

Legislative Alert April 9-12, 2018 from League of Women Voters NH

The Senate will meet in session to vote on bills on Thursday, April 12, beginning at 10 am. There are no League priority bills on the list. Nearly all the bills listed came out of committee with unanimous recommendations, so we don't expect much floor debate.

To see the bills that the Senate will vote on, please check this week's Senate Calendar, pp. 3-6.

<http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/scaljournals/calendars/2018/sc%2016.pdf>

The House will meet in session to vote on bills on Thursday, April 12, beginning at 10 am. Below are a couple of bills that are likely to generate debate on the floor. Arguments from both sides are in the House Calendar. Page numbers given after the bill's recommendation by committee.

http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/house/caljournals/calendars/2018/HC_14.pdf

JUDICIARY SB 555-FN-A, establishing a citizens' right-to-know appeals commission and a right-to-know law ombudsman and making an appropriation therefor.

MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. Recommended 14-2. page 8.

RESOURCES, RECREATION AND DEVELOPMENT SB 309-FN, standards for perfluorochemicals in drinking water, ambient groundwater, and surface water. MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. Recommended 12-1. page 9.

No League priority bills on the list for this session. It is, for the formerly very busy House, a light week. But if there is a bill you care about on either list, now is the time to call your reps or senator.

House and Senate Committees will hold public meetings on various bills. The public has the right to attend all meetings, but may speak only at hearings on bills. Work sessions and executive sessions are open to the public but take no public comment.

Reminder that all bills heard at this time of year have already passed in either the House or the Senate, have now moved to the second body for hearings, possibly amendments, and eventually votes. "LOB" refers to the building behind the state house, the Legislative Office Building.

MONDAY, APRIL 9

FINANCE - DIVISION III, Rooms 210-211, LOB **[child services; healthcare]**

9:00 a.m. Division work session on SB 590-FN-A, making a supplemental appropriation to the state loan repayment program and relative to emergency involuntary admissions, the child protection act, and the developmental disabilities wait list and making appropriations therefor.

10:00 a.m. Division work session on SB 582-FN, authorizing an assessment to determine appropriate caseload and workload standards for the division for children, youth and families; establishing additional child protection services positions in the division for children, youth and families; relative to foster care and adoption programs and services; and making appropriations therefor.

11:00 a.m. Division work session on SB 573-FN-A, relative to the controlled drug prescription health and safety program and making an appropriation therefor.

1:00 p.m. Division work session on **SB 313-FN, reforming New Hampshire's Medicaid and Premium Assistance Program**, establishing the granite workforce pilot program, and using certain

liquor funds [for treatments programs] *[this is the program that funds healthcare for 50,000 low-income NH people]*

TUESDAY, APRIL 10

HOUSE CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY JOINT WITH JUDICIARY, LOB rm 206-208

['Marsy's Law' proposed constitutional amendment.]

10:00 a.m. CACR 22, Providing that crime victims shall be afforded constitutional rights.

SENATE EDUCATION Room 103, LOB

[special education; kindergarten]

9:00 a.m. HB 1698-FN-L, cost of special education services for foster children.

9:10 a.m. HB 1499, the focus and components of New Hampshire kindergartens.

9:20 a.m. Public hearing on Amendment #1370s to HB 1499, relative to the focus and components of New Hampshire kindergartens.

SENATE ELECTION LAW AND INTERNAL AFFAIRS Room 102, LOB **[voter suppression]**

10:00 a.m. HB 1264, relative to construction of the terms "resident," "inhabitant," "residence," and "residency." *[the evil twin to HB372, yet another voter suppression bill that League opposes.]*

SENATE TRANSPORTATION Room 103, LOB

[highways & registration fee increase]

1:15 p.m. HB 1763-FN-A, establishing a road usage fee and making an appropriation therefor. This bill establishes a road usage fee for motor vehicles registered to travel on NH roads based on the equivalent miles per gallon of the vehicle. The fee is collected at the time of annual registration of the vehicle and deposited in the highway fund. *[in other words, fuel-efficient cars aren't now paying their share in gas taxes to keep our roads and highways in good shape; this would raise money for the highway fund from an increased registration fee for fuel-efficient cars.]*

1:30 p.m. HB 2018, the state 10-year transportation improvement program.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11

HOUSE COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS, Room 302, LOB **[healthcare]**

11:00 a.m. SB 383, establishing a commission to recommend policies that will enhance access to affordable health care for all New Hampshire residents.

