

Legislative Alert from the League of Women Voters NH, for April 16-18 with a peek ahead to April 24 for a couple of hearings. If you have trouble reading this in your email, you may read it on the Hot Legislation page of LWVNH.org

Big news from **Senate is that they passed the death penalty repeal bill 17-6**. The House had earlier passed it 279-88. Even if the governor vetoes the bill, there is enough support to override the veto and abolish the death penalty in our state.

Big news from the **House is that they voted on the 2 year state budget on April 11**. The budget is \$12.9 billion, and passed along party lines. It includes a new capital gains tax to fund a major boost in state aid for public schools, an additional \$160 million over two years, the largest increase in many years. They passed HB1 (the spending portion) 225-159. Here is the link to the amended budget: http://gencourt.state.nh.us/bill_Status/billText.aspx?sy=2019&txtFormat=html&v=HA&id=1127

They passed HB2 (the revenue portion of the budget) 224-160. Here is the link to that text: http://gencourt.state.nh.us/bill_Status/billText.aspx?sy=2019&id=1129&txtFormat=pdf&v=current

The budget now moves to the Senate (see April 15 below).

The next HOUSE voting session has not been set.

The SENATE WILL MEET IN SESSION ON THURSDAY, APRIL 18 10:00 am

Most of the bills are on the consent calendar (won't be debated as they were recommended unanimously by the committees). No League priority bills on the regular calendar for April 18.

Committee hearings:

MONDAY, APRIL 15

SENATE FINANCE, Room 103, State House

Losing no time after the House voted on the **budget**, it will be presented to the Senate:

9:00 am. Presentation of HB 1-A and HB 2-FN-A-LOCAL by House Finance Committee Chair Mary Jane Wallner and House Finance Committee Members.

11:15 am. Office of Legislative Budget Assistant Presentation on Surplus Statement to Senate Finance Committee.

TUESDAY, APRIL 16

SENATE EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, Room 103 in Leg. Office Bldg

9:00 am HB 131, establishing a commission on **mental health education** and behavioral health and wellness programs.

9:15 am HB 258, establishing a committee to study **teacher preparation** and education programs.

9:30 am HB 570, establishing a **commission to study career pathways** from full-time service year programs to postsecondary education and employment opportunities in support of NH's future workforce needs.

9:45 am HB 631, establishing a **deaf child's bill of rights** and an advisory council on the education of deaf children.

10:15 am HB 713-FN-L, revises requirements for schools to provide **transportation for pupils grades K-12**.

SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES, Room 103, in the State House

8:30 am HB 495, establishing a commission on **drinking water**.

8:50 am HB 737, establishing a commission to investigate and analyze the environmental and public health impacts relating to releases of **perfluorinated chemicals** in the air, soil, and groundwater in Merrimack, Bedford and Litchfield.

9:10 am HB 614-FN, **increasing penalties and fines for air pollution and water pollution**
9:30 am HB 707, relative to settlement money from actions pertaining to the **contamination of groundwater or drinking water.**

9:45 am. HB 261, requiring the commissioner of the department of environmental services to revise rules relative to **arsenic contamination in drinking water.**

10:30 am HB 494, relative to removal or containment of contaminants from the **Coakley Landfill**

HOUSE ELECTION LAW, Room 308, LOB

10:00 am SB 106, alters the **definition of political advocacy organization** to include groups that spend over \$2,500 on negative ads to defeat a measure or candidate, within 60 days of the election. (*League supports*)

10:30 am SB 67, **definitions of resident and residency.** [This bill somewhat mitigates the impact of last year's HB1264 that changed "domicile" to "residence" for purposes of voting. This bill in effect says that someone living in the state with definite plans to leave in the future need not get a NH drivers license or car registration (assuming one has a current license from another state)]. *League would prefer an outright reversal of HB1264!* Passed the Senate along party lines.

1:00 p.m. SB 156, limiting **political contributions made by limited liability companies** by aggregating LLC contributions from one donor. *League supports this campaign finance bill.* Passed Senate almost along party lines.

1:30 p.m. SB 68, **centralized voter registration database.** [this bill allows the release of voter database information in court cases] *League supports.* Passed the Senate along party lines.

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

10:00 am Subcommittee work session on SB 120, relative to the **controlled drug prescription health and safety program**; SB 274, relative to the newborn home visiting program; SB 289-FN, relative to health and human services; SB 290-FN, relative to the New Hampshire granite advantage health care program; SB 293-FN, relative to federally qualified health care centers and rural health centers reimbursement

HOUSE HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND ELDERLY AFFAIRS (another subcommittee work session) Room 104, LOB

10:00 am. Subcommittee work session on several bills including SB 51, establishing a commission to **study expanding mental health courts statewide** *League supports and has so testified;*

SB 292-FN, relative to implementation of the **new mental health 10-year plan.**

Subcommittee work session to be continued on Wednesday.

HOUSE RESOURCES, RECREATION AND DEVELOPMENT, Room 305, LOB

10:00 am. Full committee work session, followed by executive session at 11:00, on SB 74-FN-A, relative to register of deeds fees used to support LCHIP, and establishing a committee to study the economic impact of land conservation; SB 76, relative to the **prohibition of offshore oil and natural gas exploration** *League supports SB76 and has so testified*

HOUSE TRANSPORTATION, Room 203, LOB

11:00 am Continued public hearing on SB 216-FN, 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

HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS, Room 202, LOB

2:30 pm SB 270-FN, establishing a tax credit against the business profits tax for donations to **career and technical education centers.**

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17

SENATE ELECTION LAW AND MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS, Room 102, LOB

9:15 am HB 429, establishing a committee to study **ways to improve civic engagement** in NH

9:30 am HB 539-FN, establishing a committee to study the implementation of the One4All ballot in municipal elections

9:45 am HB 105-FN, relative to domicile residency, voter registration, and investigation of voter verification letters *League supports; **overturns SB3 voter registration bill of 2017!***

10:15 am HB 106, relative to the terms “resident,” “inhabitant,” “residence,” and “residency.” *League supports; **overturns HB1264 of last year.***

HOUSE SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENERGY, Room 304, LOB

10:00 am SB 24, relative to New Hampshire’s regional greenhouse gas initiative program **(RGGI)**

HOUSE TRANSPORTATION, Room 203, LOB

10:00 am Full committee work session on SB 216-FN, 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

THURSDAY, APRIL 18

HOUSE EDUCATION, Room 207, LOB

10:00 am. Executive session on a number of bills including SB 276-FN-A **career readiness credentials** for high school students; SB 263, anti-discrimination protection for students in public schools; SB 139, establishing a committee to study **options for lowering student debt**; SB 142-L, requiring **feminine hygiene products in school restrooms**

HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS, Room 202, LOB

10:00 am SB 310-FN-A-L, Allowing 2 **gambling casinos** to be licensed. *League opposes & will so testify.*

Looking Ahead: Wednesday April 24

SENATE WAYS AND MEANS, Room 100, State House

10:00 am HB 480-FN, relative to sports betting. (This has been in the news lately--This bill establishes a system within the lottery commission for legal sports betting)

SENATE ELECTION LAW, room 102 in LOB

(time TBA) HB706, League’s priority bill to establish an **independent redistricting commission**. *(League supports, will so testify)*