

Legislative alert for March 26-28, from League of Women Voters NH. If you have trouble reading this in your email, it is also posted on our website:

House met in session on March 19 and 20, **passing or killing a number of important bills. SB1, the family/medical leave bill** which had already passed in the Senate, passed House 219-142. Goes to the Governor, who has a competing plan for paid leave, may choose to veto this one.

HB676, to repeal the State Wide Education Property Tax, was killed 321-32. Really dead.

HB 514, a gun sale waiting period, passed 199-147. Next goes to Senate.

HB 109 would require all commercial sales of firearms to go through a licensed dealer who would be required to conduct a **federal background check**, passed 203-148. Next goes to Senate.

CACR 8, a proposed constitutional amendment that would (according to the sponsors) **protect local rights** was killed 282-74. It will not appear on the Nov. 2020 ballot.

CACR 12 to prohibit an income tax on earned income was also killed, 206-143.

HB415 that requires any vote to change a town's town meeting to or from **SB2 status** be put on the official ballot (to rescind SB2) or to be on the discussion part of town meeting with a ballot vote on adoption of SB2 (in other words, voters must attend a town meeting in person to vote for SB2 status so they don't have to go to town meeting in future). Passed 235-122.

HB632 to repeal the Education Tax Credit that funds scholarships to private schools, removing that money from state revenue. Tabled most soundly. *League supports repeal.*

HJR2 is a resolution to **exclude NH from off-shore oil/gas drilling**, Passed on a voice vote. *League supports and so testified.*

HB 489, relative to **changing a pupil's school assignment** because of a manifest educational hardship. Bill will "both streamline and clarify the process available to a school administrator, school board, and parent when assisting a student having an educational hardship, such as severe bullying, in the current educational assignment." Passed on a voice vote.

Senate met in voting session on March 21. Among the bills they passed or killed are the following:

SB 310, allowing two gambling casinos. This was tabled just 2 weeks ago, but some senators swung from no to yes and it passed, 13-11. *League opposes expanded gambling as an unreliable state revenue source.*

SB 309-FN-L, restoring stabilization grants for education. Passed.

SB 10, another minimum wage bill, passed 14-10. House & Senate will eventually reconcile these somehow.

The House will next meet in voting session probably April 4. No bills listed yet.

The Senate will meet in session on Wed., March 27, beginning at 3 pm, and Thurs., March 28, starting at 9 am Among the bills are:

SB8, the Senate version of an **independent redistricting bill**. Recommended Ought To pass with Amendment 3-2. *League supports, along with other members of the NH Campaign for Voting Rights. This is a League priority. We urge members to encourage their own senator to support this bill to end gerrymandering. A floor amendment will clear up some issues that were raised in a Union Leader op-ed earlier this week, which criticized a very early version of this bill. So let's support good redistricting!*

SB67, a voter registration bill to **mitigate somewhat the harmful consequences of last year's HB1264**. OTP-A 302. *League supports.*

SB156, a **campaign finance reform bill that holds LLCs to limits** in campaign spending. OTP 3-2. *League supports.*

SB7 the **SMART voter registration act**. Already passed the Senate; Senate Finance now recommends OTP-A 4-1. *League supports.*

SB266 that treats **state funding of full-day kindergartners** the same way other grades are treated—this also passed earlier. Now Senate Finance recommends OTP-A 4-2. *League supports.*

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. This will be the on the Consent Calendar.

For those following **energy** bills, please check the Calendar for details.

http://gencourt.state.nh.us/Senate/calendars_journals/calendars/2019/sc%2015.pdf

Hearings in committees next week. Some committees are holding work sessions or executive sessions, which are open to the public to observe but no testimony will be taken. House Ways & Means is looking at bills that have already passed in the House. House Finance is busily working on the two-year budget. Senate will have hearings mostly on Tuesday, as they are in session on Wed. & Thurs. Of broad public interest are the following hearings:

Tuesday, March 26

SENATE JUDICIARY State house room 100

9 am HB455, **Death penalty repeal bill** has already passed the House. *League supports repeal.*

HOUSE CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY, Room 204, LOB

11:00 am HB 564, possession of **firearms in safe school zones** (passed House as an Education bill, now in its second committee). Executive session will follow on March 27.