

CHAPTER 187
HB 416-FN - FINAL VERSION

26Mar2025... 0191h
05/15/2025 2141s

2025 SESSION

25-0181
08/05

HOUSE BILL ***416-FN***

AN ACT prohibiting the intentional disposal of yard waste into the surface waters of the state.

SPONSORS: Rep. Rung, Hills. 12; Rep. R. Brown, Carr. 3; Rep. Crawford, Carr. 3; Rep. Ebel, Merr.
7; Rep. J. MacDonald, Carr. 6; Rep. N. Murphy, Hills. 12; Sen. Watters, Dist 4

COMMITTEE: Criminal Justice and Public Safety

ANALYSIS

This bill prohibits the intentional disposal of yard waste into the surface waters of the state and provides a penalty therefor.

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 Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

CHAPTER 187
HB 416-FN - FINAL VERSION

26Mar2025... 0191h
05/15/2025 2141s

25-0181
08/05

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Five

AN ACT prohibiting the intentional disposal of yard waste into the surface waters of the state.

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

1 187:1 Penalties; Inappropriate Disposal of Yard Waste. Amend RSA 485-A:15 to read as follows:

2 485-A:15 Penalties.

3 I. It shall be unlawful for any person to put or place, or cause to be put or placed into a surface
4 water of the state or on the ice over such waters, or on the banks of such waters, any solid waste as
5 defined in RSA 149-M or hazardous waste as defined in RSA 147-A, including but not limited to bottles,
6 glass, crockery, cans, scrap metal, junk, paper, garbage, tires, old automobiles or parts thereof, ***yard***
7 ***waste***, trees or parts thereof, or similar litter.

8 II. For any violation of this section any authorized member or agent of the department of
9 environmental services [~~shall~~] ***may*** order the immediate removal of material involved in the violation, by
10 the person responsible for the material in question. ***The authority to enforce this section shall extend to all***
11 ***peace officers in the state of New Hampshire, as defined by RSA 594:1, III.***

12 III. If the person or persons responsible for a violation of paragraph I refuse or fail to obey the
13 order of any ***peace officer or*** authorized member or agent of the department of environmental services,
14 the department of environmental services or authorized member or agency may contract for the removal
15 of the material in question and the cost of the removal shall be recoverable by the state in an action of
16 debt brought by the attorney general in the name of the state.

17 ***III-a. For a first offense, any person who purposely or recklessly violates paragraph I shall be***
18 ***guilty of a violation.***

19 IV. [Any] ***For any second or subsequent offense, any person who purposely or recklessly violates***
20 ***paragraph I shall be guilty of a misdemeanor if a natural person, or guilty of a felony if any other person.***

21 V. Any person who purposely or knowingly violates paragraph I shall be guilty of a class B felony.

22 187:2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect January 1, 2026.

Approved: July 15, 2025
Effective Date: January 01, 2026

