

Senate Executive Departments and Administration Committee

Ben Mickens 271-1403

HB 1159, relative to updating the state building code.

Hearing Date: March 4, 2026

Time Opened: 9:31 a.m.

Time Closed: 9:40 a.m.

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Pearl, McGough, Gannon and Reardon

Members of the Committee Absent : Senator Altschiller

Bill Analysis: This bill updates the definition of the state building code.

Sponsors:

Rep. C. McGuire
Sen. Pearl

Rep. Erf

Rep. H. Howard

Who supports the bill: Senator Howard Pearl, Representative Carol McGuire, Sean Toomey (State Fire Marshal, DOS), Sarah Burke Cohen (NHMA), Phillip Jasak (NHHBA), Alex Koutroubas (AGC NH), Susan Richman, Meredith Piotrow, and Wiltrud Mott-Smith.

Who opposes the bill: Janet Robertson, Cory Stone, Barbara Callaway, Martha McDaniel, Judith Colla, Melinda Stucker, Nancy Kelley, Janet Flanders, Sarah Young, Nancy Miles, Isabeth Gross, Carola Lea, Meredith Morgan, Priscilla Benson, and Shirley Montgomery.

Who is neutral on the bill: Philip Sherman (DCRB) and John Walsh.

Summary of testimony presented in support:

Representative Carol McGuire:

- Representative McGuire stated that HB 1159 is intended to update the state building codes to include the most recent recommendations and amendments of the Building Code Review Board.
- Representative McGuire explained that the energy code was not included in this update.

Phillip Jasak of the New Hampshire Home Builders Association.

- Mr. Jasak voiced support for HB 1159 and the proposed change to the effective date.

Summary of testimony presented in opposition: None.

Neutral Information Presented:

Philip Sherman of the New Hampshire Building Code Review Board:

- Mr. Sherman explained that the board has reviewed significant changes to many codes over the past calendar year.
- Mr. Sherman stated that changes were assessed for relative cost per the current RSA.
- Mr. Sherman explained that the amendments made to the codes create a common administrative chapter as well as a cleaning up repetitive amendment. He added that there are a total of 99 amendments.
- Mr. Sherman explained that an orderly 3-year cycle is going to be enacted in the future at the request of many board members.
- Mr. Sherman stated that HB 1159 would allow the board to review errata made by the model code publishers.
- Mr. Sherman made the request that the effective date be changed to 7/1/2026 to improve board efficiency.

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Date Hearing Report completed: March 6, 2026