



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

CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU  
Governor

July 19, 2024

Governor's Veto Message Regarding House Bill 274

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 274 relative to the administrative rulemaking process.

This bill proposes several changes that increase bureaucracy with broad strokes and will be onerous to implement. The requirement to send a notice "to past participants in similar rulemaking proceedings" would require substantial increases of staff time for the creation and continual maintenance of a registry of anyone who has participated in the rulemaking process. Additionally, the bill does not define a "past participant." There is no provision for any participant to opt out of this notice and would require the maintenance of a past participant list well beyond any record retention policy. Notices of rules are already required to be publicly posted and interested parties can easily access them. This provision would create undue burden with no clear need or beneficial outcome.

Furthermore, this legislation would also introduce a new uncertain liability for the state with an unknown fiscal impact. It is not clear what is included in "plaintiff's legal expenses," which would apply to every agency that promulgates rules under RSA 541-A. There is no fiscal note attached to the bill, thus the cost of implementation is unknown. Any introduction of new fiscal liabilities requires thorough review and feedback to protect New Hampshire taxpayers.

For the reasons stated above, I have vetoed House Bill 274.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Christopher T. Sununu  
Governor