

Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee

Jessica Bourque 271-2104

HB 244, updating and recodifying the municipal enforcement of the building and fire code.

Hearing Date: March 3, 2026

Time Opened: 10:20 a.m.

Time Closed: 10:28 a.m.

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Gray, Lang, Rochefort and Long

Members of the Committee Absent: Senator Perkins Kwoka

Bill Analysis: This bill reorganizes the state building and fire code by repealing it from certain parts of the RSA and reenacting it with some modifications to another part of the RSA.

This bill makes some grammar and spelling corrections.

Sponsors:

Rep. C. McGuire

Rep. Erf

Sen. Murphy

Sen. Pearl

Who supports the bill: Philip Sherman (Building Code Review Board), Phillip Jasak (NH Home Builders Association)

Who opposes the bill: Jennifer Favreau, Daniel Richardson, Tami Lanzillo Zeimetz

Summary of testimony presented:

Representative John Sellers introduced the bill on behalf of the Prime Sponsor.

Phillip Jasak, NH Home Builders Association

- Support this bill.
- This will gather many codes scattered across the RSAs and consolidate them into a single RSA location.

Philip Sherman, Building Code Review Board

- There has been a lot of confusion in the field because many building inspectors also serve as zoning officials in small towns.

- This bill aims to move all statutes related to building codes, known as the "670 Series," and zoning to RSA 155-A.
- Worked with the NH Municipal Association and with the Building Official Association without objection on this bill.
- Includes a minor amendment that corrects some incorrect cross-references.
- It is important that this bill takes effect on July 1st because a couple of other bills become effective on the same day, and they are synchronized.

Senator Gray asked Mr. Sherman to review the changes to the amendment he brought in.

Mr. Sherman explained the parts of the amendment:

- Part 4 updates the reference from 674:51 to 155-A and replaces “building inspector” with “building official”.
- Part 7 corrects the reference to RSA 155-A:1 in the bill and clarifies that it is specific to part XI of that RSA.
- Part 8 does the same as Part 7, clarifying that it specifically refers to Part XI of RSA 155-A:1.
- Part 8 also updates the reference to 674:51, which is being removed, and adds the new statute.

Senator Long asked if this would affect sprinkler suppression.

Mr. Sherman explained that this bill's goal is not to make any material changes but to consolidate everything into a single section of the statutes. Most of the “670 Series” are holdovers from before 2002, when each municipality had its own codes. The bill clarifies that local municipalities do not adopt building codes, they amend the state code. Regarding the sprinklers, there is another bill, HB 1004, that aims to change the sprinkler requirements, but there is nothing about that in this bill.