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Bill for protecting watershed killed

Date: May 5, 2006 **Section:** State/New England

CONCORD - A campaign to cement proposed restrictions on development along the multitown **Pennichuck** Brook watershed ended with a whimper Thursday in the state Senate. The measure had quietly won approval in the House of Representatives, but a lack of publicity about the issue and the late opposition of **Pennichuck** Water Works led to the bill's defeat.

The proposal, sponsored by Rep. Michael Balboni, R-Nashua, would have created a minimum 100-foot buffer from development along ponds, brooks and streams that flow from Nashua into Merrimack, Amherst and Hollis.

The state Department of Environmental Services supported the bill, but critics said it should go to local voters for approval. "We felt there should be more local input and a local vote rather than have the state adopt rules at this time," said Sen. Robert Boyce, R-Alton.

"We also felt the communities needed more notice than they got of this legislation."

The Senate killed the bill on a voice vote.

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