

SB 536-FN - AS INTRODUCED

2026 SESSION

26-2154
08/09

SENATE BILL **536-FN**

AN ACT relative to the solid waste facility site evaluation committee.

SPONSORS: Sen. Rochefort, Dist 1; Sen. Fenton, Dist 10; Sen. Watters, Dist 4; Sen. McGough,
Dist 11; Sen. Gannon, Dist 23; Sen. Rosenwald, Dist 13; Sen. Prentiss, Dist 5

COMMITTEE: Energy and Natural Resources

ANALYSIS

This bill establishes the solid waste facility site evaluation committee.

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Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.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

AN ACT relative to the solid waste facility site evaluation committee.

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

1 1 New Subdivision; Solid Waste Site Evaluation Committee. Amend RSA 149-M by inserting
2 after section 64 the following new subdivision:

3 Solid Waste Site Evaluation Committee

4 149-M:65 Declaration of Purpose.

5 I. The legislature and the executive branch recognize that the selection of sites for major
6 solid waste disposal facilities may have significant statewide, regional and local impacts that are not
7 fully evaluated through existing regulatory review.

8 II. Accordingly, the general court finds that it is in the public interest to establish a
9 procedure to evaluate the local, regional and statewide benefits and burdens of a new major solid
10 waste facility that are not captured by existing regulatory reviews, including noise, odor, aesthetics,
11 local and regional economic impacts, property value impacts, nature and source of waste, need,
12 impacts on tourism, recreation and traffic, and other similar impacts.

13 III. Furthermore, the general court recognizes there is a compelling state interest in
14 maintaining adequate, reasonably priced, and environmentally protective disposal capacity for solid
15 waste generated in New Hampshire.

16 IV. The general court prefers that new landfill capacity be developed in expansions of
17 existing permitted landfills or brownfield sites instead of on greenfield sites.

18 149-M:66 Definitions. In this subdivision:

19 I. "Acceptance" means a determination by the committee that it finds that the application is
20 complete and ready for consideration.

21 II. "Administrator" means the administrator of the site evaluation committee established
22 pursuant to RSA 162-H:3-a.

23 III. "Affected municipality" means any municipality or unincorporated place in which any
24 part of a major solid waste disposal facility is proposed to be located and any municipality or
25 unincorporated place from which any part of the proposed major solid waste disposal facility will be
26 visible or audible, including off-site traffic impacts.

27 IV. "Certificate" means the document issued by the committee, containing such terms and
28 conditions as the committee deems appropriate, that authorizes the applicant to proceed with the
29 proposed site and facility.

30 V. "Commence construction" means any clearing of the land, excavation or other substantial
31 action that would result in long-term impacts to the site of the proposed facility, but does not include

1 land surveying, optioning or acquiring land or rights in land, changes desirable for temporary use of
2 the land for public recreational uses, necessary subsurface explorations to determine hydrogeologic
3 and soil conditions, work required as part of an application to any federal, state, or local authority,
4 or other preconstruction monitoring or testing to establish background information related to the
5 suitability of the site for the proposed use.

6 VI. "Committee" means the solid waste evaluation committee established by this chapter.

7 VII. "Department" means the department of environmental services.

8 VIII. "Major solid waste disposal facility" means a location, system, or physical structure for
9 the collection, separation, storage, transfer, processing, treatment, or disposal of solid waste with a
10 proposed waste acceptance rate greater than 100,000 tons per year. "Major solid waste disposal
11 facility" does not include a facility designed to manage food waste in accordance with RSA 149-M:27,
12 V(b)(1)-(5), or any facility proposed to be constructed by a New Hampshire municipal government.

13 IX. "Filing" means the date on which the application is first submitted to the committee.

14 X. "Person" means any individual, group, firm, partnership, corporation, cooperative,
15 municipality, political subdivision, government agency, or other organization.

16 149-M:67 Solid Waste Evaluation Committee Established.

17 I. There is hereby established a committee to be known as the New Hampshire solid waste
18 site evaluation committee consisting of 7 members, as follows:

19 (a) The chairperson of the waste management council established under RSA 21-O:9.
20 who shall serve as chairperson of the committee. If there is an appeal pending before the waste
21 management council related to the major solid waste disposal facility, then the chairperson of the
22 wetlands council, water council or air resources council established under RSA 21-O, selected by the
23 commissioner of the department, shall serve on the committee and as chairperson of the committee.

