

HCR 8 - AS INTRODUCED

2025 SESSION

25-0462
09/02

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION **8**

A RESOLUTION urging Congress to find that the Piscataqua River and Portsmouth Harbor lie within the state of New Hampshire.

SPONSORS: Rep. Barton, Graf. 1; Rep. DeLemus, Straf. 1; Rep. Sorensen, Rock. 28; Rep. W. MacDonald, Rock. 16; Sen. Innis, Dist 7

COMMITTEE: State-Federal Relations and Veterans Affairs

ANALYSIS

This resolution urges Congress to find that the Piscataqua River and Portsmouth Harbor lie within the state of New Hampshire.

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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Five

A RESOLUTION urging Congress to find that the Piscataqua River and Portsmouth Harbor lie within the state of New Hampshire.

1 Whereas, jurisdiction and control over the whole of the Piscataqua River is and always has been
2 entirely within the county of Rockingham and this state; and

3 Whereas, complete dominion and ownership of the tidal waters and submerged lands of the
4 whole of the Piscataqua River, including Portsmouth Harbor, are solely vested in the sovereign
5 people of the state of New Hampshire, encumbered only by the national navigational servitude over
6 the river and its harbor as a navigable inland waterway and arm of the sea; and

7 Whereas, the Piscataqua River and those geographic features located within it are of immense
8 value to New Hampshire; and

9 Whereas, the state of New Hampshire holds absolute right and title to those lands submerged
10 under the navigable waters of the whole of the Piscataqua River in trust for the people of the state;
11 and

12 Whereas, the public trust in the Piscataqua River for the public use of the people of this state
13 may only be ensured by the adequate protection, management, and control by the state over the
14 entirety of the river and its submerged lands in which the whole of the people of this state are
15 interested; and

16 Whereas, the state of New Hampshire petitioned the United States Supreme Court to decide the
17 location of the boundary, the Court refused to hear the case and establish the location of the
18 boundary of the inner Piscataqua River and its harbor; and

19 Whereas, the legislative boundary commission established by 2003, 103 (HB 343) found in its
20 October 29, 2004 final report that the Piscataqua River in Portsmouth Harbor is not patrolled and
21 laws are not enforced in a manner that ensures the people of New Hampshire the utmost security
22 and protection; now, therefore, be it

23 Resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

24 That the general court finds that the inland Piscataqua river boundary between New Hampshire
25 and Maine runs along the same line at the river and that the continuing dispute on this point
26 undermines New Hampshire's ability to ensure that the state's only port of entry is adequately
27 protected; and

28 That the general court asks the New Hampshire congressional delegation to introduce legislation
29 and take such additional steps as may be necessary and appropriate to establish the location of the
30 boundary between New Hampshire and Maine in the inner Piscataqua River; and

HCR 8 - AS INTRODUCED

- Page 2 -

1 That Seavey Island and Badger Island fall within the boundaries of the state of New Hampshire,
2 and that the general court asks the New Hampshire congressional delegation to introduce legislation
3 to designate the duty stations of all Portsmouth Naval Shipyard personnel as Portsmouth, New
4 Hampshire.

5 That the general court asks the President of the United States to take such action as to
6 designate the duty stations of all Portsmouth Naval Shipyard personnel as Portsmouth, New
7 Hampshire.

8 That copies of this resolution, signed by the speaker of the house of representatives and the
9 senate president, be sent by the clerk of the house of representatives to each member of the New
10 Hampshire congressional delegation and to the President of the United States.