

HB 1555-FN - AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

19Feb2026... 0668h

2026 SESSION

26-2830

06/08

HOUSE BILL

***1555-FN***

AN ACT

relative to the administration and enforcement of the state fire code.

SPONSORS:

Rep. Layon, Rock. 13; Rep. Popovici-Muller, Rock. 17; Rep. Sabourin dit  
Choiniere, Rock. 30; Rep. C. McGuire, Merr. 27; Rep. Polozov, Merr. 10; Sen.  
Innis, Dist 7; Sen. Murphy, Dist 16; Sen. Sullivan, Dist 18

COMMITTEE:

Executive Departments and Administration

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AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill allows the state fire marshal to hear de novo appeals of local fire chief decisions within set timelines and grants them statewide authority to approve, deny, or allow project-specific alternatives and code modifications under the state building code.

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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Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

*In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-Six*

AN ACT relative to the administration and enforcement of the state fire code.

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

1 1 New Paragraph; State Board of Fire Control; Approval of Plans for Construction or Revision of  
2 all State Buildings Required. Amend RSA 153:8-a by inserting after paragraph II the following new  
3 paragraph:

4 III. The state fire marshal shall also be responsible for hearing appeals of any decision  
5 issued by the local fire chief, or the fire chief's duly authorized subordinates, in accordance with RSA  
6 154:2, II. The state fire marshal shall hold a hearing within 40 days of the receipt of an appeal,  
7 unless an extension of time has been granted by the state fire marshal at the written request of one  
8 of the parties, and shall render a decision in writing within 30 days of the conclusion of the hearing.  
9 The review of the state fire marshal shall be de novo. The hearing shall not be bound by the formal  
10 rules of evidence, and the state fire marshal may consider the evidence in the record transmitted by  
11 the fire chief or such other relevant evidence as may be admitted by the state fire marshal. In  
12 considering the appeal, the state fire marshal may affirm, modify, or reverse any decision issued  
13 pursuant to RSA 154:2, II(b). Any party aggrieved by a decision of the state fire marshal may appeal  
14 that decision to the building code review board in accordance with RSA 155-A:11.

15 2 New Paragraph; State Building Code; Enforcement Authority. Amend RSA 155-A:7 by  
16 inserting after paragraph V the following new paragraph:

17 VI. The state fire marshal shall have the power to approve, disapprove, or allow alternative  
18 materials, design and methods of construction and equipment and code modifications to the state  
19 building code for all municipalities.

20 3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect July 2, 2026.

**HB 1555-FN- FISCAL NOTE**  
AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE (AMENDMENT #2026-0668h)

AN ACT relative to the administration and enforcement of the state fire code.

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

Estimated State Impact				
	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
<b>Revenue</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<i>Revenue Fund(s)</i>	None			
<b>Expenditures*</b>	\$0	\$199,000	\$203,000	\$212,000
<i>Funding Source(s)</i>	General 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, related to the administration and enforcement of the state fire code, states that the State Fire Marshal shall be responsible for hearing appeals of any decision issued by the local fire chief, or the fire chief's duly authorized subordinates, in accordance with RSA 154:2, II. This bill also provides for the State Fire Marshal to have the power to allow exceptions to the state building code.

The Department of Safety states this bill adds work to the Division of Fire Safety and would require two new positions (assuming a September 1, 2026 start date); a building inspector (SOC 47-08, step 3) at a cost of \$128,000 in FY 2027, \$117,000 in FY 2028, and \$122,000 in FY 2029, and an administrative assistant (SOC 43-04, step 3) at a cost of \$71,000 in FY 2027, \$86,000 in FY 2028, and \$90,000 in FY 2029. This bill provides neither authorization nor appropriation for new personnel.

This bill is not expected to impact county and local revenue or expenditures.

**AGENCIES CONTACTED:**

Department of Safety and New Hampshire Municipal Association