24 (b) The commissioner of the department of business and economic affairs, or designee.

25 (c) The commissioner of the department of environmental services, or designee.

26 (d) Four members and, when required by RSA 149-M:68, an alternate member,
27 appointed by the governor with the consent of the executive council, including a member who serves
28 on a local conservation commission, a member who has expertise in the private waste management
29 industry, a member with expertise in municipal planning and one with expertise or experience in
30 one or more of the following areas: business management; environmental protection; natural
31 resource protection; solid waste disposal facility design, construction, operation, or management;
32 community-level recycling; community and regional planning or economic development; municipal or
33 county government; or the governing of unincorporated places.

34 II. All members, including those who sit for a member recused under RSA 149-M:68, shall
35 refrain from ex parte communications regarding any matter pending before the committee. A
36 majority of the members of the committee shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of conducting
37 the committee's business.

1 III. The committee shall be administratively attached to the department of environmental
2 services.

3 IV. The chairperson shall serve as the chief executive of the committee and may:

4 (a) Serve as presiding officer.

5 (b) Delegate to other members the duties of the presiding officer, as appropriate.

6 (c) Establish, with the consent of the committee, the budgetary requirements of the
7 committee.

8 (d) Engage personnel in accordance with this chapter.

9 V. The presiding officer may appoint a hearing officer to perform the functions described in
10 RSA 149-M:70, V.

11 149-M:68 Members Appointed By The Governor With The Consent Of Council.

12 I. Members and alternate members appointed under RSA 149-M:67, I(c) and (d) shall serve
13 4-year terms and until their successors are appointed and qualified. Any member chosen to fill a
14 vacancy occurring other than by expiration of a term shall be appointed for the unexpired term of the
15 member who is succeeded.

16 II. If at any time the member appointed by the governor with the consent of the executive
17 council must recuse himself or herself from a matter before the committee or is not otherwise
18 available for good reason, the alternate member shall replace such member.

19 III. No member nor any member of his or her family shall receive income from entities that
20 own or operate, or have applied to own or operate, major solid waste disposal facilities in New
21 Hampshire. The members appointed by the governor with the consent of the executive council and
22 their alternates shall comply with RSA 15-A and RSA 15-B.

23 IV. Any member appointed by the governor with the consent of the executive council may be
24 removed from office in accordance with RSA 4:1.

25 149-M:69 Administrator and Other Committee Support. The administrator shall provide
26 support to the committee. If the administrator is not available or the position is vacant, the
27 committee may hire an independent contractor at the expense of the applicant. The administrator
28 shall be under the supervision of the chairperson when performing duties for the committee. The
29 administrator shall be compensated for work performed for the committee as set forth in RSA 149-
30 M:85. The administrator, or chairperson in the absence of an administrator, with committee
31 approval, may engage additional technical, legal, or administrative support to fulfill the functions of
32 the committee as necessary.

33 149-M:70 Powers and Duties of the Committee; Rules.

34 I. The committee shall:

35 (a) Evaluate and issue any certificate under this chapter for a major solid waste
36 disposal facility.

37 (b) Determine the terms and conditions of any certificate issued under this chapter.

1 (c) Adjudicate enforcement matters.

2 (d) Assist the public in understanding the requirements of this chapter.

3 (e) Deny applications for a certificate based on such findings and rulings as may be
4 necessary to support its decision to deny.

5 (f) Execute, when appropriate and in the public interest, the general court stated
6 preference that such new landfill capacity be developed in expansions of existing permitted landfills
7 or brownfield sites instead of on greenfield sites.

8 II. The committee shall hold hearings as required by this chapter and such additional
9 hearings as it deems necessary and appropriate and, in addition to the requirements under RSA 91-
10 A, ensure adequate and timely public notice of no less than 7 calendar days.

11 III. The committee may delegate to the administrator or such state agency or official as it
12 deems appropriate the authority to specify the use of any technique, methodology, practice, or
13 procedure approved by the committee within a certificate issued under this chapter, or the authority
14 to specify minor changes in the major solid waste disposal facility configuration to the extent that
15 such changes are authorized by the certificate for those portions of a proposed major solid waste
16 disposal facility project.

