

**Legislative Alert April 23-30, 2018**

**from League of Women Voters NH**

First, some very good news, especially for League members who were involved in our study of the issues facing women incarcerated in NH. Our study began in 2009, and on April 17, 2018, --9 years later--the women at the crowded, aged and leaking women's prison in Goffstown were moved to the brand new New Hampshire Correctional Facility for Women in Concord. League believes the new facility will enable better treatment and rehabilitation and increased educational and vocational opportunities for the women. See our Incarceration Study webpage <http://lwvnh.org/StateStudy.html> if you're curious about League's history with the issue.

Second, some almost as good news: On April 17 the House Finance Division II committee voted to recommend **SB193 – the school “voucher” bill**, though legislators don't use that term-- **to Interim Study**. League would have preferred Inexpedient to Legislate, but if the full House votes for Interim Study, the bill will be examined further and recommendation made next fall, either for new legislation in 2019 or for no new legislation, on the use of public money for private schooling.

Before that happens, however, the full House Finance Committee will vote on April 25 (see p. 2) how to recommend this bill, and then the full House needs to vote on this bill. If we can't kill SB 193, let's at least get the bill voted to Interim Study. Please let your representatives know that public money should fund public education, and that the current version of SB 193 would hurt local school budgets, with very little oversight of the private education of a limited number of students at taxpayer expense. You can read more about the bill and the reasons for the vote at the Reaching Higher NH website: <https://reachinghighernh.org/2018/04/18/subcommittee-sb-193-study/>

**The NH House will meet Thursday, April 26 at 10 am.** Also on May 2 and 3, May 10, and May 24.

Bills to be voted on in the House include the following of broad general interest, which can be found in this week's Calendar: [http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/house/caljournals/calendars/2018/HC\\_16.pdf](http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/house/caljournals/calendars/2018/HC_16.pdf)

**SB 593-FN, repealing the death penalty** for capital murder. MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE Vote 12-6. You can see the reasons on both sides on p. 10 of the House Calendar. [*League's national position is in opposition to the death penalty.*]

**CACR 22**, providing that **crime victims shall be afforded constitutional rights**. MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT Vote 24-11. Reasons on both sides are on pp. 10-11 of the Calendar. This is “Marsy's Law,” much discussed in the media. [*a 2/3 vote in the House of Ought to Pass is needed to put this on the November ballot.*]

**The NH Senate will meet on Thursday, April 26**, at 10 am. The full list of bills to be voted on can be found in the Senate Calendar <http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/scaljournals/calendars/2018/sc%2018.pdf> Bills of particular interest to be voted on include the following:

**HB 628-FN family and medical leave insurance program.** Finance recommends Interim Study, Vote 4-2. This bill has been amended several times. The link should show the current version.

**HB 1686-FN, applications for and the use of education tax credits.** Ways & Means Recommends Ought to Pass, Vote 3-1. [*this bill would allow those individuals who pay NH interest & dividends*

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taxes to designate up to 85% of those taxes to a scholarship program that would be used by students to pay private school tuitions. If passed it would reduce funds for the NH General Fund and divert those moneys to private schools. Press reports indicate it may also allow those taxpayers to deduct a portion of their taxes as charitable deductions.]

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**Legislative hearings coming up**—each body has a number of executive sessions scheduled, but the Senate Calendar does not list specific bills to be exec'd in most committees:

**MONDAY, April 23**

**[medicaid]**

10:00 a.m. HOUSE FINANCE - DIVISION III, Rooms 210-211, LOB  
Division work session on SB 313-FN, reforming New Hampshire's Medicaid and Premium Assistance Program, establishing the granite workforce pilot program.

**TUESDAY, April 24**

**[election law]**

9 am. SENATE ELECTION LAW. LOB 102 Executive session on various bills including HB1264, a voter suppression attempt that could have far-ranging implications in other areas as well. *[League opposes this bill.]*

10:00 a.m. HOUSE ELECTION LAW, Room 308, LOB

**[Election Law]**

Executive session on SB 527-FN-L, relative to absentee voting; and SB 438, relative to the postponement of local elections. *[League observed discussion of SB 527 on 4/19, think it is headed in a good direction with consensus on most items. SB 438 will be more problematic for the committee to vote on.]*

11:00 a.m. HOUSE FINANCE - DIVISION III, Rooms 210-211, LOB

**[medicaid]**

Division work session on SB 313-FN, reforming New Hampshire's Medicaid and Premium Assistance Program, establishing the granite workforce pilot program.

**WEDNESDAY, April 25**

**[education; medicaid]**

10:00 a.m. HOUSE FINANCE, Rooms 210-211, LOB

Executive session on **SB 193-FN**, (the school "voucher" bill); and **SB 313-FN**, reforming New Hampshire's Medicaid and Premium Assistance Program and establishing the granite workforce pilot program *[these are two bills with long ranging implications for the state. League opposes SB 193]*

**MONDAY, April 30**

**[education]**

COMMITTEE TO STUDY EDUCATION FUNDING AND THE COST OF AN OPPORTUNITY FOR AN ADEQUATE EDUCATION (HB 356, Chapter 190:1, Laws of 2017), Room 209, LOB

10:00 a.m. Regular meeting.

*[League will observe]*

**Reminder or FYI:** at this point in the year, only bills that passed one body are still being considered. Executive session in committee may recommend the following on any particular bill: Ought to Pass; Inexpedient to Legislate = kill the bill; Interim Study = take a hard look at this next Aug-Oct, with the possibility of recommending another bill for 2019 session or letting the bill die. For a bill that was passed in one body, amended by the other, now back in the first body the committee may recommend "concur"= ok, we'll go with your version, or "non-concur but go to Committee of Conference to work it out" or just "non-concur"=we don't like what you did and have no hope of coming to agreement.