

HB 1262 - AS INTRODUCED

2022 SESSION

22-2299

11/04

HOUSE BILL **1262**

AN ACT commemorating the 250th anniversary of the Pine Tree Riot.

SPONSORS: Rep. Hopper, Hills. 2; Rep. Cushman, Hills. 2; Rep. Burt, Hills. 39; Sen. Ward,
Dist 8; Sen. Avard, Dist 12

COMMITTEE: Executive Departments and Administration

ANALYSIS

This bill requires the governor to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the Pine Tree Riot.

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Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.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

AN ACT commemorating the 250th anniversary of the Pine Tree Riot.

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

1 1 Legislative Findings. In 1767, John Wentworth was appointed governor of New Hampshire.
2 He saw great financial gain by enforcing a long ignored law that designated all white pine trees over
3 one foot in diameter as reserved for the British royal navy. The new taxes and fines made it difficult
4 to clear land for houses or to make money logging. When the surveyors found violators in Weare
5 who refused to pay the fines, the sheriff of Hillsborough County was sent to Weare with a warrant in
6 hand. A year before the Boston tea party, in an "appeal to heaven" on the morning of April 14, 1772,
7 Ebenezer Mudgett and over 20 men from Weare attacked the sheriff and his deputy. With switches
8 in hand they beat the 2 men severely and sent them on their way. The sheriff, Sheriff Whitting,
9 later said "they almost killed me." Mudgett and his cohorts later received light fines from a
10 sympathetic court for their actions demonstrating that British rule was able to be defied. It is
11 believed that this precursor event helped to embolden the patriots of the Boston tea party.

12 2 The 250th Anniversary of the Pine Tree Riot. The governor shall issue a proclamation calling
13 for proper observance of April 14, 2022 as the 250th anniversary of the Pine Tree Riot, and shall call
14 on the citizens and schools of New Hampshire to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and
15 activities.

16 3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect upon its passage.