

CHAPTER 45
HB 610-FN - FINAL VERSION

7Jan2026... 3076h
03/12/2026 1056s

2026 SESSION

25-0346
07/06

HOUSE BILL ***610-FN***

AN ACT relative to the residential ratepayers advisory board.

SPONSORS: Rep. Berry, Hills. 44; Rep. Tom Mannion, Hills. 1; Rep. McFarlane, Graf. 18; Rep. Osborne, Rock. 2; Rep. Sweeney, Rock. 25; Rep. Alexander Jr., Hills. 29

COMMITTEE: Executive Departments and Administration

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill makes changes to the composition and objectives of the residential ratepayers advisory board.

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 Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.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 the residential ratepayers advisory board.

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

1 45:1 Public Utilities; Support Personnel to Commission; Residential Ratepayers Advisory Board.

2 RSA 363:28-a is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

3 363:28-a Residential Ratepayers Advisory Board.

4 I. There is established the residential ratepayers advisory board which shall provide oversight of
5 the office of the consumer advocate as established by RSA 363:28 and ensure that the consumer
6 advocate shall focus exclusively on assuring that residential utility customers receive safe and reliable
7 service at the lowest possible cost while maximizing customer freedom and autonomy. The advisory
8 board shall consist of the following public members:

9 (a) Three members appointed by the speaker of the house. One shall represent the interests
10 of residential ratepayers; one shall represent the interests of the elderly; and one shall be a member of the
11 public.

12 (b) Three members appointed by the senate president. One shall represent the interests of
13 residential ratepayers; one shall represent the interests of the disabled; and one shall represent
14 environmental concerns.

15 (c) Three members appointed by the governor and council. One shall represent the interests
16 of persons of low income; one shall represent the interests of small business owners; and one shall
17 represent the interests of residents of low-income housing.

18 II. Members shall serve 3-year terms. In the event of death or resignation of any member of the
19 advisory board, the person or entity that made the original appointment shall appoint a successor, and the
20 successor appointed to the vacancy shall serve for the remainder of the unexpired term. The members of
21 the board shall receive no compensation but shall be entitled to reimbursement for mileage at the same
22 rate provided for state employees.

23 III. The board shall elect annually a chairperson from among its membership.

24 IV. The board shall receive administrative support from the office of the consumer advocate.

25 V.(a) The board shall meet at least quarterly and at the call of the chairperson or 3 board
26 members. The consumer advocate shall be present for all board meetings to inform the board of the
27 actions of the office of the consumer advocate and to respond to the board's inquiries.

28 (b) Except as pertains to any end user of an excepted local exchange carrier or services
29 provided to such end user, the board shall advise the consumer advocate on matters concerning
30 residential ratepayers.

31 (c) Prior to the expiration of the consumer advocate's term, the board shall recommend to the
32 governor and council whether to reappoint the consumer advocate. If the board does not recommend

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1 reappointment or the governor and council do not accept the board's recommendation to reappoint, the
2 board shall then recommend 3 persons to the governor and council to fill the position.

3 (d) After providing notice and opportunity for a hearing to the consumer advocate, the
4 oversight board may by two-thirds vote recommend that the governor seek the removal of the consumer
5 advocate for failure to discharge the powers, duties, and limitations set forth in RSA 363:28. A failure to
6 discharge the powers, duties, and limitations set forth in RSA 363:28 shall be deemed adequate grounds
7 for removal of the consumer advocate pursuant to RSA 4:1, and a removal recommendation from the
8 oversight board shall be deemed a petition to the governor and council within the meaning of RSA 4:1, II.

9 45:2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 90 days after its passage.

Approved: May 08, 2026
Effective Date: August 06, 2026

