

HB 554 - AS INTRODUCED

2025 SESSION

25-0804

08/09

HOUSE BILL

554

AN ACT enabling municipalities to choose whether or not to place political advertising on municipal property.

SPONSORS: Rep. Andrus, Merr. 5; Rep. Kuttub, Rock. 17; Rep. Perez, Rock. 16; Rep. Rice, Hills. 38; Rep. See, Merr. 26; Rep. Sellers, Graf. 18; Rep. Turcotte, Straf. 4; Rep. H. Howard, Straf. 4; Sen. Innis, Dist 7; Sen. Pearl, Dist 17; Sen. Ward, Dist 8

COMMITTEE: Municipal and County Government

ANALYSIS

 This bill designates the authority to decide where political signs will be placed in a municipality to that municipality.

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 Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.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 enabling municipalities to choose whether or not to place political advertising on municipal property.

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

1 1 Political Advertising; Placement and Removal of Political Advertising. Amend RSA 664:17 to
2 read as follows:

3 664:17 Placement and Removal of Political Advertising. No political advertising shall be placed
4 on or affixed to any public property including highway rights-of-way or private property without the
5 owner's consent, ***except that municipalities may decide the locations of signs in that***
6 ***municipality***. All political advertising shall be removed by the candidate no later than the second
7 Friday following the election unless the election is a primary and the advertising concerns a
8 candidate who is a winner in the primary. Signs shall not be placed on or affixed to utility poles or
9 highway signs. Political advertising may be placed within state-owned rights-of-way as long as the
10 advertising does not obstruct the safe flow of traffic and the advertising is placed with the consent of
11 the owner of the land over which the right-of-way passes. No person shall remove, deface, or
12 knowingly destroy any political advertising which is placed on or affixed to public property or any
13 private property except for removal by the owner of the property, persons authorized by the owner of
14 the property, or a law enforcement officer removing improper advertising. Political advertising
15 placed on or affixed to any public property may be removed by state, city, or town maintenance or
16 law enforcement personnel. Political advertising removed prior to election day by state, city, or town
17 maintenance or law enforcement personnel shall be kept until one week after the election at a place
18 designated by the state, city, or town so that the candidate, or a member of the candidate's campaign
19 or local political committee of the same party may retrieve the items.

20 2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.