



The State of New Hampshire  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner

April 1, 2015

The Honorable Jeb Bradley, Chair  
Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
Legislative Office Building, Room 305  
Concord, NH 03301

**RE: HB 281** *An act defining "exotic aquatic species of wildlife" and relative to the duties of the exotic aquatic weeds and species committee.*

Dear Chairman Christensen and Members of the Committee:

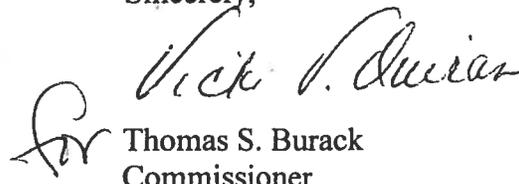
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 281. This bill would add a definition of "exotic aquatic animal" to RSA 487:16, and charge the Exotic Aquatic Weeds and Species Committee (EAWS), under RSA 487:30, to include exotic aquatic animals in the scope of the committee's work. The Department of Environmental Services (DES) supports this bill.

The EAWS Committee was established by legislation in 2004, and recently amended in 2014 to expand committee membership to include state agency personnel and a variety of stakeholder interests. EAWS Committee membership now includes a diverse mix of legislators, state agency personnel and members of the public who are interested in the management of exotic aquatic species in New Hampshire. The Committee was originally charged with studying the spread of exotic aquatic weeds and species in the waters of New Hampshire as well as ways to provide public education, exotic species control and management. Over time, EAWS Committee roles and membership have expanded along with the nature of the issues associated with exotic aquatic species.

DES supports the proposed legislation because the original intent of forming this committee was to have a standing working group to examine issues related to exotic aquatic species in general. This should logically include aquatic plants, aquatic animals, and other forms of invasive aquatic life that may be, or become, problematic in New Hampshire.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Amy Smagula ([Amy.Smagula@des.nh.gov](mailto:Amy.Smagula@des.nh.gov) or 603-271-2248) or me ([Thomas.burack@des.nh.gov](mailto:Thomas.burack@des.nh.gov) or 603-271-3449).

Sincerely,

  
Thomas S. Burack  
Commissioner

cc: Rep. Gottling, Rep. C. Christensen, Rep. Suzanne Smith, Rep. Grenier, Rep. Spang, Sen. Bradley, Sen. Little, Sen. Fuller Clark