



FOR THE CONSENT CALENDAR

**ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

**SB 227-FN**, relative to site setbacks for landfills.

Re-refer to Committee, Vote 4-1.

Senator Howard Pearl for the committee.

SB 227-FN requires site-specific setbacks for new landfills near perennial rivers, lakes and coastal waters in New Hampshire. Applicants must fund independent hydrogeological studies to determine groundwater seepage rates, ensuring contaminated groundwater does not reach water bodies within five years. The bill mandates a minimum setback of either this calculated distance or 200 feet, whichever is greater. It also establishes soil permeability requirements, mandates subsurface investigations, and requires landfill facilities to maintain 24/7 staffing. The Department of Environmental Services estimates the bill will increase county and local expenditures by \$100,000 to \$500,000 annually, beginning in FY 2026.