model for other states. Thus proposing changes or additions to LCHIP statutes and procedures should be viewed in the light of LCHIP's success. To paraphrase the Hippocratic Oath, "First, do no harm." While supporting the concept of biodiversity's inclusion in the LCHIP process, the LCHIP Director related instances where the language of this bill could cause confusion or misinterpretation of the intent. The director stated, "Defining biodiversity within the LCHIP statute is appropriate, but only if the term is used elsewhere within the statute. However, establishing a statutory definition for a concept as complex as biodiversity requires careful consideration, and LCHIP has not had sufficient time to fully consider the wording proposed." Thus further consultation between the sponsor and LCHIP might result in language for future legislation, amenable to all parties. That being said, the overwhelming bipartisan majority of the committee recommends this, in its present form, is Inexpedient to Legislate.

Vote 16-4.

Rep. Andrew Renzullo
FOR THE MAJORITY

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

REGULAR CALENDAR

Resources, Recreation and Development

SB 164-FN-LOCAL, (New Title) relative to consideration of biodiversity in the land and community heritage investment program. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Andrew Renzullo for the **Majority** of Resources, Recreation and Development. This bill is an act relative to the consideration of biodiversity in the Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP). LCHIP is an independent state authority charged by statute with preserving and conserving New Hampshire's most important natural, cultural and historic resources. It does this by providing matching grants to New Hampshire municipalities and non-profits to preserve and conserve the state's heritage. The bill looks to insert the concept of biodiversity into the enacting LCHIP statute. During the hearings, the complexity of the biodiversity concept became apparent. Biodiversity meant different things to different people. A single definition of biodiversity, as presented in the bill, might not be appropriate for all situations. That is to say that biodiversity needed to be viewed in the context of the specific project. Since 2000, LCHIP has been an outstandingly successful organization focused on preserving and enhancing New Hampshire's culture, environment, beauty, and history. What it has accomplished with the resources available is a model for other states. Thus proposing changes or additions to LCHIP statutes and procedures should be viewed in the light of LCHIP's success. To paraphrase the Hippocratic Oath, "First, do no harm." While supporting the concept of biodiversity's inclusion in the LCHIP process, the LCHIP Director related instances where the language of this bill could cause confusion or misinterpretation of the intent. The director stated, "Defining biodiversity within the LCHIP statute is appropriate, but only if the term is used elsewhere within the statute. However, establishing a statutory definition for a concept as complex as biodiversity requires careful consideration, and LCHIP has not had sufficient time to fully consider the wording proposed." Thus further consultation between the sponsor and LCHIP might result in language for future legislation, amenable to all parties. That being said, the overwhelming bipartisan majority of the committee recommends this, in its present form, is Inexpedient to Legislate. **Vote 16-4.**

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

REGULAR CALENDAR

May 3, 2023

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The Minority of the Committee on Resources, Recreation and Development to which was referred SB 164-FN-LOCAL,

AN ACT (New Title) relative to consideration of biodiversity in the land and community heritage investment program. Having considered the same, and being unable to agree with the Majority, report with the recommendation that the bill OUGHT TO PASS.

Rep. Jessica LaMontagne

FOR THE MINORITY OF THE COMMITTEE

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

MINORITY
COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee:	**Resources, Recreation and Development**
Bill Number:	**SB 164-FN-LOCAL**
Title:	**(New Title) relative to consideration of biodiversity in the land and community heritage investment program.**
Date:	**May 3, 2023**
Consent Calendar:	**REGULAR**
Recommendation:	**OUGHT TO PASS**

STATEMENT OF INTENT

Given the escalating loss of global populations of mammals, fish, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and plants, biodiversity across the planet is under threat. This bill seeks to include biodiversity, and biodiverse areas, among the resources to be valued and protected by the Land and Community Heritage Investment Program. Biodiversity must be considered along with natural, cultural, and historic resources, and in tandem with protections for unique resources such as water and individual endangered species. While the development of policies and easement interests may be complicated and need updating in subsequent legislation, the minority of the committee felt strongly that biodiversity should be recognized in statute as a resource worth protecting.

