

HB 165-FN - AS INTRODUCED

2025 SESSION

25-0138

02/06

HOUSE BILL ***165-FN***

AN ACT relative to the maximum amount of disaster relief funding provided to municipalities after a natural disaster.

SPONSORS: Rep. J. Aron, Sull. 4; Rep. Bucu, Carr. 1; Rep. Cloutier, Sull. 6; Rep. Creighton, Hills. 30; Rep. Spillane, Rock. 2; Rep. Terry, Belk. 7; Rep. C. McGuire, Merr. 27; Sen. Pearl, Dist 17; Sen. Watters, Dist 4

COMMITTEE: Municipal and County Government

ANALYSIS

 This bill increases the maximum annual amount of disaster relief funding a municipality may receive from the state disaster relief fund.

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 Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.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 relative to the maximum amount of disaster relief funding provided to municipalities after a natural disaster.

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

1 1 Homeland Security and Emergency Management; Municipal Road and Bridge Disaster Relief
2 Funding. Amend RSA 21-P:37-e to read as follows:

3 21-P:37-e Disaster Relief Procedures. A municipality may request infrastructural disaster relief
4 more than once in a calendar year, but shall not receive more than [~~\$25,000~~] **\$100,000** in grant
5 money ***from this program*** in a calendar year. Requests shall be filed with the joint legislative
6 fiscal committee within 45 days after the governor's declaration. Moneys shall be distributed from
7 the New Hampshire disaster relief fund established in RSA 21-P:46-a. The joint legislative fiscal
8 committee may decide to appropriate a lesser amount to the request based on available funding.

9 2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

**HB 165-FN- FISCAL NOTE
AS INTRODUCED**

AN ACT relative to the maximum amount of disaster relief funding provided to municipalities after a natural disaster.

FISCAL IMPACT: This bill does not provide funding.

Estimated State Impact				
	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028
Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Revenue Fund(s)	None			
Expenditures*	\$0	Indeterminable - Any increase would not exceed available funding of \$45,292		
Funding Source(s)	NH Emergency Response and Recovery Fund (RSA 21-P:46) and NH Disaster Relief Fund (RSA 21-P:46-a)			
Appropriations*	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Funding Source(s)	None			

*Expenditure = Cost of bill

*Appropriation = Authorized funding to cover cost of bill

Estimated Political Subdivision Impact				
	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028
Local Revenue	\$0	Indeterminable - Any increase would not exceed available funding of \$45,292		
Local Expenditures	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

METHODOLOGY:

This bill increases the maximum amount of disaster relief aid a municipality may receive in a calendar year under RSA 21-P:37-e from \$25,000 to \$100,000. It should be noted that RSA 21-P:37 states that any aid approved would be disbursed from the NH Disaster Relief Fund in RSA 21-P:46-a, however, RSA 21-P:46, relative to the New Hampshire Emergency Response and Recovery Fund, also allows for such use. There is no appropriation included in this bill, nor mechanism for funding to be accessed, beyond existing balances in the funds. The balances for each fund, as of June 30, 2024, is as follows:

- RSA 21-P:46, NH Emergency Response and Recovery Fund – \$0
- RSA 21-P:46-a, NH Disaster Relief Fund – \$45,292

To the extent this bill provides no new funding, and the number of requests approved cannot be predicted, any fiscal impact relative to relief aid is indeterminable.

AGENCIES CONTACTED:

Department of Safety