17 IV. The committee shall not delegate its authority or duties except as provided under this
18 subdivision.

19 V. In any matter before the committee, the presiding officer, or a hearing officer designated
20 by the presiding officer, may hear and decide procedural matters that are before the committee,
21 including procedural schedules, consolidation of parties with substantially similar interests,
22 discovery schedules and motions, and identification of significant disputed issues for hearing and
23 decision by the committee. Undisputed petitions for intervention may be decided by the hearing
24 officer and disputed petitions shall be decided by the presiding officer. Any party aggrieved by a
25 decision on a petition to intervene may within 10 calendar days request that the committee review
26 such decision. Other procedural decisions may be reviewed by the committee at its discretion.

27 VI. The committee shall issue such rules to administer this chapter, pursuant to RSA 541-A,
28 after public notice and hearing, as may from time to time be required.

29 149-M:71 Prohibitions and Restrictions.

30 I. No person shall commence construction of any major solid waste disposal facility within
31 the state unless it has obtained a certificate pursuant to this chapter. Such facilities shall be
32 constructed, operated, and maintained in accordance with the terms of the certificate and any other
33 federal, state, or local permits or approvals. Such certificates are not required for changes or
34 additions to existing facilities unless they propose an increase in existing permitted annual
35 throughput of greater than or equal to 50,000 tons per year. Such a certificate shall not be
36 transferred or assigned without approval of the committee. Unless otherwise specified in this
37 chapter, any approved major solid waste facility shall not be constructed, operated, or closed in a

1 manner materially different than the manner in which it was presented in the application for a
2 certificate as modified and conditioned by such certificate.

3 II. Notwithstanding RSA 541-A:29 or any other law to the contrary, an application for a
4 certificate from the committee shall be approved or denied by the committee prior to final decisions
5 on all other state agency permit applications. Applications for certificates may be filed and
6 evaluated by the committee concurrently with other state approvals and public hearings may be
7 scheduled concurrently with hearings held by other state agencies as part of their permitting process
8 for the same facility.

9 III. Notwithstanding paragraph II, for facilities under review by the department for a
10 permit on or prior to July 1, 2026, an application for a certificate from the committee shall be
11 approved or denied after other state agency approvals have been obtained. The committee shall not
12 consider technical questions already considered by other state or federal agencies, nor include terms
13 or conditions in a certificate that have already been reviewed and decided upon by other state or
14 federal agency regulatory reviews.

15 149-M:72 Application for Certificate.

16 I. All applications for a certificate for a major solid waste disposal facility shall be filed with
17 the administrator or the chair of the committee.

18 II. Upon filing of an application, the chairperson or designated presiding officer shall
19 expeditiously conduct a preliminary review to ascertain if the application contains sufficient
20 information to carry out the purposes of this chapter. If the application does not contain such
21 sufficient information, the chairperson or designated presiding officer shall, in writing, expeditiously
22 notify the applicant of that fact and specify what information the applicant must supply.

23 III. To carry out the committee's duties in RSA 149-M:70, each application shall:

24 (a) Describe in reasonable detail the types and quantities of waste and their
25 characteristics proposed to be accepted and size of each major part of the proposed facility.

26 (b) Describe in reasonable detail the source of waste to be accepted and if there is a
27 preference for waste originating within the state of New Hampshire.

28 (c) Describe how the proposed facility satisfies the criteria listed under RSA 149-M:11,
29 III.

30 (d) Identify both the applicant's preferred choice and other alternatives it considers
31 available for the site and configuration of each major part of the proposed facility and the reasons for
32 the applicant's preferred choice.

33 (e) Describe in reasonable detail the impact of each major part of the proposed facility on
34 existing local, regional, and state land uses.

35 (f) Document that written notification of the proposed project, including appropriate
36 copies of the application, has been given to the appropriate governing body of each affected

1 municipality, as defined in RSA 149-M:66, III. The application shall include a list of the affected
2 municipalities.

3 (g) Provide analysis on the local, regional, and statewide visual impact of the proposed
4 facility during construction, operation, and post-closure and the visual impacts as evaluated through
5 a visual impact assessment prepared in accordance with professional standards by an expert in the
6 field.