Rep. Jessica LaMontagne
FOR THE MINORITY

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

REGULAR CALENDAR

Resources, Recreation and Development

SB 164-FN-LOCAL, (New Title) relative to consideration of biodiversity in the land and community heritage investment program. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Jessica LaMontagne for the **Minority** of Resources, Recreation and Development. Given the escalating loss of global populations of mammals, fish, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and plants, biodiversity across the planet is under threat. This bill seeks to include biodiversity, and biodiverse areas, among the resources to be valued and protected by the Land and Community Heritage Investment Program. Biodiversity must be considered along with natural, cultural, and historic resources, and in tandem with protections for unique resources such as water and individual endangered species. While the development of policies and easement interests may be complicated and need updating in subsequent legislation, the minority of the committee felt strongly that biodiversity should be recognized in statute as a resource worth protecting.

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES, RECREATION AND DEVELOPMENT

EXECUTIVE SESSION on SB 164-FN-LOCAL

BILL TITLE: (New Title) relative to consideration of biodiversity in the land and community heritage investment program.

DATE: May 3, 2023

LOB ROOM: 305-307

MOTIONS: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE

Moved by Rep. Harb Seconded by Rep. Rung Vote: 16-4

CONSENT CALENDAR: NO

Statement of Intent: Refer to Committee Report

Respectfully submitted,

Rep Juliet Harvey-Bolia, Clerk

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE HOUSE CLERK

1/9/2023 12:07:14 PM
Roll Call Committee Registers Report

2023 SESSION

Resources, Recreation and Development

Bill #: SB 164-FN Motion: ITL AM #: _____ Exec Session Date: 03 MAY 23

Members	YEAS	Nays	NV
Renzullo, Andrew Chairman	16		
Harb, Robert D. Vice Chairman	1		
Gould, Linda R.	2		
Horgan, James F.	3		
Harvey-Bolia, Juliet Clerk	4		
Healey, Robert V.	5		
Wolf, Dan H.	6		
McGough, Tim S	7		
Donnelly, Tanya	8		
Dunn, Ron	9		
Vail, Suzanne M.	10		
Rung, Rosemarie	11		
Kelley, Eamon P.	12		
Simpson, Alexis H		1	
Baldwin, Heather P	13		
Darby, Will	14		
Hoyt, Tommy	15		
LaMontagne, Jessica F		2	
~~Lovett, Peter~~ Rep. Howard		3	
Ryan, Linda V		4	
TOTAL VOTE:	16	4	

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES, RECREATION AND DEVELOPMENT

PUBLIC HEARING ON SB 164-FN-LOCAL

BILL TITLE: **(New Title) relative to consideration of biodiversity in the land and community heritage investment program.**

DATE: **June 1, 2023**

LOB ROOM: **305-307** **Time Public Hearing Called to Order:**

Time Adjourned:

Committee Members: Reps. Renzullo, Harb, J. Harvey-Bolia, L. Gould, Horgan, Healey, Wolf, McGough, Donnelly, Dunn, Vail, Rung, E. Kelley, Simpson, Baldwin, Darby, Hoyt, LaMontagne, Lovett and Ryan

Bill Sponsors:

Sen. Watters	**Sen. Perkins Kwoka**	**Sen. Avard**
Sen. Altschiller	**Sen. Fenton**	**Rep. Bixby**
Rep. Read		

TESTIMONY

* Use asterisk if written testimony and/or amendments are submitted.

- Sen. Watters introduced his bill, speaking in favor of it. This bill adds "biodiversity" and "biodiverse areas" to definition of "Easement interests" with regards to conservation. Humans are part of biodiversity. Sen. Watters stated that the bill pertains to LCHIP grants.

- Paula Bellemore, LCHIP, stated that this bill could cause confusion in the LCHIP process. How a "biodiversity easement" would fit into the process of LCHIP grants is an unknown. Biodiversity has been considered for 23 years by LCHIP. There wouldn't be any negative impacts to LCHIP if the bill were passed.

- Dan Bergeron, NH Fish and Game opposed the bill because the definition is overly-broad. Different groups may have different interpretations regarding the presented definition of "biodiversity".

- Kurt Ehrenberg, NH Humane Society of the United States, spoke in favor of the bill.

- Matt Lahey, NH Forest Society stated that he was neutral on the bill but agrees with Ms. Bellemore on some points.

