

HB 629-FN - AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

7Jan2026... 2953h

2025 SESSION

25-0635

08/09

HOUSE BILL

**629-FN**

AN ACT raising the cost of a boat decal fee and allocating the funds collected by such fees to the dam maintenance fund.

SPONSORS: Rep. Leishman, Hills. 33; Rep. Harrington, Straf. 18; Rep. Ouellet, Coos 3

COMMITTEE: Resources, Recreation and Development

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AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill raises the cost of a boat decal fee and allocates the funds collected by such fees to the dam maintenance fund.

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Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.  
Matter removed from current law appears [~~in brackets and struck through.~~]  
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

*In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Five*

AN ACT raising the cost of a boat decal fee and allocating the funds collected by such fees to the dam maintenance fund.

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

1           1 New Subparagraph; Navigation; Harbors; Coast Survey; Vessel Registration and Numbering;  
2 Boat Fee Decal Required. Amend RSA 270-E:5-a, II by inserting after subparagraph (e) the  
3 following new subparagraph:

4                   (f) \$5 for each decal specified in paragraph I. The fees collected under this  
5 subparagraph shall be paid into the dam maintenance fund established under RSA 482:55.

6           2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect January 1, 2027.

**HB 629-FN- FISCAL NOTE**  
AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE (AMENDMENT # 2025-2953h)

AN ACT raising the cost of a boat decal fee and allocating the funds collected by such fees to the dam maintenance fund.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

<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	\$267,500	\$535,000	\$535,000
<i>Revenue Fund(s)</i>	Dam Maintenance Fund			
<b>Expenditures*</b>	\$0	Indeterminable Increase \$100,000 to \$267,500	Indeterminable Increase \$500,000 to \$702,500	Indeterminable Increase \$500,000 to \$737,500
<i>Funding Source(s)</i>	Dam Maintenance Fund			
<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

**METHODOLOGY:**

This bill increases the boat decal fee by \$5 and directs the additional revenue to the Dam Maintenance Fund, effective January 1, 2027.

The Department of Safety, Division of Motor Vehicles states this bill will result in an increase in state revenues beginning in FY 2027 due to the \$5 increase in the boat decal fee. The Department indicates that approximately 107,000 boat decals are issued annually. On a full-year basis, the additional \$5 per decal is expected to generate approximately \$535,000 in new revenue. Because the bill takes effect on January 1, 2027, it is assumed approximately one-half of the annual revenue, or \$267,500, will be realized in FY 2027, with a full-year impact of approximately \$535,000 in FY 2028 and each fiscal year thereafter. All additional revenue will be deposited into the Dam Maintenance Fund pursuant to RSA 482:55. The Department further states there will be no increase in state expenditures, as the fee increase can be implemented through existing registration systems and administrative processes, and any associated workload can be absorbed within existing resources.

The Department of Environmental Services (DES) states that any revenue deposited into the Dam Maintenance Fund will be allocated to dam safety needs identified by DES at any of the 275 state owned dams. This includes routine maintenance and operational activities, such as

gate inspections, mechanical repairs, and vegetation control, as well as larger rehabilitation efforts, including dam evaluation and design, reconstruction, removal, and emergency repairs. Of the 275 state owned dams, 64 are classified as high hazard, meaning failure would likely result in loss of life. Thirty four of those 64 high hazard dams are currently classified in poor condition due to inadequate discharge capacity, excessive leakage, or structural instability. DES intends to prioritize funding for these high hazard structures, which are defined as dams where failure would likely result in the loss of human life.

The Department further states this bill would not impact revenues or expenditures to counties or local municipalities, as the Dam Maintenance Fund supports the State of New Hampshire in meeting its statutory responsibilities to maintain state owned dams, impoundments, and associated property pursuant to RSA 482:55.

**AGENCIES CONTACTED:**

Department of Safety and Department of Environmental Services