



New Hampshire Legislative Makeup

Role and Responsibilities

Description

The New Hampshire Legislative Branch, also known as the General Court of New Hampshire, consists of two chambers: the Senate and the House of Representatives. State Representatives and State Senators write and pass laws for the State of New Hampshire.

Senate

The New Hampshire State Senate consists of 24 members elected for 2-year terms, meeting in session at The State House beginning every January. Senators are paid \$200 plus mileage for their terms. Due to their added duties, the Senate President receives \$250 per term plus mileage.

Senate President

The State Senate President is the primary leader of the Senate body. The Senate President serves as “acting governor” whenever the governor is out of the state or otherwise unable to perform the duties of the office. The list of responsibilities the Senate President includes the following:

- Calls the chamber to order
- Presides over the Senate sessions and joint sessions of the House and Senate
- Ensures that members abide by the chamber's rules
- Oversees the legislative process
- Decides questions of order

- Recognizes speakers
- Declares votes
- Appoints committee chairs and members
- Selects the Senate majority leader
- Administers oaths

Senate President Pro Tempore

In absence of the Senate President, many of the position's roles and responsibilities are carried out by the Senate President Pro Tempore. The Senate President Pro Tempore is the second highest-ranking leadership position in the NH State Senate.

Majority Leader

The Majority Leader is selected by the party with the most elected Senators of the two major parties (a.k.a. the floor leader of the majority caucus). The majority leader is the principal speaker during debates on the Senate floor and works to promote the party's legislative agenda.

Assistant Majority Leader

The Assistant Majority Leader works with the Majority Leader to develop and implement an agenda for the majority party.

Majority Whip

The Majority Whip assists the Majority Leader in their duties by enforcing party discipline on votes deemed to be crucial by the party leadership and ensuring that members do not vote in a way not approved of by the party.

Deputy Majority Whip

The Deputy Majority Whip assists the Majority Whip in their duties of enforcing party discipline on votes deemed to be crucial by the party leadership and ensuring that members do not vote in a way not approved of by the party.

Minority Leader

The Minority Senate Leader is selected by the party with the least elected Senators of the two major parties (a.k.a. the floor leader of the minority caucus). In this role, the minority leader is the principal speaker for the minority party during debates on the Senate floor and works to coordinate the party's legislative agenda

Deputy Minority Leader

The Deputy Minority Leader aids the Minority Leader in their roles and responsibilities.

House of Representatives

The New Hampshire House of Representatives consists of 400 members elected for 2-year terms, meeting in session at The Legislative Office Building beginning every January. Senators are paid \$200 plus mileage for their terms. Due to their added duties, the Speaker of the House receives \$250 per term plus mileage.

Speaker of the House

The Speaker of the House is the primary leader of the lower house of the state legislature. The Speaker of the House serves as the chief spokesman for the lower chamber, presides over legislative sessions, directs the legislative process, and performs additional administrative and procedural duties.

Deputy Speaker of the House

The Deputy Speaker of the House aids the Speaker of the House in their roles and responsibilities.

Speaker Pro Tempore

In absence of the Speaker of the House, many of the position's roles and responsibilities are carried out by the Speaker Pro Tempore. The Speaker Pro Tempore is the second highest-ranking leadership position in the NH House of Representatives.

Majority Leader

The Majority Leader is selected by the party with the most elected Representatives of the two major parties. The Majority Leader of a lower legislative chamber manages the daily operations of the majority party on the House floor. The Majority Leader acts as a spokesperson for the party's policy positions, schedules the daily calendar, and helps direct the party's overall legislative agenda.

Deputy Majority Leader

The Deputy Majority Leader aids the Majority Leader in their roles and responsibilities.

Majority Whip

The Majority Whip assists the Majority Leader in their duties by enforcing party discipline on votes deemed to be crucial by the party leadership and ensuring that members do not vote in a way not approved of by the party.

Assistant Majority Whip

The Assistant Majority Whip aids the Majority Whip in their roles and responsibilities.

Minority Leader

The Minority House Leader is selected by the party with the least elected Representatives of the two major parties. The Minority Leader of the lower chamber of a state legislature directs the minority party strategy, assembles party members for important votes, and serves as a party spokesperson. In this way, the Minority Leader functions as the leader of the minority party and serves as a counterpart to the speaker and the majority leader.

Deputy Minority Leader

The Deputy Minority Leader aids the Minority Leader in their roles and responsibilities.

Minority Leader Pro Tempore

In absence of the Minority Leader, many of the position's roles and responsibilities are carried out by the Minority Leader Pro Tempore.

Speaker Emeritus

The Speaker Emeritus role is given to former House Speakers who are serving in the House. This position has not formal power, roles, or responsibilities, but the title is given as a sign of respect for former speakers.