Respectfully submitted,
Rep. Harvey-Bolia, Clerk

House Remote Testify

Resources, Recreation and Development Committee Testify List for Bill SB164 on 2023-04-19

Support: 32 Oppose: 1 Neutral: 0 Total to Testify: 0

Export to Excel

Name	City, State Email Address	Title	Representing	Position	Testifying	Non-Germane	Signed Up
Perencevich, Ruth	Concord, NH rperence@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	4/16/2023 9:34 PM
Spielman, Kathy Sue	Durham, NH jspielman@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	4/17/2023 7:10 AM
Blanchard, Sandra	Loudon, NH sandyblanchard3@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	4/17/2023 8:22 AM
Wessels, Susan	RINDGE, NH slwessels2010@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	4/17/2023 9:30 AM
Vecchiotti, Dorothea	Peterborough, NH div@ocs-oe.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	4/17/2023 9:34 AM
Walker, Deborah Klein	Meredith, NH deb.publichealth@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	4/17/2023 10:22 AM
Jones, Andrew	Pembroke, NH arj11718@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	4/17/2023 10:29 AM
Devore, Gary	Pembroke, NH torin_asheron@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	4/17/2023 10:32 AM
Moore, Susan	Franconia, NH susan.moore.franconia@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	4/17/2023 10:51 AM
Reed, Barbara	North Swanzey, NH BDReed74@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	4/17/2023 10:55 AM
Lane, Betty	Dover, NH bquality@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	4/17/2023 11:51 AM
Thomas, A	Rindge, NH annekerosie@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	4/17/2023 3:12 PM
Merlone, Lynn	Rindge, NH prulone@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	4/17/2023 3:12 PM

Hershey, Jane	Rindge, NH janelhershey@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	4/17/2023 3:12 PM
Bissex, Hannah	Rindge, NH berardi.h@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	4/17/2023 3:12 PM
Martin, Patricia	Rindge, NH pmartin2894@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	4/17/2023 3:12 PM
Emus, Joanne	Hollis, NH jremus0322@aol.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	4/17/2023 3:28 PM
Holt, David	Somersworth, NH davholt@aol.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	4/17/2023 7:23 PM
Ellermann, Maureen	Concord, NH ellermannf@aol.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	4/17/2023 8:54 PM
Greenwood, Nancy	Concord, NH nancgreenwood@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	4/17/2023 10:52 PM
Hatch, Sally	Concord, NH sallyhatch@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	4/18/2023 8:23 AM
Perkins Kwoka, Rebecca	Portsmouth, NH rebecca.perkinskwoka@leg.state.nh.us	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	No	4/18/2023 10:32 AM
Willing, Maura	Concord, NH Maura.Willing@Comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	4/18/2023 1:45 PM
Rettew, Ann	Concord, NH abrettew@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	4/18/2023 8:48 PM
Jakubowski, Deborah	Loudon, NH dendeb146@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	4/18/2023 10:00 PM
Almy, Susan	Lebanon, NH susan.almy@comcast.net	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	No	4/18/2023 10:18 PM
Reardon, Donna	Concord, NH bugs42953@aol.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	4/18/2023 10:38 PM
Caton, Mark	Merrimack, NH markcaton55@outlook.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	4/19/2023 8:48 AM
Altschiller, Senator Debra	SD24, NH kevin.condict@leg.state.nh.us	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	No	4/19/2023 11:44 AM
Richardson, Daniel	Nashua, NH daniel6_22@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	4/19/2023 12:27 PM
eaton, sharon	pembroke, NH sharon.eaton@unh.edu	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	4/19/2023 1:22 PM

Brennan, Nancy	Weare, NH burningnan14@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	4/19/2023 6:22 PM
Billingham, Carla	Salem, NH billingham2@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	4/20/2023 12:00 AM

SIGN UP SHEET

To Register Opinion If Not Speaking

Bill # SB164 Date 4/19/23

Committee Resources, Recreation + Development

** Please Print All Information **

Name	Address	Phone	Representing	(check one) Pro	Con
Dan Bergeron			NH Fish & Game		X
Susan Price			NHFG Commission Carroll County (for the Commission)		X

LCHIP

Land & Community Heritage Investment Program

INVESTING IN NEW HAMPSHIRE'S HERITAGE

Testimony regarding SB164-FN-L relative to consideration of biodiversity in the land and community heritage investment program.

Before the House Resources, Recreation and Development Committee

April 19, 2023

Mr. Chair, Members of the Committee

My name is Paula Bellemore, and I am the executive director of the Land and Community Heritage Investment Program. On behalf of the Board of Directors thank you for this opportunity to address SB 164-FN-L. Since 2000 LCHIP has been working hand in hand with the land conservation community across New Hampshire to preserve and protect our state's most important natural resources. To date, LCHIP funds have helped to conserve more than 237,000 acres of land, ensuring their perpetual contribution to sustaining the ecological integrity of our natural environment.