7 (h) Provide information in reasonable detail about the impacts on local, regional and
8 state property values, human health, tourism, outdoor recreation, wildlife, traffic, noise, and odor by
9 the proposed facility. These analyses shall be conducted in accordance with professional standards
10 by an expert in these fields.

11 (i) Provide a reasonable amount of information relative to how new contaminants of
12 concern not regulated by a permit issued by the department will be monitored, evaluated and
13 managed over the proposed life of the facility.

14 (j) Provide a reasonable amount of information relative to the economic impacts of the
15 proposed facility on affected municipalities, the region, and the state.

16 (k) Potential economic benefits to the local area and potential infrastructure
17 improvements associated with the proposed project.

18 (l) Provide such additional information as the committee may require or request to carry
19 out the purpose of this chapter.

20 IV. To the extent any information provided in the application was submitted and considered
21 by a state agency as part of its permitting evaluation and decision under RSA 149-M:71, III, the
22 applicant shall specify what information was so considered and the statutory and regulatory
23 authority for that agency's consideration of the information.

24 V. For all information submitted with the application that was prepared by an outside
25 consultant or expert, the applicant shall submit the qualifications of such consultants or experts to
26 prepare such information.

27 VI. The committee shall require the applicant to hire an independent third party at the
28 expense of the applicant and agreed upon by the committee in consultation with the municipality
29 where the facility is proposed to be located, to peer review any assessments provided under this
30 section.

31 VII. The chairperson or designated presiding officer shall decide whether to accept the
32 application as administratively complete within 60 days of filing. If the chairperson or designated
33 presiding officer rejects an application because it determines it to be administratively incomplete,
34 the applicant may choose to file a new and more complete application or cure the defects in the
35 rejected application within 10 days of receipt of notification of rejection.

36 VIII. Public information sessions shall be held in accordance with RSA 149-M:76.

1 IX. Within 180 days of the acceptance of an application, the committee shall issue or deny a
2 certificate for the proposed major solid waste disposal facility.

3 X. The applicant shall immediately inform the committee of any substantive modification to
4 its application.

5 XI. The committee may request that state agencies with relevant technical expertise
6 participate in committee proceedings.

7 XII. The department shall conduct a review of the application information submitted
8 pursuant to RSA 149-M:72, III(c) to determine whether the facility has demonstrated that it satisfies
9 the criteria in RSA 149-M:11, III. Such review shall be conducted in accordance with RSA 149-M:11.
10 The department shall report its findings to the committee in order to inform the committee's decision
11 on the application.

12 XIII. The committee may deny a certificate based upon the criteria in RSA 149-M:9, IX.

13 XIV. A state agency may intervene as a party in any committee proceeding in the same
14 manner as other persons under RSA 541-A.

15 149-M:73 Disclosure of Ownership. Any application for a certificate, or for change in ownership
16 and transfer of certificate, shall be signed and sworn to by the person or executive officer of the
17 association or corporation making such application and shall contain the following information:

18 I. Full name and address of the person, association, or corporation.

19 II. If an association or limited liability company, the name of the state under which it was
20 formed and the names and residences of the members of the association or limited liability company.

21 III. If a corporation, the name of the state under which it is incorporated with its principal
22 place of business and the names and addresses of its directors, officers and stockholders.

23 IV. If doing business in a form other than as an association, limited liability company, or
24 corporation, the form of the business, the name of the state under which it was formed, and the
25 names and residences of anyone with a financial, ownership, or control interest in the organization.

26 V. The location or locations where an applicant is to conduct its business.

27 VI. A statement of assets and liabilities of the applicant and other relevant financial
28 information of such applicant.

29 VII. The committee shall administratively approve changes of ownership and transfers of
30 certificates within 90 days of a petition if it determines the new certificate holder has adequate
31 financial, technical, and managerial capability to assure construction and operation of the facility in
32 continuing compliance with the terms and conditions of the certificate and any federal, state, and
33 local permits.

34 149-M:74 Application and Filing Fees.

