

Legislative alert from League of Women Voters NH for **Jan. 22-Jan. 24**, plus early warning of some bills of major public interest. If you have trouble reading this via email, you may read it in pdf format on our Hot Legislation webpage of LWVNH.org

The NH House will meet in session on Thursday, Jan. 31. Next week's calendar will contain the list of bills they will be asked to vote on. That means some committees next week will hold Executive Session on bills they've already had hearings on. **Executive sessions** are open to the public, but no public testimony is allowed. The committee itself discusses the bills, eventually votes how to recommend each bill to the full House. Here are the choices they have: Ought To Pass; Inexpedient To Legislate (means don't pass the bill); Retain or Refer to Interim Study (when the committee thinks the bill has some merit but needs work).

For League the big event next week is **Tuesday, Jan. 22, at 1 pm**, when the Election Law committee will hear testimony on a proposed Constitutional Amendment (**CACR9**) **creating an Independent Redistricting Commission**. League supports and will testify in favor, along with a number of voting rights groups and individuals. That hearing is in LOB 308. If you are in Concord that day, please sign in in favor of this bill.

Here are some other bills of interest being heard. All are in House committees unless otherwise stated.

TUESDAY, Jan. 22

ELECTION LAW, Room 308, LOB

10:00 a.m. [HB 202](#), requiring disclosure of tax documents by **presidential primary candidates**.

11:00 a.m. HB 440, relative to **disclosure of federal tax information** as a condition of eligibility for federal office.

EDUCATION, Room 207, LOB

A number of bills, beginning at 10 am. Perhaps the one with the most crucial long-range implications is [HB 489](#), at 2:30 pm, changes procedures for parents requesting a change in a pupil's school or assignment because of a **manifest educational hardship**.

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

10:00 a.m. HB 587, **organ donations**: clarifies that a person's decision to donate his or her own body, organ, or tissue upon death is not subject to amendment or revocation after the person's death

10:30 am HB 461-FN Much in the news in past couple of weeks about adding to list of qualifying medical conditions for the **therapeutic use of cannabis**. This bill "adds moderate to severe insomnia, moderate to severe anxiety, and Lyme disease, including post-Lyme disease syndrome, to qualifying medical conditions for use of cannabis for therapeutic purposes. Previous legislation added chronic pain, severe pain, and post-traumatic stress disorder to qualifying medical conditions "

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENERGY, Room 304, LOB

10:30 a.m. Brief presentations on renewable energy.

1:30 p.m. HB 132-FN, relative to **net neutrality**.

1:45 p.m. HB 365, relative to **net energy metering limits for customer generators**.

2:45 p.m. HB 466, relative to the capacity of electricity customer generators for eligibility for net energy metering.

WAYS AND MEANS, Room 202, LOB

2:00 p.m. Full committee work session on a number of bills, including several about **interest and dividends taxes**. See the full Calendar for details. Yes, work sessions are open to the public.

SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES Room 103, State House
10:00 a.m. SB 24, relative to New Hampshire's regional greenhouse gas initiative program. **RGGI**

SENATE JUDICIARY Room 100, SH

9:35 a.m. SB 51, establishing a **commission to study expanding mental health courts statewide**. (Under "purpose" this bill states "Mental health courts provide sentencing alternatives to individuals with mental illness who are involved in criminal matters. It is an intensive and comprehensive court program which integrates treatment into the resolution of the criminal case. The fundamental principle of a mental health court is that people who engage in criminal behavior due to their mental illness should undergo appropriate treatment in order to modify their behavior and achieve recovery. Mental health court holds its participants accountable for their behavior, provides them with support and assistance, and works collaboratively with service that providers for quality care of that individual. Currently there are no mental health courts operating in Belknap, Carroll, Coos, and Sullivan counties." *League supports alternatives to incarceration, based on our 2009-2012 study and position.*)

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23

COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS, Room 302, LOB (**most of these are Healthcare bills**)

10:00 a.m. HB 359, relative to warning labels on prescription drugs containing opiates.

10:30 a.m. HB 179-FN-A, establishing a New Hampshire health access corporation.

11:30 a.m. HB 180, establishing a **commission** to examine the feasibility of the New England states entering into a **compact for a single payer health care program**.

1:30 p.m. HB 277, establishing a **commission to study a public option for health insurance**.

