



State of New Hampshire

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CONCORD

January 25, 2026

The Honorable Diane Pauer
Chairwoman, Municipal and County Government Committee
One Granite Place, Room 154
Concord, NH 03301

RE: HB 1369, relative to the manner of posting the warrant for a special town meeting.

Dear Chairwoman Pauer and Members of the Committee:

As the prime sponsor of HB 1369 I regret that I cannot be there in person to introduce this bill before the Committee. My thanks to co-sponsor Rep. Joseph Barton for introducing it in my absence.

Town meetings are the heart of local government, a tradition that dates back centuries. However due to social and technological changes, some of our procedures need a modest update. Under current law, RSA 39:4 requires selectmen to publish a copy of the warrant in a newspaper of general circulation within one week of posting. This bill amends that to allow an alternative, posting on the town's official website instead. It's not mandatory; it's an option, giving towns flexibility based on their needs.

Why change? This exact statute caused an issue in my district for the town of Lisbon. The Selectmen posted the warrant, but did not post a copy of the entire warrant for the special town meeting in a newspaper. This proved to be a time consuming and expensive error to fix in an already time sensitive situation.

Newspapers come with added time and expense. Many people no longer regularly read a local newspaper. Particularly in rural areas newspapers may have closed, consolidated, or reduced circulation. However, nearly every household has internet access, and town websites are immediately accessible. Putting the a copy of the warrant on the town website is fast and convenient for towns and citizens. This ensures broader, more efficient notification without sacrificing transparency or public notice requirements.

We've seen similar modernizations in other states, and this aligns with New Hampshire's spirit of efficiency and fiscal responsibility. The statutory language has not changed since 1945, it's time for an update.

Thank you, if you have any questions or need any additional information please contact me at (603) 991-7301 or Calvin.Beaulier@gc.nh.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Calvin Beaulier".

Calvin Beaulier
State Representative
Grafton County, District 1