As we understand it, this bill seeks to highlight the value in preserving a healthy level of biodiversity in New Hampshire. We applaud the bills sponsors for recognizing this important goal, and agree that preserving biodiversity at levels sufficient to support healthy, resilient, and sustainable ecosystems over time is paramount. Their efforts to place biodiversity preservation at the forefront of natural resource conservation efforts in New Hampshire are commendable.

As amended by the Senate, SB-164-Fn-L seeks to

(1) insert a definition of biodiversity into the LCHIP statute,

(2) include "biodiversity" as a type of conservation easement, and

(3) add "biodiverse areas" to the list of resources eligible for funding under the program.

While acknowledging the importance of this complex issue, we are concerned that the bill as proposed could create confusion within the LCHIP statute and around the larger issue.

(1) Defining biodiversity within the LCHIP statute is appropriate, but only if the term is used elsewhere within the statute. However, establishing a statutory definition for a concept as complex as biodiversity requires careful consideration, and LCHIP has not had sufficient time to fully consider the wording proposed.

(2) The insertion of "including biodiversity" in 227-M:2 IV as proposed creates significant confusion in the sentence. Depending on how it is read, the language either splits conservation from the list of easements, or introduces biodiversity easements as a subtype of conservation easements. This could have negative impacts that are presumably not the intent of the bill. Conservation easements are a well-established means of preserving land in perpetuity. Conservation easement terms are tailored to achieve specific conservation purposes appropriate for the land being conserved. For example, the preservation of habitats that support and sustain healthy levels of biodiversity could well be a purpose stated in a conservation easement. Thus, conservation easements are already well-positioned to help preserve healthy biodiversity. We are unfamiliar with biodiversity easements, as a separate mechanism from conservation easements.

(3) As proposed, the bill defines biodiversity, but then uses the undefined term "biodiverse areas" in 227-M:2 V to describe the types of land eligible for LCHIP funding.

Biodiversity, by definition, is an attribute, or more accurately a series of attributes, which can be measured and which together help to describe a region, habitat, or ecosystem. Measuring the degree of biodiversity that exists requires analysis of several different properties. These properties include the number of species present in a particular area; the distribution pattern of individual organisms among the species present, the relationship between those species, and the distribution of ecosystem types within the area.

Highly biodiverse areas are likely more resilient and better able to remain stable over time, despite external stressors, while areas low in biodiversity are likely less resilient and stable. The degree of biodiversity in a defined area must also be considered within the context of the greater landscape. For example, a 100-acre property may present with a lower degree of biodiversity when considered in isolation, but the property's critical habitat such as open fields, rocky ridges, or wetlands may support species or ecosystem diversity present in the larger biological region. In that case, land that is considered to have low biodiversity on its own may be a vital component of a biological region possessing a high degree of biodiversity, and therefore preserving that small, not-significantly diverse tract of land could be critically important.

While the use of the term "biodiverse areas" in plain language is generally understood to refer to highly biodiverse areas, when used as the bill proposes, preceded by the definition of biodiversity, the plain language meaning is no longer valid, and the intent becomes confused. We believe that developing language that qualifies "ecologically significant lands", already an eligible resource type, could more explicitly convey the intent of the bill.

In summary, LCHIP recognizes both the complexity and importance of biodiversity preservation in New Hampshire, and supports efforts to maintain a healthy level of biodiversity in our state. We would welcome an opportunity to engage with the sponsors and other interested parties to address these concerns, should that be the will of the committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula S. Bellemore,
Executive Director
Land and Community Heritage Investment Program

Susan Moore

Donna Reardon

Please support SB164 to help NH preserve our environment. Once it's gone, it will be very difficult, and expensive, to get it back. Please do the right thing before it's too late.
"The people of the state of New Hampshire, including future generations, deserve a clean, healthy, and biodiverse environment, including pure water, clean air, natural beauty, healthy ecosystems and a stable climate, necessary for the preservation of the natural, cultural, scenic and healthful qualities of the environment."
"Ecosystem services of a biodiverse environment benefit New Hampshire citizens, so the state of New Hampshire recognizes the need to maintain biodiversity and to enhance its capacity to adapt to change and provide for the needs of future generations. New Hampshire recognizes the responsibility to develop and utilize these resources in a manner consistent with their conservation and biodiversity."

