

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

Joshua Schauer 271-3077

HB 1148, adding cyanobacteria and algae blooms to the study of the exotic aquatic weeds and species committee.

Hearing Date: March 19, 2026

Time Opened: 9:15 a.m.

Time Closed: 9:25 a.m.

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Avard, McConkey, Watters and Rosenwald

Members of the Committee Absent : Senator Pearl

Bill Analysis: This bill adds cyanobacteria and algae blooms to the study of the exotic aquatic weeds and species committee.

Sponsors:

Rep. Donnelly

Rep. Darby

Sen. Pearl

Who supports the bill: 184 Individuals signed in Support of this legislation. Please contact Joshua.Schauer@gc.nh.gov for more information.

Who opposes the bill: 4 Individuals signed in Opposition of this legislation. Please contact Joshua.Schauer@gc.nh.gov for more information.

Summary of testimony presented:

Representative Tanya Donnelly, Rockingham 25

- Rep. Donnelly introduced the bill and said it would help the existing committee expand their study ability to add cyanobacteria and algae blooms. She said the issue has been under discussion since 2004, reflecting a long-standing concern and interest on the subject matter.
- She explained that there is currently no dedicated committee or forum where this issue can be formally studied or addressed.
- She recommended incorporating the issue into an existing committee. This approach would utilize the same committee leads and maintain some continuity to be more efficient avoiding the need to create a separate committee.

Senator Rosenwald said it looked like the word “exotic” was used as a synonym for invasive and questioned it.

Representative Donnelly said yes and she hoped to create an educational program that could help reduce exotic and invasive species in NH water systems.

Senator Rosenwald said her earlier question was said because on line 6, one of the duties is to “eliminate the spread” and of its seems like they are not native, but she also asked if only some of milfoil was invasive.

Representative Donnelly said she was correct but wanted to know what is cultivating the growth of the invasive weeds and what is promoting the growths of cyanobacteria blooms. She echoed the need to look at the reduction of phosphorus which includes land use.

Senator Rosenwald asked if her community ever looks at septic issues that are close to waterline and may be failing.

Representative Donnelly said that the committee did not necessarily examine that issue specifically but noted that DES was addressing it. She explained that her committee’s main role was to bring together experts to gather feedback from other regions in the country, in order to understand the assessments and identify ways to provide assistance.

Senator Watters asked about line 11 of the legislation and the word control, and whether it was broad enough to help mitigate other issues. Is “control” a comprehensive enough term?

Representative Donnelly believed it was comprehensive enough. She explained that it is a fluid label of what they can do especially regarding education.

Andrea LaMoreaux, NH Lakes President

- Ms. LaMoreaux spoke in support of legislation
- She said it was a logical connection because there is a scientific relationship with cyanobacteria and invasive/exotic species.
- She stated that there is not a focus on funding which is a separate bill. It is a committee that brings experts together to discuss.

Jodi Grimblas, on behalf of NH Marine Trades Association

- Ms. Grimblas spoke briefly and echoed her support from past testimony.