

HB 1134 - AS INTRODUCED

2026 SESSION

26-2296

07/08

HOUSE BILL **1134**

AN ACT relative to the town meeting form of local governance.

SPONSORS: Rep. Pauer, Hills. 36; Rep. Berezchny, Graf. 11; Rep. DeRoy, Straf. 3; Rep. Erf, Hills. 28; Rep. Granger, Straf. 2; Rep. Litchfield, Rock. 32; Rep. Nalevanko, Ches. 9; Rep. Ammon, Hills. 42; Rep. Lascelles, Hills. 14; Rep. Harvey-Bolia, Belk. 3; Sen. Avard, Dist 12; Sen. Murphy, Dist 16

COMMITTEE: Municipal and County Government

ANALYSIS

This bill determines the order in which total appropriations in warrant articles accumulate for purposes of determining when a warrant article will trigger an override vote of a local tax or budget cap.

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Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.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 town meeting form of local governance.

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

1 1 Towns, Cities, Village Districts, and Unincorporated Places; Proceedings; Consideration of
2 Warrant Articles. Amend RSA 40:11 to read as follows:

3 40:11 Consideration of Warrant Articles.

4 ***I.*** Every article included in a warrant for a town meeting shall be acted upon before final
5 adjournment of the town meeting.

6 ***II.*** *If voting on a warrant article requires the use of a ballot by statute, the*
7 *moderator shall ensure the warrant article is acted upon by conducting a "yes-no" ballot*
8 *vote for that warrant article.*

9 ***III.*** *In determining when an appropriation in a warrant article will attempt to*
10 *override a local tax cap pursuant to RSA 32:5-b or budget cap pursuant to RSA 32:5-e or*
11 *RSA 32:5-g, or when an appropriation in a warrant article will exceed the 10 percent*
12 *limitation on expenditures pursuant to RSA 32:18, total appropriations in warrant articles*
13 *approved by a legislative body shall accumulate in the order in which the warrant articles*
14 *are taken up at the annual meeting. For a town or district that uses an official ballot form*
15 *of meeting under RSA 40:13 or operates under a charter adopted pursuant to RSA 49-D,*
16 *approved appropriations for warrant articles shall accumulate in the order in which*
17 *warrant articles are approved at an annual meeting, if any, then accumulate in the order*
18 *in which warrant articles appear on an official ballot.*

19 2 Towns, Cities, Village Districts, and Unincorporated Places; Optional Form of Meeting-Official
20 Ballot Referenda; Use of Official Ballot. Amend RSA 40:13, XIII to read as follows:

21 XIII. Approval of all warrant articles shall be by simple majority except for questions which
22 require a 2/3 ***or*** 3/5 vote by law, contract, or written agreement.

23 3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.