

SB 215 - VERSION ADOPTED BY BOTH BODIES

5Jun2025... 2326h

2025 SESSION

25-1062

07/08

SENATE BILL **215**

AN ACT establishing voting procedures for electing town officers in unorganized towns or places.

SPONSORS: Sen. McConkey, Dist 3; Sen. Lang, Dist 2; Sen. Birdsell, Dist 19; Rep. J. Smith, Carr. 5; Rep. Hill, Merr. 2

COMMITTEE: Election Law and Municipal Affairs

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill establishes voting procedures for electing town officers in unorganized towns or places.

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 Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.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

AN ACT establishing voting procedures for electing town officers in unorganized towns or places.

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

1 1 Elections; Unincorporated Places; Establishing Procedures for Voting. RSA 668:6 is repealed
2 and reenacted to read as follows:

3 668:6 Establishing Procedures for Voting.

4 I. The secretary of state or designee shall issue a warrant, post the warrant in the manner
5 required for towns by RSA 39:5, give other public notice, appoint a pro tem moderator and clerk from
6 among the registered voters, and oversee the first election of officers for an unorganized town or
7 unincorporated place for the purpose of conducting local, county, state, and federal elections,
8 pursuant to RSA 53:1. This initial election shall be conducted using the unofficial ballot process as
9 set forth in RSA 669:54 through RSA 669:60. The secretary of state shall exercise this authority
10 whenever the number of voters domiciled in an unorganized town or unincorporated place which has
11 not organized for voting pursuant to RSA 53:1, as recorded in the statewide voter registration
12 system, reaches 100 or more voters.

13 II. The following question shall be included in the warrant for the first meeting and shall be
14 voted on at that meeting:

15 “Shall (insert name of the unorganized town or unincorporated place), when electing the officers
16 who will conduct future elections, use an official ballot voting process in the same manner as a town
17 as specified in RSA 669:19 through RSA 669:29? A “no” vote is a vote to use the unofficial ballot
18 process in the same manner as a town as specified in RSA 669:54 through RSA 669:60 (nominations
19 from the floor and voting at a meeting).”

20 III. Notwithstanding RSA 53:1, III, if the secretary of state is unable to appoint pro tem
21 election officers and oversee a local election held at least 90 days prior to a state election due to a
22 lack of suitable qualified volunteers, the secretary may designate a town as the polling place for the
23 upcoming state elections in accordance with RSA 668:2.

24 IV. The secretary of state may exercise the authority authorized by this section if notified
25 that vacancies in local offices for an unorganized town or unincorporated place result in the town or
26 place being unable to organize and conduct their next election without state assistance.

27 2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.