

NHLA Annual Report:

Committee: Legislative

Key developments this past year: Two bills introduced by New Hampshire representatives had potential impact on New Hampshire libraries in 2013.

HB 436 would have permitted towns to choose whether to be governed by a board of trustees or by selectmen. Sponsor Ken Weyler at a public hearing on the bill explained that it was filed on behalf of the Selectmen of Kingston who had an issue with the financial acumen of the Kingston Library Trustees. Many, including a number of NHLTA members, spoke in opposition to the bill.

HB 561 called for the abolition of the Department of Cultural Resources. After the prime sponsor of the bill spoke at a public hearing, a host of people (including NHLA Past President Lori Fisher) testified powerfully in opposition to it.

Both bills were ultimately voted Inexpedient to Legislate. NHLA lobbyist Bob Dunn was critical to our efforts to defeat these two bills. Bob was also an informative and entertaining speaker at the 2012 Annual Fall Business Meeting. Thanks to all in the New Hampshire Library community who participated in the legislative process this year.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Brough, NHLA Legislative Liaison

Laconia Public Library

Laconia, N.H.

