

CHAPTER 231
HB 1555-FN - FINAL VERSION

19Feb2026... 0668h
05/07/2026 1650s

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

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.

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 Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.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 administration and enforcement of the state fire code.

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

1 231:1 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 issued by
5 the local fire chief, or the fire chief's duly authorized subordinates, in accordance with RSA 154:2, II. The
6 state fire marshal shall hold a hearing within 40 days of the receipt of an appeal, unless an extension of
7 time has been granted by the state fire marshal at the written request of one of the parties, and shall
8 render a decision in writing within 30 days of the conclusion of the hearing. The review of the state fire
9 marshal shall be de novo. The hearing shall not be bound by the formal rules of evidence, and the state
10 fire marshal may consider the evidence in the record transmitted by the fire chief or such other relevant
11 evidence as may be admitted by the state fire marshal. In considering the appeal, the state fire marshal
12 may affirm, modify, or reverse any decision issued pursuant to RSA 154:2, II(b). Any party aggrieved by a
13 decision of the state fire marshal may appeal that decision to the building code review board in
14 accordance with RSA 155-A:11.

15 231:2 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 building
19 code for all municipalities.

20 231:3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect July 1, 2027.

Approved: July 02, 2026
Effective Date: July 01, 2027

