

Legislative Alert for **May 13-23**, from League of Women Voters NH

On Wed. & Thurs. May 8 & 9, the House voted on a number of bills, including these:

They put the dagger of death into the **casino bill**, SB310, 289-63.

They passed SB5 with an amendment, appropriating \$450,000 for **Medicaid reimbursement** for mental health, substance abuse, shelters, etc.

They passed the menstrual hygiene products in schools bill SB142 with an amendment that allows schools to seek grants to cover the costs, 211-135.

The next House session will be on Thursday, May 23 at 10:00 am. The list of bills to be voted on will be in next week's House Calendar.

The next Senate session will be Wednesday, May 15, at 10 am.

Among the bills the Senate will vote on are the following, with their committee recommendations:

HB 558-FN, restricting the distribution of **plastic straws**. Inexpedient to Legislate, Vote 4-1.

HB 560-FN, relative to **single-use carryout bags**. Inexpedient to Legislate, Vote 4-1.

HB 447, authorizes local **school boards** to determine opening & closing school calendar dates. Re-refer to Committee, Vote 3-1. (*Re-refer means the Senate Education Committee wants to study this further; may amend it and bring it back for a vote in 2020, which is interesting because it passed easily in the House on a voice vote.*)

HB 489, changing a pupil's school or assignment because of a **manifest educational hardship**.

Inexpedient to Legislate, Vote 4-0. (*also interesting because the House passed it easily on a voice vote, and now Senate wants to kill the bill.*)

HB 582-FN, relative to the **regional greenhouse gas initiative cap and trade program** for controlling carbon dioxide emissions. Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 3-2. Likely to be debated on the floor.

HB 397-FN, relative to **drivers' licenses for NH residents who do not possess a social security card**. Re-refer to Committee, Vote 4-0. In the news lately; committee recommends more study.

HB 591, HB 592, and HB 660, **OHRVs laws & impact**. All recommended Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 4-0.

HB 480-FN, relative to **sports betting**. Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0.

You can see the full list of bills to be voted on in the Senate in the Calendar: http://gencourt.state.nh.us/Senate/calendars_journals/calendars/2019/sc%2022.pdf

If you want to make your views on any of these bills known to your Senator, now is the time. You can access their emails at this website: http://gencourt.state.nh.us/Senate/members/senate_roster.aspx

With about a month or so to go in the regular legislative session, committee hearings are mostly study committee meetings or executive session to decide how to recommend bills to the full body. These are open to the public to observe, but public testimony is not taken. However, some bills are still being heard in public hearings, though they tend not to be high-profile bills.

The big work in the Senate is the budget and the capital budget. After the budget is voted on, reconciling the budget approved by the House and that approved by the Senate will be a major undertaking. And of course the Governor has his own budget priorities. League members and friends interested in learning more about the process will have the opportunity at LWVNH Convention, on May 18, when Rep. Susan Almy who chairs the House Ways & Means Committee will explain it all to use. Visit the Calendar page of our website for more information about the Convention. Advance registration required.

Committee hearings coming up:

Monday, May 13

SENATE FINANCE, Room 103, State House. BUDGET WORK SESSION

9:00 am Office of the Legislative Budget Assistant - Review of HB 2-FN-A-L; 11:00 am. Department of Safety; 12:00 pm. Break; 1:00 pm Department of Education; 2:00 pm Department of Health and Human Services: New Hampshire Hospital, Division of Behavioral Health, Division of Medicaid Services, and Division of Children, Youth and Families . Please Note: Times are Approximate

Tuesday, May 14

HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS, Room 202, LOB

10:00 am SB 74-FN-A, relative to register of deeds fees used to support the land and community heritage investment program (**LCHIP**), and establishing a committee to study the economic impact of land conservation.

SENATE COMMERCE, Room 100, State House

1:30 pm. HB 604, establishing a commission to assess benefits and costs of a “**health care for all**” program for NH

SENATE FINANCE, Room 103, State House

1:00 pm Executive Session on House Bills in Committee followed by BUDGET WORK SESSION

1:15 pm Department of Natural and Cultural Resources; 1:45 pm Department of Administrative Services; 2:15 pm Executive Session - Budget Deliberations.

Please Note: Times are Approximate.

Wednesday, May 15

HOUSE JUDICIARY, Room 208, LOB

10:30 am SB 263, relative to **anti-discrimination protection for students in public schools**. *This bill has been in the news lately.*

HOUSE SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENERGY, Room 304, LOB

10:00 am. SB 206, excluding the cost of **lobbying and political activity from the rates of public utilities**. *Pursuant to House Rule 43(b), Executive Session may be held at the conclusion of committee hearings.*

Thursday, May 16

SENATE ELECTION LAW LOB room 102

9:00 am. Executive session on pending legislation. *We have reason to believe the committee will vote on **HB706, our priority independent redistricting commission bill**, today. We are hoping for a unanimous vote of Ought To Pass as Amended, and we appreciate the bi-partisan effort that has gone into crafting the amendment! Keeping our fingers crossed.*

10:00 am.HB 544, relative to the governance of the Manchester school district.

10:30 am.HB 588, relative to presidential nominations.

11:00 am.HB 593, relative to updating official voter checklists.

SENATE CAPITAL BUDGET, Room 100, State House

1:00 pm HB 25-A, making appropriations for **capital improvements** *This is a biggie!*

Wednesday, May 22

SENATE CAPITAL BUDGET, Room 100, State House

10:00 am EXECUTIVE SESSION *Follow up to hearing on May 16.*

Wednesday May 29

HOUSE CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY, Room 204, LOB

1:00 pm Full committee work session on retained bills.