

HB 475-LOCAL - FINAL VERSION

27Mar2025... 0600h

2025 SESSION

25-0738
02/05

HOUSE BILL

475-LOCAL

AN ACT relative to the reductions from the default budget for official ballot town meetings.

SPONSORS: Rep. Dunn, Rock. 16; Rep. Alexander Jr., Hills. 29; Rep. Ankarberg, Straf. 7; Rep. Aures, Merr. 13; Rep. Perez, Rock. 16; Rep. Colcombe, Hills. 30; Rep. DeRoy, Straf. 3; Rep. Pauer, Hills. 36; Rep. Harvey-Bolia, Belk. 3; Rep. Wood, Merr. 13

COMMITTEE: Municipal and County Government

ANALYSIS

 This bill alters the definition of default budget to include salary and benefit reductions which occur as a result of position turnover.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.
 Matter removed from current law appears ~~[in brackets and struck through.]~~
 Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.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 relative to the reductions from the default budget for official ballot town meetings.

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

1 1 Use of Official Ballot; Definition of Default Budget. RSA 40:13, IX(b) is repealed and reenacted to
2 read as follows:

3 (b) "Default budget" as used in this subdivision means the amount of the same
4 appropriations as contained in the operating budget authorized for the previous year, reduced and
5 increased, as the case may be, by debt service, contracts, and other obligations previously incurred by
6 law or mandated by law, and reduced by one-time expenditures contained in the operating budget, by
7 salaries and benefits of positions that have been eliminated in the proposed budget, by salaries and
8 benefits of positions that were vacant before the previous year's budget was approved and have remained
9 vacant, and reflecting the actual salary and benefits of filled positions as of the public hearing for the
10 proposed budget excluding any increases subsequent to the authorization of the previous year's operating
11 budget. For the purposes of this paragraph, one-time expenditures shall be appropriations not likely to
12 recur in the succeeding budget, and eliminated positions shall not include vacant positions under
13 recruitment unless vacant before the previous year's approved budget was approved, as determined by
14 the governing body of the local political subdivision, unless the provisions of RSA 40:14-b are adopted.
15 Any budget line item in the operating budget authorized for the previous year from which a transfer was
16 made for any one-time expenditures shall be reduced by the amount of the transfer in the default budget.
17 In calculating the default budget amount, the governing body, or the budget committee if the provisions of
18 RSA 40:14-b are adopted, shall follow the statutory formula which may result in a higher or lower amount
19 than the proposed operating budget.

20 2 Use of Official Ballot; Default Budget Disclosure; One-Time Expenditures. Amend RSA 40:13,
21 XI(a)(3) to read as follows:

22 (3) One-time expenditures, ***including reductions to line items for transfers made for one-***
23 ***time expenditures***, as defined under subparagraph IX(b); and

24 3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect January 1, 2026.

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26 VETOED July 15, 2025 | Veto Sustained December 17, 2025