2:30 p.m. HB 233, relative to the group and individual health insurance market

CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY, Room 204, LOB

10:00 a.m. HB 486, relative to department of corrections procedures concerning the requirement for restoration of the voting rights of felons (requiring procedures to make sure that released felons know their **voting rights** are restored so that they can register to vote) *League supports*

EDUCATION, Room 207, LOB

11:00 a.m. HB 411, relative to equalized property valuation used to apportion expenses in cooperative school districts. **School funding issue**

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION, Room 306, LOB

1:00 p.m. HB 497-FN-A-L "This bill requires the State to pay 15 percent of the normal and accrued liability contributions of political subdivision **retirement system** employers for group I teachers and group II (police and fire) members. The remaining 85 percent will be paid by the political subdivision employers that pay 100 percent of such contributions under current law"

MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT, Room 301, LOB

1:00 p.m. Executive session on a number of bills affecting county election of officers, etc.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENERGY, Rooms 305-307, LOB ****Please Note Room change (they're expecting a large public turnout, apparently)**

10:00 a.m. Presentations by conservation and ratepayer organizations.

11:00 a.m. HB 205, relative to the definition of "multiple line telephone system."

1:00 p.m. HB 454, relative to **site evaluation committee criteria for energy facility siting**.

2:00 p.m. HB 404, relative to a local option for liquefied natural gas storage facility sitings.

STATE-FEDERAL RELATIONS AND VETERANS AFFAIRS, Room 206, LOB
10:00 a.m. Executive session on HCR 2; HCR 4; HCR 5, requesting Congress to propose a **constitutional amendment to reverse the ruling in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission**; HR 6, urging the United States to lead a global effort to prevent nuclear war.

THURSDAY, JAN. 24

LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION, Room 303, LOB (*not a committee League visits regularly, but these bills are worth learning more about.*)

10:00 a.m. HB 216-FN, relative to the **mileage reimbursement rate for legislators** (This bill would nearly cut in half the total reimbursement paid to legislators for a session in which all are in attendance)

10:15 a.m. HB 525-FN, “This bill requires that legislators be paid compensation in silver dollar coins. The state treasurer is directed to acquire sufficient silver dollar coins for such compensation.” *really?*

10:30 a.m. HB 441, relative to **disclosure of the source of legislative bill proposals** and the disclosure of certain information by lobbyists. (*Who is really behind some of the perennial bills we see in NH?*)

11:15 a.m. HB 504, relative to election-related amendments to the United States Constitution.

“This bill calls upon Congress to support election-related amendments to the United States Constitution...[including] Section I. Congress and State Legislatures shall regulate the **role of money in elections and governance** to ensure transparency, prevent corruption, and protect against the buying of access to or influence over representatives. No such regulation shall be deemed in violation of freedom of speech rights in the Constitution of the United States or its Amendments.

Section II. Legislative districts or **districting plans** shall not intentionally or unduly favor or disfavor any political party.

WAYS AND MEANS, Room 202, LOB Three **proposed constitutional amendments related to possible sales & income taxes in NH.**

2:00 p.m. CACR 11, Providing that a broad-based sales tax shall be prohibited.

2:30 p.m. CACR 12, Providing that an income tax on personal income shall be prohibited.

3:00 p.m. CACR 10, Providing that revenue from any state income tax shall be returned to the cities, towns, school districts, and counties to assist in property tax relief.

Looking ahead...

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 30

HOUSE LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION, Room 303, LOB Two **proposed constitutional amendments related to the Legislature itself.**

10:00 a.m. CACR 2, Providing that compensation of legislators may be determined by a joint resolution with approval of the executive council.

10:45 a.m. [CACR 7](#), Providing that the number of representatives in the NH House be reduced.

HOUSE CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY, Room 204, LOB

HB 481-FN-A-L, **legalization and regulation of cannabis** and making appropriations therefor.

Hearing on Feb. 5, 1 pm, in LOB 210-211

Work session on Feb. 6, 1 pm LOB 204

Executive session on Feb. 12, 10 am LOB 204.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13

CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY, Rooms 210-211, LOB **Firearms**

1:00 p.m. HB 109-FN, requiring background checks for commercial firearms sales.

2:30 p.m. HB 514-FN, imposing a waiting period between the purchase and delivery of a firearm.