

Housing and Conservation Planning Program (New)

Summary: New Hampshire SB 217-FN-A

Purpose:

- ❑ This bill establishes a housing and conservation planning program in the office of energy and planning.
Signed by the Governor on 07/16/07; Effective Date 07/01/07, Chapter 0348

Sponsored by:

- ❑ Sen. Fuller Clark, Dist 24; Sen. Janeway, Dist 7; Sen. Burling, Dist 5; Sen. Kenney, Dist 3; Sen. Odell, Dist 8; Sen. Hassan, Dist 23; Sen. Cilley, Dist 6; Rep. Spang, Straf 7; Rep. Marsh, Rock 1
- ❑ Energy, Environment and Economic Development Committee

Establishment of Housing and Conservation Planning Program

- ❑ Shall be administered by the Office of Energy and Planning
- ❑ Shall provide technical assistance matching grants to municipalities to plan for growth and development in a manner that permits a balanced housing stock
- ❑ Shall promote whenever possible the reuse of existing buildings, including historic properties, while protecting communities' natural resources through more efficient and compact development
- ❑ Participation in the program is voluntary

Eligible Applicants

- ❑ Municipalities, or a group of municipalities applying together to plan on a regional basis.
- ❑ Awards of program funds may be used to purchase technical assistance from third-party technical assistance providers, including but not limited to regional planning commissions, to achieve the purposes of the program.

Program Administration

- ❑ The program shall award matching grants to fund technical assistance activities:
 - Stage 1: Natural and Historic Resource and Housing Data Gathering and Analysis
 - Stage 2: Development of the Growth and Development Strategy
 - Stage 3: Integration of Growth and Development Strategy into the Master Plan
 - Stage 4: Implementation into Regulatory Framework

Establishment of Housing and Conservation Planning Program Advisory Board

- ❑ The advisory board shall review and comment on proposed rules and scoring criteria used by the office of energy and planning to evaluate applications for matching grants.

Program Principles

- ❑ Awards of technical assistance funding shall be based on consistency with these principles:
 - Consistency with smart growth principles in RSA 9-B:3.
 - Development of a comprehensive growth and development strategy through which a municipality integrates housing and conservation planning.
 - Identification of and planning for the full range of current and future housing needs for families of all income levels, as encouraged in RSA 672:1, III-e.
 - Identification of natural and historic resource values and planning for their protection
 - Understanding the interrelationship between natural resources and housing development in a municipality and the impact each has on the other.
 - Encouragement of higher density, compact development and allowing for the infrastructure needed to support such development.
 - Integration of the growth and development strategy into the municipality's master plan and implementation into regulatory structure.
 - Encouragement of community input and education of citizens about the growth and development strategy and the need to plan for future conservation/housing growth.