

HB 1107 - AS INTRODUCED

2026 SESSION

26-2534

09/05

HOUSE BILL **1107**

AN ACT enabling municipal budget committees to have alternate members.

SPONSORS: Rep. Vallone, Rock. 5; Rep. Cloutier, Sull. 6; Rep. Horrigan, Straf. 10; Rep. Muns, Rock. 29; Rep. Simpson, Rock. 33; Rep. Turer, Rock. 6; Rep. Vose, Rock. 5; Sen. Altschiller, Dist 24

COMMITTEE: Municipal and County Government

ANALYSIS

This bill allows for municipal budget committees to have between one and 3 alternate members, who are appointed by the budget committee to one year terms.

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Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.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 enabling municipal budget committees to have alternate members.

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

1 1 Municipal Budget Law; Budget Committee. Amend RSA 32:14, IV to read as follows:

2 IV. If the vote is favorable, the town or district shall at that same meeting vote, by ballot or
3 other means, determine the number of members-at-large, **or the number of alternate members-**
4 **at-large, if applicable**, as provided in RSA 32:15, I **and II**, and whether they shall be elected or
5 appointed by the moderator, **or appointed by the budget committee pursuant to RSA 32:15, II.**

6 2 Budget Committee; Membership. Amend RSA 32:15 to read as follows:

7 32:15 Budget Committee Membership.

8 I. The budget committee shall consist of:

9 (a) Three to 12 members-at-large, who may be either elected or appointed by the
10 moderator, as the town or district adopting the provisions of this subdivision shall by vote determine,
11 who shall serve staggered terms of 3 years; and

12 (b) One member of the governing body of the municipality and, if the municipality is a
13 town, one member of the school board of each school district wholly within the town and one member
14 of each village district wholly within the town, all of whom shall be appointed by their respective
15 boards to serve for a term of one year and until their successors are qualified. Each such member
16 may be represented by an alternate member designated by the respective board, who shall, when
17 sitting, have the same authority as the regular member.

18 II. **The budget committee may also consist of one to 3 alternate members-at-large if**
19 **the town or district adopting the provisions of this subdivision shall, by vote, so determine.**
20 **Alternate members-at-large shall be appointed by the budget committee, shall serve terms**
21 **of one year, and shall have the same authority as a regular member when sitting.**

22 III. If the meeting decides that members-at-large are to be appointed, the staggering of
23 terms shall begin that same year, with 1/3 of such members chosen to hold office for one year, 1/3 for
24 2 years, and 1/3 for 3 years, and each year thereafter 1/3 shall be chosen for terms of 3 years and
25 until their successors are appointed and qualified. If the number of members-at-large is not divisible
26 by 3, the division shall be as even as possible over the 3 years. All such appointments shall be made
27 within 30 days after the annual meeting.

28 ~~III.~~ IV. If the meeting decides members-at-large are to be elected, the meeting shall either
29 elect the initial members for one-year terms by means other than by official ballot, or shall authorize
30 the moderator to appoint members to serve until the next annual meeting, as provided in RSA
31 669:17. Elections for staggered terms, as described in paragraph II, shall not begin until that next

1 annual meeting, and shall be by official ballot if the municipality has adopted the official ballot
2 system, as set forth in RSA 669.

3 ~~[IV.]~~ **V.** A town or district which has adopted this subdivision may vote at any subsequent
4 annual meeting to change the number or manner of selection of its members-at-large **or change the**
5 **number of its alternate members-at-large.** No such change shall take effect until the annual
6 meeting following the meeting at which the change was adopted.

7 ~~[V.]~~ **VI.** No selectman, town manager, member of the school board, village district
8 commissioner, full-time employee, or part-time department head of the town, school district or
9 village district or other associated agency shall serve as a member-at-large **or alternate member-**
10 **at-large.** Every member-at-large **and alternate member-at-large** shall be domiciled in the town
11 or district adopting this subdivision and shall cease to hold office immediately upon ceasing to be so
12 domiciled.

13 ~~[VI.]~~ **VII.** One of the members-at-large shall be elected by the budget committee as chair.
14 The committee may elect other officers as it sees fit. A member-at-large **or alternate member-at-**
15 **large** shall cease to hold office immediately upon missing 4 consecutive scheduled or announced
16 meetings of which that member received reasonable notice, without being excused by the chair.

17 ~~[VII.]~~ **VIII.** In municipalities where members-at-large are appointed, the chair shall notify
18 the moderator immediately upon the occurrence of any vacancy in the membership-at-large, and the
19 vacancy shall be filled by appointment by the moderator within 5 days of such notification, otherwise
20 by the budget committee. In municipalities where members-at-large are elected, vacancies shall be
21 filled by appointment by the budget committee. Persons appointed to fill vacancies shall serve until
22 the next annual meeting at which time a successor shall be elected or appointed to either fill the
23 unexpired term or start a new term, as the case may be.

24 **IX. In municipalities where alternate members-at-large are appointed, the chair**
25 **shall notify the budget committee at the next regularly scheduled meeting upon the**
26 **occurrence of any vacancy in the alternate membership-at-large, and the vacancy shall be**
27 **filled by appointment by the budget committee.**

28 3 Town Elections; Filling of Vacancies; Municipal Budget Committee. Amend RSA 669:71 to
29 read as follows:

30 669:71 Municipal Budget Committee. Vacancies on the municipal budget committee shall be
31 filled in accordance with RSA 32:15, ~~[VII]~~ **VIII.**

32 4 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.