

Legislative alert from League of Women Voters NH for **April 22-29**.

(If you have trouble reading this in email, visit our Hot Legislation page of the LWVNH.org website: <http://lwvnh.org/currentlegislation.html>

The next **House voting sessions** will be on Thursday, May 2 at 1:00 pm and May 8 & 9 if necessary.

The **Senate will meet in voting session** on Thursday, April 25, 2019 at 10:00 am.

No League priority items are on the relatively short agenda for this Senate session.

Committee hearings coming up: In the Senate the **Finance committee** is meeting just about daily to work on the 2-year state budget. See the Senate calendar

http://gencourt.state.nh.us/Senate/calendars_journals/calendars/2019/sc%2019.pdf for specific agency presentation dates and times. Thank you, senators, for your hard work.

Full list of House hearings is on the House Calendar:

http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/house/caljournals/calendars/2019/HC_21.pdf

TUESDAY, APRIL 23

SENATE JUDICIARY, Room 100, State House

9:35 a.m **HB 481**-FN-A-L, legalization & regulation of **cannabis** and making appropriations.

SENATE TRANSPORTATION, room 103 Legislative Office Bldg

1:30 p.m. **HB 397**-FN, **drivers' licenses** for NH residents without a social security card

HOUSE ELECTION LAW, Room 308, LOB

1:00 p.m Executive session on **SB 7**-FN-L, establishing the **secure modern accurate registration technology act** (SMART ACT) and **SB 8**, establishing an **independent redistricting commission** *League supports and has testified on both these bills.*

HOUSE ENVIRONMENT AND AGRICULTURE, Room 303, LOB **Animal cruelty bill** *much in the news lately:*

1:00 p.m Public hearing on amendment #2019-1530h to SB 77, relative to costs of care for animals seized in cruelty cases and prohibiting the future ownership of animals in certain animal cruelty cases. The amendment adds to the bill the establishment of a cost of care fund to assist municipalities caring for animals during animal cruelty cases, an exception for breeders of cats and ferrets from being licensed if they do not meet the definition of commercial breeder, and a requirement that all transfers of a dog, cat, or ferret for a fee be accompanied by a health certificate. Copies of the amendment are available in the Sergeant-at-Arms Office, Room 318, State House

2:00 p.m Subcommittee work session on SB 77-FN, relative to costs of care for animals seized in cruelty cases and prohibiting the future ownership of animals in certain animal cruelty cases. (Executive session will be Tues., April 30, in LOB 303 at 10:30 am.)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24

SENATE ELECTION LAW, room 102 LOB

10:45 a.m **HB 611**-FN, allowing voters to vote by **absentee ballot**. *League supports expanding access to absentee ballots.*

SENATE WAYS & MEANS, room 100 State House

10:00 a.m **HB 480**-FN, relative to **sports betting** [legalizing online sports betting]

HOUSE LABOR, INDUSTRIAL AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES, Room 305-307, LOB

2:00 p.m **SB 10**, establishing the **state minimum hourly rate** based on whether an employer offers paid sick days to an employee. [one of several minimum wage bills going thru the legislature]

THURSDAY, APRIL 25

HOUSE ELECTION LAW, Room 308, LOB

11:00 a.m Executive session on a number of bills that League supports. These will go to the full House in early May. [SB67](#), [SB68](#), [SB104](#), [SB106](#)
SENATE ELECTION LAW, room 102 LOB (starting time as listed OR 30 minutes after full Senate session ends)

1:15 p.m [HB 415](#), relative to the official ballot referendum form of town meetings. [relates to changing to or from **SB2 status**]

1:45 p.m [HB 531](#), **delivery of absentee ballots** cast by elderly or disabled citizens. *League supports this common sense bill to make it easier for those in nursing homes, etc. to have their ballots delivered to town officials.*

2:00 p.m [HB 315](#), [changing NH's commitment to a specific, no longer functioning] **Interstate Voter Registration Crosscheck Program**. *League supports. Oddly Sec. Of State opposes the amendment that will be proposed.*

MONDAY, APRIL 29

10:00 to Noon in Reps' Hall. Overview of recently completed **10-year mental health plan**, followed by a panel discussion. One can watch from the balcony; don't know whether this will be live streamed from the general court website.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 1

SENATE ELECTION LAW Room 102 LOB

(time to be announced) hearing on [HB706](#), the independent redistricting commission bill, a wonderful bi-partisan effort to reduce claims of gerrymandering and increase public confidence that every vote counts! *League will testify in support! Priority bill.*