

Legislative alert for April 2-4, from League of Women Voters NH. If you have trouble reading this in your email, it is also posted on our website, LWVNH.org on our “Hot Legislation” page.

The Senate met in session on Wed., March 27 and Thurs., March 28. Among the bills they voted on and the results are these:

SB8, the Senate version of an **independent redistricting bill**. Passed 14-10 along party lines. *League supports, along with other members of the NH Campaign for Voting Rights. This bill is now more closely aligned to HB706, which has already passed in the House. League supports; this is a League priority.*

SB67, a voter registration bill to **mitigate somewhat the harmful consequences of last year’s HB1264 residence/domicile bill**. Passed along party lines. *League supports but prefers full repeal of HB1264.*

SB156, a **campaign finance reform bill that holds LLCs to limits** in campaign spending. Passed 13-11. *League supports.*

SB106 prohibiting businesses from making political contributions, was killed on a voice vote.

SB7 the SMART voter registration act, which allows voter registration to be started at the DMV. Passed 13-10, moves to the House. *League supports.*

SB266 that treats **state funding of full-day kindergartners** the same way other grades are treated—this also passed earlier but was tabled this time in spite of a recommendation by Finance OTP 4-2. *League supported this.*

SB104, the Senate version of a bill to **clarify how towns may postpone local elections**. House already passed a version, and much work has gone on behind the scenes to come up with versions acceptable to all parties. Passed on a voice vote.

SB100 the “ban the box” bill regarding job application forms, prohibiting those forms from requiring felons to check a box without a chance to explain their records. The bill allows the question about felony convictions to be raised in job interviews, where the crime and circumstances can be explained. Passed 16-8, moves to the House. *League supports, based on our study of incarceration issues.*

No date is set for the Senate’s next voting session.

The House will meet in voting session on Thursday, April 4 and again on Thursday, April 11, at 10:00 am. House members are urged to attend the House Finance Committee budget briefings on HB-1A and HB 2-FN-A on Tuesday, April 9th from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in Representatives Hall in the State House. The public may watch from the gallery, and the briefing is likely to be live-streamed from the General Court website for viewing from home.

The House agenda for votes on April 4 includes the following bills:

If you wish to make your views known to your Representative(s), now is the time to call or email them! Locate their phones/emails at this link:

<http://gencourt.state.nh.us/house/members/default.aspx>

HB 564 as amended, possession of **firearms in safe school zones**. Recommended Ought To Pass 12-8 by the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee. “...restricts the carrying of firearms on school property to law enforcement officers, members of the armed services... and any person authorized in writing by the school board. The bill has already been passed once by the full House and complements federal law. ..”

HB 729-FN-A, establishing a **citizen’s right-to-know appeals commission and a right-to-know law ombudsman**. Recommended Inexpedient to Legislate by Finance committee vote

of 13-9. At issue is the \$48,000 price tag, which those voting ITL say is too little to get the job done. Bill has already passed the House once. Now they'll be arguing finances.

HB 641-LOCAL, allowing municipalities to collect an occupancy fee from operators of local room rentals. (\$2 per occupant per day.) Recommended Ought To Pass with Amendment 12-8 by Ways & Means Committee (the taxes committee). We've not listed this bill before, but the arguments have been heating up in many towns that have lots of hotels etc. The current rooms/meals tax is shared by the state and localities, but proponents of this bill argue that "the portion of meals and rooms revenue shared back to municipalities has declined steadily over time" while local expenses to support tourism have increased.

The House Calendar for this week is at this link:

http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/house/caljournals/calendars/2019/HC_18.pdf

The House will be holding committee hearings on bills that have already passed the Senate. The complete list is in the House Calendar.

The Senate will be holding committee hearings on bills that have already passed the House. The complete list of hearings can be found in the Senate Calendar for this week:

http://gencourt.state.nh.us/Senate/calendars_journals/calendars/2019/sc%2016.pdf

Bills of particular interest to League or broad public interest include the following:

Tuesday, April 2

SENATE EDUCATION, LOB room 103

9:30 am [HB175](#) School building aid

HOUSE PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS, Room 201, LOB

10:00 am Executive session on HB 25-A, making appropriations for capital improvements. Continued on Wed at 10 am if necessary. *This committee studies proposed capital improvements throughout the state and will decide their recommendation today. A big job; thank you to the committee members.*

HOUSE RESOURCES, RECREATION AND DEVELOPMENT, Room 305, LOB

11:00 am [SB 76](#), prohibition of offshore oil and natural gas exploration. *League supports this prohibition, based on national League positions, and has so testified.*

HOUSE SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENERGY, Room 304, LOB

2:30 pm [SB 275-FN](#), requiring that all of the state's motor vehicles will be zero emissions vehicles by the year 2039. *League has missed this bill until now. If anyone has been following it as it went thru the Senate, we'd like to hear more. Does anyone want to go to this hearing and give us a report?*

Wednesday, April 3

HOUSE EDUCATION, Room 207, LOB

9:00 am Committee briefing before hearings on tracking sponsor's bills and committee bills and an up-date on bills in the Senate. (*League has not seen something like this listed before. Don't know whether it is open to the public.*)

Beginning at 10 am, a number of Senate education bills will be heard. Complete list on p. 10 of the House Calendar.

HOUSE HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND ELDERLY AFFAIRS, Room 205, LOB

10:30 am [SB 51](#), establishing a commission to study expanding mental health courts statewide. *League supports, based on our state League study and position, and has so testified.*