

**ENVIRONMENT & SCIENCE****Senate Kills Landfill Siting Bill**

By PAULA TRACY, InDepthNH.org 4 hours ago



*Paula Tracy photo*

The NH Senate is pictured meeting Thursday.

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CONCORD – A bill that would establish a distance from which a landfill can be sited near water was killed by the Senate on a voice vote Thursday.

House Bill 56, would ask the Department of Environmental Services to determine a safe distance but Republicans said they prefer Senate Bill 61, which has passed in the Senate and is being now considered in the House. It sets up a study and directs funding to hire an outside firm to figure that out.

But Sen. Debra Altschiller, D-Stratham, said to assume the House will pass it and simultaneous kill this bill would be “reckless” and that the two bills if passed would complement each other.

Altschiller said in a time when the state is facing contamination from substances such as PFAS, HB 56 is an insurance policy between right now and when the product of SB 61 is completed and layers protection to the public.

Sen. David Watters, D-Dover, said we have made good progress on solid waste issues in the past but what the state has not done a good job is on site-specific landfills to protect water contamination.

The science is just not there to help DES determine those parameters, Watters said.

“HB 56 says let’s act pre-emptively now,” to ensure safety in the meantime.

“We’ve got to do something this year,” he said.

But instead, the Senate voted to kill the bill.