

HB 1555-FN - AS INTRODUCED

2022 SESSION

22-2354

04/11

HOUSE BILL

1555-FN

AN ACT

repealing the permit required for fires at campgrounds.

SPONSORS:

Rep. Burt, Hills. 39; Rep. Steven Smith, Sull. 11; Rep. Notter, Hills. 21; Rep. Leishman, Hills. 24; Rep. Pearl, Merr. 26; Rep. Avellani, Carr. 5; Rep. Hill, Merr. 3; Rep. Nunez, Hills. 37; Rep. Groen, Straf. 23; Rep. Piemonte, Rock. 4; Sen. Avar, Dist 12; Sen. Gannon, Dist 23; Sen. Reagan, Dist 17

COMMITTEE:

Resources, Recreation and Development

ANALYSIS

This bill removes the permit requirement for camp fires.

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Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.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 repealing the permit required for fires at campgrounds.

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

1 1 Woodland Fire Control; Permits; Damages; Penalties. Amend RSA 227-L:17, IV to read as
2 follows:

3 IV. Camp or cooking fires may be kindled only with written permission of the landowner or
4 the landowner's agent [~~and written permission of the forest fire warden of the town in which the fire~~
5 ~~is to be kindled~~] and only at suitable times and in suitable places when the fire will not endanger
6 woodlands; except in such towns as have adopted bylaws or regulations equally as stringent as
7 provided in this paragraph. Camp or cooking fires may be built without written permission on
8 public camp or picnic grounds when such areas are open for public use or private camp and picnic
9 places where suitable fireplaces approved by the forest fire warden are provided for such fires. As
10 used in this paragraph, a camp or cooking fire shall be a small fire suitable for cooking purposes
11 used in connection with camp, picnic or lunch purposes and does not include the burning of
12 household rubbish, or large amounts of brush or other flammable material. Whoever shall kindle or
13 cause to be kindled any such fire or use an abandoned fire in or near woodlands shall totally
14 extinguish the same before leaving it and, upon failure to do so, such person or persons shall be
15 subject to the same liabilities and penalties as prescribed in this section.

16 2 Repeal. RSA 216-I:9, V, requiring recreational campground or camping park owners to obtain
17 a fire permit, is repealed.

18 3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

**HB 1555-FN- FISCAL NOTE
AS INTRODUCED**

AN ACT repealing the permit required for fires at campgrounds.

FISCAL IMPACT: ☒ State ☐ County ☐ Local ☐ None

STATE:	Estimated Increase / (Decrease)			
	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
Appropriation	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Expenditures	\$11,100	\$0	\$0	\$0
Funding Source:	☒ General ☐ Education ☐ Highway ☐ Other			

METHODOLOGY:

The Department of Natural and Cultural Resources states this bill would eliminate the requirement of a permit for all camping and cooking fires, which would require the reprinting of fire permits, brochures, posters, and other materials to reflect the law change. The Department estimates this would cost approximately \$11,100. It is assumed since this bill is effective 60 days after passage, expenditures would be incurred in FY 2022. There will be no impact on county and local revenue or expenditures.

AGENCIES CONTACTED:

Department of Natural and Cultural Resources and New Hampshire Municipal Association