

HB 1027 - AS INTRODUCED

2026 SESSION

26-2386

07/08

HOUSE BILL **1027**

AN ACT subjecting appropriations of local conservation commissions to the approval of local governing bodies.

SPONSORS: Rep. Stavis, Graf. 13; Rep. Colby, Merr. 9; Rep. Fracht, Graf. 16; Rep. D. Germana, Ches. 1; Rep. Grund, Hills. 34; Rep. Maggiore, Rock. 23; Sen. Prentiss, Dist 5

COMMITTEE: Municipal and County Government

ANALYSIS

This bill subjects appropriations of local conservation commissions to the approval of local governing bodies.

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Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.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

AN ACT subjecting appropriations of local conservation commissions to the approval of local governing bodies.

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

1 1 Towns, Cities, Village Districts, And Unincorporated Places; Conservation Commissions;
2 Optional Powers. Amend RSA 36-A:4-a, I(b) to read as follows:

3 (b) Expend funds for contributions to "qualified organizations," as defined in section
4 170(h)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, for the purchase of property interests or facilitating
5 transactions relative thereto to be held by the qualified organization, when such purchase carries out
6 the purposes of this chapter, **subject to the approval of the local governing body**. Because such
7 contributions further the protection of the state's natural resources, they are hereby declared to be a
8 public purpose.

9 2 Towns, Cities, Village Districts, And Unincorporated Places; Conservation Commissions;
10 Appropriations Authorized. Amend RSA 36-A:5, I and II to read as follows:

11 I. A town or city, having established a conservation commission as authorized by RSA 36-
12 A:2, may appropriate money as deemed necessary for the purpose of this chapter, **subject to the**
13 **approval of the local governing body as may be required pursuant to RSA 36-A:4 and RSA**
14 **36-A:4-a**. The whole or any part of money so appropriated in any year and any gifts of money
15 received pursuant to RSA 36-A:4 may be placed in a conservation fund and allowed to accumulate
16 from year to year. Money may be expended from said fund by the conservation commission for the
17 purposes of this chapter without further approval of the town meeting.

18 II. The town treasurer, pursuant to RSA 41:29, shall have custody of all moneys in the
19 conservation fund and shall pay out the same only upon order of the conservation commission,
20 **subject to the approval of the local governing body as may be required pursuant to RSA 36-**
21 **A:4 and RSA 36-A:4-a**. The disbursement of conservation funds shall be authorized by a majority of
22 the conservation commission. Prior to the use of such funds for the purchase of any interest in real
23 property or for a contribution to a qualified organization for the purchase of property interests under
24 RSA 36-A:4-a, I(b), the conservation commission shall hold a public hearing with notice in
25 accordance with RSA 675:7.

26 3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.