35 I. A person filing with the committee an application for a certificate for a major solid waste
36 disposal facility shall pay to the committee at the time of filing a fee determined in accordance with
37 the fee schedule described in paragraph II. If an application for a certificate for a major solid waste

1 disposal facility is deemed incomplete pursuant to RSA 149-M:72, VII, and a new application is
2 submitted thereunder, the unused portion of the initial application fee shall be refunded to the
3 applicant or credited to the filing of the new application. The committee may in its discretion
4 provide for a credit or refund in other circumstances that are unforeseen by the applicant.

5 II. The fees under paragraph I shall be determined in accordance with a fee schedule posted
6 by the committee on its website, which shall include the following amounts:

7 (a) Application fee for a major solid waste disposal facility: \$20,000 base charge and
8 \$1,000 per additional 10,000 tons/year throughput in excess of 100,000 tons per year.

9 (b) Filing fees for administrative proceedings:

10 (1) Petition for committee jurisdiction: \$500.

11 (2) Certificate transfer of ownership: \$1,000.

12 (3) Request to modify a certificate: \$1,000.

13 III. All fee charges shall be deposited in the solid waste evaluation committee fund
14 established in RSA 149-M:84 and shall be nonlapsing and accounted for as a separate line item.

15 IV. The committee shall review and evaluate the application fees and filing fees in the fee
16 schedule in subparagraphs II(a) and (b) at least once each year. The committee may increase any
17 amount in the fee schedule by no more than the increase in the consumer price index from the prior
18 year, provided that any such increase shall occur not more frequently than once during any 12-
19 month period. Modifications to the fee schedule shall be posted on the committee website, with a
20 link prominently displayed on the home page.

21 V. If the committee determines the cost of committee proceedings for an application
22 significantly exceed the filing fees paid by the applicant for that application, the additional cost shall
23 be borne by the applicant or certificate holder in such amount as may be approved by the committee.

24 149-M:75 Counsel for the Public.

25 I. An application for a certificate under this subdivision shall be served contemporaneously
26 by the applicant upon the attorney general. Upon receipt of such an application, the attorney
27 general shall appoint an assistant attorney general as counsel for the public in connection with the
28 committee's consideration of the application. Counsel for the public shall be deemed to represent the
29 public as a party to the proceedings before the committee.

30 II. This section shall not be construed to prevent any person from being heard or
31 represented by counsel; provided, however, the committee may compel consolidation of
32 representation for such persons as have, in the committee's reasonable judgment, substantially
33 identical interests.

34 149-M:76 Public Hearing; Studies.

35 I. At least 30 days prior to filing an application for a certificate, an applicant shall hold at
36 least one public information session in the affected municipality where the proposed facility is to be

1 located. This session may be held concurrently with a public session held as a requirement of any
2 other state permit or approval.

3 II. The committee may order the applicant to provide such additional public information
4 sessions in affected municipalities as are reasonable to inform the public of the proposed project.

5 III. Within 90 days after acceptance of an application for a certificate, the committee shall
6 hold at least one public information session in each municipality where the proposed facility is
7 proposed to be located.

8 IV. Subsequent public hearings shall be in the nature of adjudicative proceedings under
9 RSA 541-A and shall be held in the municipality in which the proposed facility is to be located or in
10 Concord, New Hampshire, as determined by the committee. The committee shall give adequate
11 public notice of the time and place of each subsequent hearing.

12 V. The committee shall adopt rules regarding the timing and method of notices for public
13 information sessions and public hearings, and any other requirements regarding such sessions and
14 hearings.

15 VI. The committee shall consider and weigh all evidence presented at public hearings and
16 shall consider and weigh written information and reports submitted to it by members of the public
17 prior to the closing of the record of the proceeding. The committee shall provide an opportunity at
18 one or more public hearings for comments from the governing body of each affected municipality and
19 residents of each affected municipality. The committee shall consider, as appropriate, prior
20 committee findings and rulings on the same or similar subject matters, but shall not be bound
21 thereby.

22 VII. The solid waste evaluation committee shall require from the applicant whatever
23 information it deems necessary to assist in the conduct of the hearings, and any investigation or
24 studies it may undertake, and in the determination of the terms and conditions of any certificate
25 under consideration.

