

**Legislative alert from League of Women Voters NH, for week of April 30-May 2**, with peek ahead to May 7. You can download the pdf of this alert from the Hot Legislation page of our website: LWVNH.org

*First, some events where we can all learn more about two crucial issues:*

**A Community Conversation on How NH Funds Public Education.** NHPR's The Exchange will broadcast a **live show on education funding** in NHPR's Studio D on Tuesday, April 30, at 7 p.m. This program explores the heart of a new series, "Adequate: How A State Decides The Value of Public Education," by NHPR's Sarah Gibson. If you can't catch it live, you can always listen later online: NHPR.org

**New Hampshire Ten-Year Mental Health Plan; Overview of recently completed plan.** Presenter: Commissioner Jeff Meyers, DHHS. Panel Discussion of the future of NH's Mental Health System. Monday, April 29, 2019, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon in Representatives Hall (State House). Presumably the public can observe from the gallery. Possibly it will be streamed from the [Gencourt website](#).

\*\*

**The next House sessions will be on Thursday, May 2nd at 1:00 pm; also Wednesday, May 8 and Thursday, May 9 if necessary.**

Full list of the bills they will vote on is in the Calendar. Many are on the Consent Calendar, meaning there will probably be no floor debate. [http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/house/caljournals/calendars/2019/HC\\_22.pdf](http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/house/caljournals/calendars/2019/HC_22.pdf)

On the consent agenda is a bill for which League has testified in support. It's recommended unanimously Ought To Pass **SB 51**, establishing a **commission to study expanding mental health courts statewide**.

Also recommended unanimously by the committee Ought To Pass is **SB 76, prohibition of offshore oil and natural gas exploration**, on which League also testified in support.

Not on the consent calendar but also recommended unanimously is **SB 11-FN-A, relative to mental health services** and making appropriations therefor. OUGHT TO PASS. The summary is on page 9 of the Calendar.

And one more, that some of our members became aware at our Day at the Legislature event: **SB 216-FN**, (New Title) requiring the NH transportation council to conduct a review of **automated vehicle testing and deployment**, establishing an automated vehicle testing pilot program, and providing requirements for automated vehicle deployment. OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT recommended unanimously.

**The next Senate session will be on Thursday, May 2nd at 10:00 am.**

Senate also has a large number of bills on its Consent Calendar this time. Full list of bills they will vote on can be found in this Calendar: [http://gencourt.state.nh.us/Senate/calendars\\_journals/calendars/2019/sc%2020.pdf](http://gencourt.state.nh.us/Senate/calendars_journals/calendars/2019/sc%2020.pdf)

On the regular calendar are the following bills of interest:

**HB175**, school building aid. Recommended Ought to Pass 4-1. This bill establishes a timeline for applications, clarifies information to be included, provides for emergency projects, and requires an on-site clerk of the works.

**HB 364**, permitting qualifying patients and designated caregivers to **cultivate cannabis for therapeutic use** and permitting qualifying patients and designated caregivers to donate excess cannabis to other qualifying patients. Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 3-2.

**Committee Hearings coming up. The bills in Senate committees have already passed the House.** SENATE FINANCE is working nearly non-stop on the budget and the capital budget. Specific presentations are listed in the Senate Calendar. Yes, the public may observe.

**Tuesday, April 30**

SENATE JUDICIARY, Room 100, State House

9:00 a.m HB 109-FN, requiring **background checks for commercial firearms sales.**

10:00 a.m HB 514-FN, imposing a **waiting period** between the purchase and delivery of a **firearm.**

11:00 a.m HB 564, relative to possession of **firearms on school property.**

**Wednesday, May 1**

SENATE ELECTION LAW, room 102 in Legislative Office Bldg. (other bills scheduled first, so start time for this one is a bit iffy)

10:00 a.m. **HB 706-FN-A**, establishing an **independent redistricting commission.** *This is the major event of the week for League—we support! Priority item.*

Nearly all **House committees** are holding work sessions or executive sessions rather than public input hearings this week, so we're not highlighting any here.

**With a peek ahead: Tuesday, May 7:**

House Education Committee will hold executive session on **SB140**, perhaps shortest but most important bill to protect public schools in NH. Passed the Senate on a voice vote. Here is the complete text of the bill: 1 Substantive Content of an Adequate Education; Alternative Programs. RSA 193-E:2-a, V(b) is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

(b) Each local school board shall determine whether to grant academic credit for alternative, extended learning, and work-based programs. 2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage. *League note: This puts the granting of credit for alternative programs where it belongs, with the local school board that issues the resulting diploma! Take note, state board of education and your Learn Everywhere proposal to gut the public schools by requiring local school boards to grant credit, even for core courses, for education provided by entities other than the public school.*