

**SB 527 - VERSION ADOPTED BY BOTH BODIES**

03/05/2026 0766s

2026 SESSION

26-2152

08/09

SENATE BILL **527**

AN ACT relative to written notice provided by state agencies to municipalities regarding pending applications.

SPONSORS: Sen. Lang, Dist 2; Sen. Pearl, Dist 17; Sen. Watters, Dist 4; Sen. Sullivan, Dist 18; Sen. Murphy, Dist 16; Sen. Innis, Dist 7

COMMITTEE: Executive Departments and Administration

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ANALYSIS

This bill broadens the scope of what comprises notice from first class mail to all written forms of notice.

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Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

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

AN ACT relative to written notice provided by state agencies to municipalities regarding pending applications.

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

1 1 Notice to Municipalities. Amend RSA 541-A:39, I-II to read as follows:

2 I. In addition to any other requirements imposed by this chapter, each agency shall ~~[give]~~  
3 **ensure written** notice **is provided** to and afford all affected municipalities reasonable opportunity  
4 to submit data, views, or comments with respect to the issuance of a permit, license, or any action  
5 within its boundaries that directly affects the municipality. Such actions shall include those which  
6 may have an effect on land use, land development, or transportation; those which would result in the  
7 operation of a business; or those which would have an immediate fiscal impact on the municipality or  
8 require the provision of additional municipal services.

9 II. Each agency shall ~~[give notice by first class mail]~~ **ensure written notice is provided** to  
10 the town or city clerk. **Written notice may be provided by electronic mail unless the town or**  
11 **city clerk notifies the state agency that it objects to notice by electronic mail. If the town or**  
12 **city clerk objects to written notice being provided by electronic mail, then written notice**  
13 **shall be provided by first class mail. Each state agency using electronic mail for written**  
14 **notice shall keep an up-to-date list of electronic mail addresses for each town or city clerk**  
15 **and a list of those towns or cities that object to electronic mail written notice.**

16 2 New Hampshire Rivers Management and Protection Program; State Action; Notification of  
17 Rivers Coordinator; Petition for Review. Amend RSA 483:12-a, I-I-a to read as follows:

18 I. Any state agency considering any action affecting any river or segment designated under  
19 this chapter shall ~~[notify]~~ **ensure that** the rivers coordinator and the local river management  
20 advisory committee **are notified** prior to taking any such action. Such agency shall forward to the  
21 rivers coordinator and the local river management advisory committee for review and comment  
22 copies of all notices of public hearings, or, where a public hearing is not required, **shall ensure that**  
23 a copy of the application for issuance of a permit, certificate, or license within the designated river or  
24 corridor under RSA 485-C, RSA 485-A, RSA 483-B, RSA 12-E, RSA 270:12, RSA 482, RSA 482-A **is**  
25 **provided**, except notifications for minimum impact activities under RSA 482-A:3, V and XII and for  
26 routine roadway maintenance under RSA 482-A:3, XVI on land used for agricultural purposes, RSA  
27 149-M, RSA 430, or RSA 147-A. If an agency is notified by the rivers coordinator that a proposed  
28 activity would violate a protection measure under RSA 483:9, 483:9-a, 483:9-aa, or 483:9-b, such  
29 agency shall deny the application.

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1 I-a. State agencies shall develop, in conjunction with the rivers coordinator and the local  
2 river management advisory committees, the procedure by which the ~~[state shall notify the]~~  
3 appropriate local river management advisory committee **is notified** when state action is being  
4 considered which affects a designated river.

5 3 Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act; Permit Required; Exemption. Amend RSA 483-B:5-  
6 b, IV-a to read as follows:

7 IV-a. ~~[At the time of the permit application, the]~~ **The** applicant shall provide postal receipts  
8 or copies, verifying that the governing body of the municipality or municipalities in which the  
9 property is located and the local river management advisory committee, if the project is within a  
10 designated river corridor defined in RSA 483:4, XVIII and contains river and river segments  
11 designated in RSA 483:15, and all abutters have been notified of the application by certified mail.  
12 Applicants for the construction of public roads, public utility lines and associated structures and  
13 facilities, and public water access facilities shall only be required to provide postal receipts or copies,  
14 verifying that the governing body of the municipality or municipalities in which the property is  
15 located, and the local river management advisory committee if the project is within a designated  
16 river corridor defined in RSA 483:4, XVIII and contains river and river segments designated in RSA  
17 483:15, have been notified of the application by certified mail.

18 4 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.