26 VIII. The committee and counsel for the public shall conduct such reasonable studies and
27 investigations as they deem necessary or appropriate to carry out the purposes of this chapter and
28 may employ a consultant or consultants, legal counsel and other staff in furtherance of the duties
29 imposed by this chapter, the cost of which shall be borne by the applicant or certificate holder in
30 such amount as may be approved by the committee. The committee and counsel for the public are
31 further authorized to assess the applicant or certificate holder for all travel and related expenses
32 associated with the processing of an application or other proceedings under this chapter.

33 IX. Times for conducting public hearings and rendering a decision on the application may be
34 extended for good cause upon written request of the applicant.

35 149-M:77 Judicial Review. Decisions made pursuant to this chapter shall be appealed in
36 accordance with RSA 541.

37 149-M:78 Monitoring and Enforcement.

1 I. The department shall monitor the construction and operation of any major solid waste
2 disposal facility granted a certificate under this chapter, after all other subsequent approvals are
3 obtained, to ensure compliance with such certificate and enforce the terms and conditions of any
4 such certificate. With the exception of the authority retained by the state agencies in accordance
5 with paragraph V, the department may delegate the authority to monitor the construction or
6 operation of any major solid waste disposal facility granted a certificate under this chapter to such
7 state agency or official as it deems appropriate but shall ensure that the terms and conditions of the
8 certificate are met. Any authorized representative or delegate of the department shall have a right
9 of entry onto the premises of any part of the solid waste generation facility to ascertain if the facility
10 is being constructed or operated in continuing compliance with the terms and conditions of the
11 certificate. During normal hours of business administration and on the premises of the facility, such
12 a representative or delegate shall also have a right to inspect such records of the certificate holder as
13 are relevant to the terms or conditions of the certificate.

14 II. Whenever the department administratively determines, on its own or in response to a
15 complaint, that any term or condition of any certificate issued under this chapter or prior law is
16 being violated, it shall, in writing, notify the certificate holder of the specific violation and order the
17 person to immediately terminate the violation. If, 15 days after receipt of the order, the person has
18 failed or neglected to terminate the violation, the department shall notify the committee, which may
19 suspend the person's certificate. In addition to suspension, if, after 15 days of receipt of the order,
20 the person has failed or neglected to terminate the violation, the committee may impose a fine not to
21 exceed \$5,000 per day until the violation is corrected. Except for emergencies, prior to any
22 suspension or imposition of a fine, the committee shall give written notice of its consideration of
23 suspension or imposition of a fine and of its reasons therefor and shall provide opportunity for a
24 prompt hearing.

25 III. In addition to other remedies provided in this chapter, upon petition of the department,
26 the committee may suspend a certificate if the committee determines that a person has made a
27 material misrepresentation in the application, or in the supplemental or additional statements of
28 fact, or studies required of the applicant, or if the committee determines that the person has violated
29 the provisions of this chapter, or any rule adopted under this chapter. Except for emergencies, prior
30 to any suspension, the committee shall give written notice of its consideration of suspension and of
31 its reasons therefor and shall provide an opportunity for a prompt hearing.

32 IV. Upon petition of the department, the committee may revoke any certificate that is
33 suspended after the person holding the suspended certificate has been given at least 90 days' written
34 notice of the committee's consideration of revocation and of its reasons therefor and has been
35 provided an opportunity for a full hearing.

36 V. Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, each state agency having permitting
37 or other regulatory authority shall retain all of its powers and duties of enforcement.

1 VI. The full amount of costs and expenses incurred by the department and committee in
2 connection with any enforcement action against a person holding a certificate, in which the person is
3 determined to have violated any provision of this chapter, any rule adopted by the department or
4 committee, or any of the terms and conditions of the issued certificate, shall be assessed to the
5 person and shall be paid by the person to the committee. Any amounts paid by a person to the
6 committee pursuant to this paragraph shall be deposited in the solid waste evaluation committee
7 fund established in RSA 149-M:84.

8 VII. The department may adopt rules in furtherance of its monitoring and enforcement
9 responsibilities under this chapter.

10 149-M:79 Records. Complete verbatim records shall be kept by the committee of all hearings,
11 and records of all other actions, proceedings, and correspondence of the committee, including
12 submittals of information and reports by members of the public, shall be maintained, all of which
13 records shall be open to the public inspection and copying as provided for under RSA 91-A.
14 Committee records regarding pending applications for a certificate shall also be made available on
15 the committee's website unless such records were submitted under seal and are exempt from public
16 disclosure under RSA 91-A.

