

HB 1134 - AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

5Mar2026... 0204h

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

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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.

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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Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.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 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, ***which shall include satisfying all provisions for debate***  
6 ***pursuant to RSA 40:7.***

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

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

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

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

24 3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.