SB 164-FN-LOCAL - AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

02/22/2023 0554s

2023 SESSION

23-1042
08/05

SENATE BILL ***164-FN-LOCAL***

AN ACT relative to consideration of biodiversity in the land and community heritage investment program.

SPONSORS: Sen. Watters, Dist 4; Sen. Perkins Kwoka, Dist 21; Sen. Avard, Dist 12; Sen. Altschiller, Dist 24; Sen. Fenton, Dist 10; Rep. Bixby, Straf. 13; Rep. Read, Rock. 10

COMMITTEE: Energy and Natural Resources

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill defines biodiversity and requires its inclusion in the land and community heritage investment program.

- -

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 Three

AN ACT relative to consideration of biodiversity in the land and community heritage investment program.

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

1 Findings. The general court finds:

I. There is an average 69 percent decline in global populations of mammals, fish, birds, reptiles, and amphibians since 1970 including the loss of nearly 3,000,000,000,000 birds in North America since 1970, and 1,000,000 animal and plant species are now threatened with extinction.

II. Invasive species and warming temperatures pose a threat to the biodiversity of New Hampshire.

III. Three-quarters of the land-based environment and roughly 66 percent of the ocean environment have been significantly altered. More than a third of the world's land surface and nearly 75 percent of freshwater resources are now devoted to crop or livestock production. Climate change and pollution worsen the impact of other stressors on nature and our well-being.

IV. The people of the state of New Hampshire, including future generations, deserve a clean, healthy, and biodiverse environment, including pure water, clean air, natural beauty, healthy ecosystems and a stable climate, necessary for the preservation of the natural, cultural, scenic and healthful qualities of the environment.

V. Ecosystem services of a biodiverse environment benefit New Hampshire citizens, so the state of New Hampshire recognizes the need to maintain biodiversity and to enhance its capacity to adapt to change and provide for the needs of future generations. New Hampshire recognizes the responsibility to develop and utilize these resources in a manner consistent with their conservation and biodiversity.

VI. The state, including each branch, agency, and political subdivision, recognizes their roles as trustees of the natural resources of the state, among them its waters, air, flora, fauna, climate, and public lands. The state recognizes the duty to conserve, protect, and maintain these resources for the benefit of all the people, including generations yet to come.

2 New Paragraph; Land and Community Heritage Investment Authority; Definitions; Biodiversity. Amend RSA 227-M:2 by inserting after paragraph I the following new paragraph:

I-a. "Biodiversity" means all of the species, including plants, bacteria, animals, and humans in a particular region, habitat, or ecosystem, that work together to maintain balance and support life. Biodiversity includes the variability among living organisms from all sources including terrestrial, marine, and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are a part, including variation in genetic, phenotypic, phylogenetic, and functional attributes, as well as

changes in abundance and distribution over time and space within and among species, biological communities, and ecosystems.

3 Definition; Easement Interests; Biodiversity Added. Amend RSA 227-M:2, IV to read as follows:

IV. "Easement interests" means conservation, ***including biodiversity,*** historic preservation, or scenic easements, development rights, or any other similar protective interest in real property held in perpetuity, or a term easement that is held for a specific period of time and not in perpetuity as part of a farm viability program.

4 Definition; Eligible Resource. Amend RSA 227-M:2, V to read as follows:

V. "Eligible resource" means a natural, cultural, or historical resource including archaeological sites; historic buildings and structures which house cultural events and programs; historic properties including buildings and structures; historic and cultural lands and features; ecologically significant lands; ***biodiverse areas;*** existing and potential public water supply lands; farmland; forestland; habitat for rare species or important wildlife; wildlife corridors and habitat strongholds as defined in RSA 207:1; lands for recreation; riverine, lake, estuarine, and ocean shorelands; scenic areas and viewsheds; and wetlands and associated uplands.

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

LBA
23-1042
Amended 3/6/23

SB 164-FN-LOCAL- FISCAL NOTE

AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE (AMENDMENT #2023-0554s)

AN ACT relative to consideration of biodiversity in the land and community heritage investment program.

FISCAL IMPACT: [ ] State [ ] County [ ] Local [X] None

METHODOLOGY:

This bill defines biodiversity and requires its inclusion in the land and community heritage investment program. The Office of Legislative Budget Assistant states this bill has no fiscal impact on state, county, and local expenditures or revenue.

AGENCIES CONTACTED:

Land and Community Heritage Investment Program