17 149-M:80 Temporary Suspension of Deliberations. If the committee, at any time while an
18 application for a certificate is before it, deems it to be in the public interest, it may temporarily
19 suspend its deliberations and time frames established under this chapter.

20 149-M:81 Findings and Certificate Issuance.

21 I. Any certificate issued by the committee shall be based on the record. The decision to issue
22 a certificate in its final form or to deny an application once it has been accepted shall be made by a
23 majority of the committee.

24 II. The committee may consult with interested regional agencies and agencies of border
25 states in the consideration of certificates.

26 III. After due consideration of all relevant information regarding the potential siting,
27 including potential significant impacts and benefits, the committee shall determine if issuance of a
28 certificate will serve the objectives of this chapter. In order to issue a certificate, the committee shall
29 find that:

30 (a) The applicant has adequate financial, technical, and managerial capability to assure
31 construction, operation, and closure of the facility in continuing compliance with the terms and
32 conditions of the certificate.

33 (b) The facility will not unduly interfere with the orderly development of the region with
34 due consideration having been given to the views of municipal and regional planning commissions
35 and municipal governing bodies.

36 (c) The facility satisfies the criteria in RSA 149-M:11, III.

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1 (d) The net public benefit of the facility to the region shall outweigh any adverse impact
2 of the facility on human health, aesthetics, historic preservation, economic impacts to the region,
3 tourism, outdoor recreation, regional and statewide business development, wildlife, noise, odor,
4 traffic impacts, existing land uses, including property values, characteristics and source of waste,
5 and any other impacts assessed as part of the application pursuant to RSA 149-M:72, III.

6 (e) Issuance of a certificate will serve the public interest of the citizens of
7 NewHampshire.

8 IV. The committee shall issue an order granting or denying a certificate. Such order shall
9 summarize and address issues of concern expressed during public information sessions and hearings
10 to ensure that the public's voice has been heard and recorded.

11 V. A certificate of site and facility may contain such reasonable terms and conditions,
12 including, but not limited to the authority to require bonding, as the committee deems necessary.
13 Such certificates, when issued, shall be final and subject only to judicial review.

14 VI. The committee shall condition the certificate upon the results of applicable federal and
15 state approvals or appeal processes and required federal and state agency studies whose study
16 period exceeds the application period.

17 149-M:82 Penalties.

18 I. Any construction or operation of major solid waste disposal facilities without first
19 obtaining a certificate from the committee, or any material violation of the terms and conditions of a
20 certificate issued by the committee, shall be subject to a civil penalty not to exceed \$10,000 for each
21 violation or for each day of a continuing violation. Such violation may also be enjoined by the
22 superior court upon application of the attorney general.

23 II. Whoever purposely or knowingly commits any violation of any provision of this section
24 shall be guilty of a misdemeanor if a natural person, or guilty of a felony if any other person.

25 149-M:83 Severability. If any provision of this chapter, or application thereof to any person or
26 circumstance is held invalid, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or applications of the
27 chapter which can be given effect without the invalid provisions or applications, and to this end, the
28 provisions of this chapter are severable.

29 149-M:84 Fund Established; Funding Plan. There is hereby established in the office of the state
30 treasurer a nonlapsing, special fund to be known as the solid waste evaluation committee fund. All
31 application and other filing fees received by the committee under this chapter shall be deposited in
32 the fund. All moneys in the fund shall be continually appropriated to the committee and shall be
33 used to pay for operating costs of the committee and the partial salary of the administrator. If the
34 administrator position is vacant, the fund may be used to pay an independent contractor to perform
35 those duties. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the committee may engage the
36 department for additional technical, legal, or administrative support to fulfill the requirements of

1 this chapter, the cost of which shall be charged directly to the applicant or major solid waste disposal
2 facility owner.

3 149-M:85 Compensation and Reimbursement.

4 I. The public members of the committee shall be compensated for all time spent on
5 committee business, including compensation and reimbursement for major solid waste disposal
6 facility proceeding time and expenses. Compensation shall be provided on a pro rata basis, based
7 upon the daily salary rate of an unclassified position at the initial step in grade FF under RSA 94:1-
8 a, I(a).