HOUSE ELECTION LAW, Room 308, LOB

[election law]

12:30 p.m. Full committee work session on

SB 320, relative to checklists used at elections;

SB 363, prohibiting political expenditures by foreign nationals; *[League supports]*

SB 438, relative to the postponement of local elections; *[League opposes as written, is hoping for a planned amendment to be submitted and adopted.]*

SB 527-FN-L, relative to absentee voting *[This is the revised signature match bill].*

Executive session on any of these bills may immediately follow.

HOUSE FINANCE, Rooms 210-211, LOB

1:00 p.m. Executive session on various bills including

[children in need of services]

SB 582-FN, authorizing an assessment to determine appropriate caseload and workload standards for the division for children, youth and families; establishing additional child protection services positions in the division for children, youth and families; relative to foster care and adoption programs and services; and making appropriations therefor.

HOUSE FINANCE - DIVISION III, Rooms 210-211, LOB **[healthcare]**
1:15 p.m. Division work session on SB 313-FN, reforming New Hampshire's Medicaid and Premium Assistance Program, establishing the granite workforce pilot program, and relative to certain liquor funds.

FRIDAY, APRIL 13 **[experts report on the NH economy]**
SENATE FINANCE Rooms 210-211, LOB JOINT ECONOMIC UPDATE - WITH HOUSE FINANCE AND HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEES
9:00 a.m. Department of Revenue Administration (Impact of Tax Reform on the State)
10:00 a.m. Dr. Kenneth Johnson, Senior Demographer, Carsey School of Public Policy; Professor of Sociology, University of New Hampshire (State Demographic Trends)
11:00 a.m. Dr. Ross Gittell, Chancellor, Community College System of New Hampshire (State and Regional Economic Update)
1:00 p.m. Dr. Daniel H. Cooper, Senior Economist and Policy Advisor, Research Department, Federal Reserve Bank of Boston (National Economic Update)
2:00 p.m. Russ Thibeault, President, Applied Economic Research (State Real Estate Conditions)
3:00 p.m. Bruce DeMay, Director, Economic and Labor Market Information Bureau, New Hampshire Employment Security (State Labor Conditions)

Looking ahead a couple of weeks (rare advance notice from the legislature):

TUESDAY, APRIL 17 **[education; gun violence]**
HOUSE EDUCATION, Room 207, LOB
9:30 a.m. Executive session on bills including the following:
SB 357, relative to safe school zones and relative to syringe service programs *[will this bill be amended with a version of Sen. Hennessey's gun-free school zones amendment? Don't know.]*
SB 432-FN-L, establishing a commission to study whether it is in the best interest of students to require schools to offer an SAT preparation course as an elective;
SB 435, alternative programs for granting credit leading to graduation;
SB 437, robotics education development program;
SB 525-FN, prohibiting the distribution of adult education financial assistance to any student who is not a legal resident.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18 **[Marsy's Law]**
HOUSE CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY JOINT WITH JUDICIARY, Rooms 206-208, LOB 10:00 a.m. Full committee work session on CACR 22, relating to rights for crime victims.

MONDAY, APRIL 30 **[education funding]**
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, as usual.]*

On a side note, sadly we continue to hear the old story of gender inequality: **Equal Pay Day is April 10th**. In NH, the gender pay gap is 17%. That means women earn 83 cents for every dollar that men earn. [source: NH Women's Foundation].

Just an FYI—in NH all League work is done by member volunteers. We have no paid staff. Not sure how that relates.