

HB 1607-FN - AS INTRODUCED

2026 SESSION

26-2407

04/09

HOUSE BILL            ***1607-FN***

AN ACT                relative to the use and storage of road salt.

SPONSORS:            Rep. Rung, Hills. 12; Rep. Taylor, Carr. 8; Rep. J. MacDonald, Carr. 6; Rep. Ebel,  
Merr. 7; Rep. Lovett, Graf. 8; Rep. Darby, Hills. 11; Sen. Watters, Dist 4

COMMITTEE:          Public Works and Highways

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ANALYSIS

This bill prohibits unsafe chemical storage, protects water sources from contamination, and empowers the department to regulate and enforce stricter safeguards in vulnerable areas.

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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Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.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 use and storage of road salt.

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

1           1 New Section; Groundwater Contamination; Storage and Management of Snow Ice Control  
2 Chemicals. Amend RSA 485-C by inserting after section 8 the following new section:

3           485:C-8-a Storage and Management of Snow Ice Control Chemicals.

4           I. No person shall store sodium chloride, calcium chloride, magnesium chloride, or salt  
5 treated abrasives or other chemicals used for snow and ice management on road parking lots and  
6 sidewalks in such a manner or place as to subject groundwater or surface water to the risk of  
7 contamination.

8           II. The department shall issue regulations as to the place and manner of storage and  
9 management of such chemicals. Such regulations may provide additional requirements if such  
10 chemicals are to be stored and managed over or adjacent to areas where groundwater or surface  
11 water is presently or has previously been impacted by chemicals used for snow and ice management.

12          2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

**HB 1607-FN- FISCAL NOTE  
AS INTRODUCED**

AN ACT relative to the use and storage of road salt.

**FISCAL IMPACT: This bill does not provide funding, nor does it authorize new positions.**

<b>Estimated State Impact</b>				
	<b>FY 2026</b>	<b>FY 2027</b>	<b>FY 2028</b>	<b>FY 2029</b>
<b>Revenue</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<i>Revenue Fund(s)</i>	None			
<b>Expenditures*</b>	\$0	Indeterminable Increase \$10,000 to \$100,000	Indeterminable Increase \$10,000 to \$100,000	Indeterminable Increase \$10,000 to \$100,000
<i>Funding Source(s)</i>	General Fund and Various Agency Funds			
<b>Appropriations*</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<i>Funding Source(s)</i>	None			

\*Expenditure = Cost of bill

\*Appropriation = Authorized funding to cover cost of bill

<b>Estimated Political Subdivision Impact</b>				
	<b>FY 2026</b>	<b>FY 2027</b>	<b>FY 2028</b>	<b>FY 2029</b>
<b>County Revenue</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>County Expenditures</b>	\$0	Indeterminable Increase \$10,000 to \$500,000	Indeterminable Increase \$10,000 to \$500,000	Indeterminable Increase \$10,000 to \$500,000
<b>Local Revenue</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Local Expenditures</b>	\$0	Indeterminable Increase \$10,000 to \$500,000	Indeterminable Increase \$10,000 to \$500,000	Indeterminable Increase \$10,000 to \$500,000

**METHODOLOGY:**

This bill adds a new section to RSA 485-C prohibiting the storage of road salt and other snow and ice control chemicals in a manner that risks groundwater or surface water contamination. The bill requires the Department of Environmental Services (DES) to adopt rules governing storage and management practices and authorizes additional requirements in areas where contamination is present.

The DES states this bill will increase State expenditures by an indeterminable amount. DES states that although the development of administrative rules can be completed by existing staff, the primary cost of the bill stems from enforcing those rules once adopted. Enforcement may include reviewing self-reports, conducting inspections, and issuing administrative orders or fines. DES notes that the extent of enforcement activity cannot be estimated because there is no statewide inventory of salt storage facilities. Because the scope of enforcement is unknown, DES cannot determine whether existing staff can absorb the workload or whether an additional entry-level position would be needed. If a new position is required, DES estimates enforcement-related costs would fall within the range of \$10,000 to \$100,000 annually.

Additionally, DES states county and municipal expenditures may increase because local public works and highway departments that do not currently meet proper de-icing storage standards may need to upgrade or construct compliant de-icing storage structures. DES notes that storage facility costs vary significantly, with large barns potentially exceeding \$500,000 and smaller pole barns costing less than \$50,000. Many entities may already comply with anticipated standards, but the number of required upgrades is unknown.

The Department of Justice states the bill may increase enforcement-related workload if violations occur. DOJ anticipates only occasional enforcement actions and states that expenditures are indeterminable but could be less than \$10,000 per year and absorbed within existing resources.

**AGENCIES CONTACTED:**

Department of Environmental Services and Department of Justice