9 II. State agencies represented on the committee shall be reimbursed for major solid waste
10 disposal facility proceeding time and expenses incurred by their respective members or designees,
11 except that time spent for the first 5 full days of their participation with respect to any application or
12 other proceeding concerning a major solid waste disposal facility shall not be subject to
13 reimbursement. The rate of reimbursement to each respective agency shall be based on a pro rata
14 share of the employee's salary, benefits, and related costs.

15 III The department of justice shall be reimbursed in the same manner as described in
16 paragraph II for major solid waste disposal facility proceeding time and expenses that are incurred
17 by the counsel for the public.

18 IV. All persons or agencies seeking compensation or reimbursement under this section shall
19 keep detailed time and expense records which shall be submitted to the chairperson or administrator
20 and used to determine the amount of compensation or reimbursement. The chairperson or
21 administrator shall develop a record keeping system and accounting and payment procedures.

22 V. Compensation shall not be provided to members of the committee for initial meetings
23 conducted prior to acceptance of application fees. The department shall provide support for the
24 adoption of rules established by the committee.

25 149-M:86 Solid Waste Permit Applications Suspended. The department shall not issue any
26 permit approvals that authorize new capacity for major solid waste disposal facilities until rules are
27 adopted by the committee or until July 1, 2027, whichever is later.

28 2 New Subparagraph; Solid Waste Evaluation Committee Fund. Amend RSA 6:12, I(b) by
29 inserting after subparagraph (410) the following new subparagraph:

30 (411) Moneys deposited in the solid waste evaluation committee fund as established
31 in RSA 149-M:84.

32 3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

**SB 536-FN- FISCAL NOTE
AS INTRODUCED**

AN ACT relative to the solid waste facility site evaluation committee.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Estimated State Impact				
	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$10,000 to \$150,000	\$10,000 to \$150,000
<i>Revenue Fund(s)</i>	Solid Waste Evaluation Committee Fund			
Expenditures*	\$0	\$0	Indeterminable Increase \$10,000 to \$150,000	Indeterminable Increase \$10,000 to \$150,000
<i>Funding Source(s)</i>	Solid Waste Evaluation Committee Fund			
Appropriations*	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<i>Funding Source(s)</i>	None			

***Expenditure = Cost of bill**

***Appropriation = Authorized funding to cover cost of bill**

METHODOLOGY:

This bill establishes a Solid Waste Site Evaluation Committee (SWSEC) to review applications for major solid waste disposal facilities, requires the Department of Environmental Services (DES) to provide administrative support, and creates a non-lapsing Solid Waste Evaluation Committee Fund to receive certificate application fees. The bill also suspends approvals for new capacity for major solid waste disposal facilities until SWSEC rules are adopted or July 1, 2027, whichever is later.

The Department of Environmental Services states this bill establishes a Solid Waste Site Evaluation Committee and requires the Department to assist the committee with administrative, rulemaking, and enforcement responsibilities. The bill also creates a Solid Waste Evaluation Committee Fund to receive application fees for certificates issued by the committee. The Department estimates revenue from certificate application fees will likely range between \$10,000 and \$150,000 per application beginning in FY 2028, with similar amounts possible in subsequent fiscal years depending on the number and size of projects reviewed. All fee revenue would be deposited into the newly established dedicated fund and used to support the committee’s activities.

The Department indicates there will be no fiscal impact to counties or municipalities because the definition of “major solid waste disposal facility” excludes facilities designed to manage food

waste and facilities proposed by municipalities. The bill does not provide new funding or position authorization for DES to fulfill its responsibilities. As a result, the Department will redirect existing staff resources to support the SWSEC, which may reduce capacity for other permitting or oversight activities within the Waste Management Division.

Additionally, the Solid Waste Site Evaluation Committee would incur expenses for member compensation, reimbursements, administrative support, and operational costs. These expenses would be paid from the Solid Waste Evaluation Committee Fund established in the bill. All money in the fund is continually appropriated to the committee for its operations. The total expenditures are indeterminable but would not exceed what the fund brings in.

It is assumed that the terms “solid waste site evaluation” and “solid waste evaluation” are used interchangeably throughout the bill.

AGENCIES CONTACTED:

Department of Environmental Services