

Amendment to HB 542-FN-A

1 Amend RSA 48-A:15-b as inserted by section 2 of the bill by replacing it with the following:

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3 482-A:15-b Wetlands Regulations Fund.

4 I. There is hereby established within the office of the state treasurer the wetlands
5 regulations fund. This fund shall be administered by the office of strategic initiatives and shall be
6 nonlapsing and continually appropriated to the office of strategic initiatives. Grants and donations
7 from federal and private sources may be deposited in this fund. The fund shall be used to assist
8 municipalities in updating or adopting wetlands regulations.

9 II. A municipality may apply to the office of strategic initiatives for a grant from the
10 wetlands regulations fund in order to update or adopt municipal wetlands regulations. Priority
11 shall be given to requests in the following order:

12 (a) Municipalities that work with a regional planning commission.

13 (b) Municipalities that have no wetlands regulations.

14 (c) Municipalities that have identified a critical need for wetlands protection.

15 (d) Municipalities with wetlands regulations that need updating.

16 III. Applications shall be accepted on a revolving basis. The director of the office of
17 strategic initiatives shall respond to the request within 30 days of its receipt.

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19 Amend the bill by replacing section 3 with the following:

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21 3 Appropriation. The sum of \$350,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020 is hereby
22 appropriated to the office of strategic initiatives to be deposited in the wetlands regulations fund.
23 From this amount, \$300,000 shall be used for distributing grants to municipalities adopting or
24 updating municipal wetlands regulations, and \$50,000 shall be used by the office of strategic
25 initiatives to update the "Guidebook on Buffers and Surface Waters for New Hampshire
26 Municipalities" and to create a model wetlands ordinance. This appropriation is in addition to any
27 other funds appropriated to the office of strategic initiatives. The governor is authorized to draw a
28 warrant for said sum out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.