



**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU
Governor

July 19, 2024

Governor's Veto Message Regarding House Bill 1293

By the authority vested in me, pursuant to part II, Article 44 of the New Hampshire Constitution, on July 19, 2024, I have vetoed House Bill 1293 relative to the use of certain fertilizers on turf.

Despite this bill's well-sought intention to reduce fertilizer contamination, it contains several unworkable and impractical provisions. Rather than focusing on areas close to bodies of water, this bill would restrict any citizen or business in the state from applying fertilizer to a lawn within 25 feet of a storm drain. This would put countless well-meaning families unintentionally in violation of the law when maintaining privately owned lawns. Additionally, restricting fertilizer application before a predicted heavy rain is too vague and makes families beholden to ever-changing summer weather. Not only are these and a number of other restrictions in this bill highly unreasonable, the Department of Agriculture reports that enforcement of this law would be entirely reliant on neighbors telling on neighbors rather than direct action by the agency.

If the intent of the Legislature was to reduce the impact of these fertilizers in New Hampshire water bodies, then I encourage future legislation to be more targeted toward lakes, streams, and other environmentally sensitive areas as well as include a practical mechanism for enforcement.

For the reasons stated above, I have vetoed House Bill 1293.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Clith T. Sununu".

Christopher T. Sununu
Governor