

Legislative Alert from League of Women Voters NH for Feb. 19-21, plus a peek ahead.

The **Senate** will meet in session on Thursday, Feb. 21, 10 am. They have a light agenda. Most bills are on the Consent Calendar or unanimous recommendation from committees. Of particular interest:

EDUCATION SB 303-FN, state aid to school districts. Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 5-0. (*includes provisions about pro-rating special education funds. League has not followed this bill.*)

ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCE SB 76, prohibition of offshore oil and natural gas exploration. Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0. *League supports.*

The **House** will meet Wednesday, February 27, and Thursday, February 28 (if necessary).

For a complete list of House committee hearings, check the House calendar of Feb. 14: http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/house/caljournals/calendars/2019/HC_12.pdf

Here is the Senate Calendar of Feb. 14:

http://gencourt.state.nh.us/Senate/calendars_journals/calendars/2019/sc%2011.pdf

This week's little note, at the end of this legislative alert, tries to explain the deadlines for bills to work their way thru the legislature.

Note that a number of the committees are holding are either work sessions or executive sessions. They are open to the public and often very interesting, but no public testimony is taken.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19

SENATE EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, Room 103, LOB
11:00 a.m. SB 309-FN-L, **stabilization grants for education**. *Extends for two years stabilization aid at current rates.*

11:30 a.m. SB 280-FN-L, relative to the **cost of an adequate education** [*This bill increases per pupil state aid to \$7,500. It also says that funding can be used to tuition students to religious schools if a school district doesn't have a school for that grade. Refers to the "Croydon bill" of the past session, but that bill included only non-sectarian private schools in tuition funding. One part of this bill also refers to home education, but hard to figure out who gets that funding. This bill needs to be heard and studied very carefully.*]

SENATE FINANCE, Room 103, State House

1:00 p.m. SB 310-FN-A-L, **casino gambling** [2 video lottery and table gaming facilities] (*League opposes expanded gambling as an unreliable source of state income.*)

HOUSE COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS, Room 302, LOB **A bunch of bills about prescription drugs will be heard today.**

10:00 a.m. HB 656, establishing a commission to study the impact of financial initiatives for commercially insured members by drug manufacturers on prescription drug prices and health insurance premiums.

10:15 a.m. HB 657, lowest cost option in the formulary under the managed care law.

10:30 a.m. HB 658-FN, price increases of drugs under the managed care law.

10:45 a.m. HB 659, reporting of internal pharmaceutical costs.

1:30 p.m. HB 670-FN, the cost of prescription drugs.

1:45 p.m.HB 671-FN, pharmacy benefit manager business practices, licensure, and transparency.

2:00 p.m.HB 703-FN, providing notice of the introduction of new high-cost prescription drugs.

HOUSE CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY, Representatives Hall, State House

10:00 a.m.HB 455-FN, **abolishing the death penalty for capital murder**. Executive session will be Wed. at 10 am in LOB rm 204. *League supports abolishing the death penalty per our national position. Expect a crowd for this hearing.*

HOUSE EDUCATION, Room 207, LOB

10:00 a.m. Executive session on **education funding bills and guns in school bills**, heard earlier.

HOUSE ELECTION LAW, Room 308, LOB

9:45 a.m. Subcommittee work session on HB 531, delivery of absentee ballots cast by elderly or disabled citizens. *League supports.*

10:00 a.m. Subcommittee work session on HB 706-FN-A, establishing an **independent redistricting commission**. (executive session on this bill on Feb. 20) *League supports!*

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 20

SENATE ELECTION LAW AND MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS, Room 102, LOB

Executive session on some other bills followed by these hearings of great interest to League:

10:00 a.m.[SB 7-FN-L](#), establishing the Secure Modern Accurate Registration Technology Act *League supports this bill to make voter registration more secure and accurate and accessible for the public and officials.*

11:00 a.m.SB 8, establishing an **independent redistricting commission**. *League supports!*

HOUSE ELECTION LAW, Room 308, LOB

9:00 a.m. Subcommittee work session on HB 408-L, postponement of town mtgs and local elections.

9:30 a.m. Subcommittee work session on HB 315, repealing the authority to share voter information or data with other sites.

9:45 a.m. Subcommittee work session on HB 706-FN-A, **establishing an independent redistricting com-mission**. *League supports!*

11:00 a.m. Executive session on HB 706-FN-A, **independent redistricting commission**; CACR 9, **redistricting**. HB 315, repealing the authority to share voter information or data with other sites (likely to be amended) *League supports getting out of error-prone Crosscheck system*; HB 408-L, postponement of town meetings and local elections; HB 531, delivery of absentee ballots cast by elderly or disabled citizens; HB 593, updating official voter checklists.

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

1:00 p.m.HB 178, HB 186, and HB 731, all about **minimum wage laws**.

HOUSE STATE-FEDERAL RELATIONS AND VETERANS AFFAIRS, Room 206, LOB

10:00 a.m. HR 7, condemning the use of **government shutdowns**. Executive Session may follow.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21

HOUSE CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY, Room 204, LOB

11:00 a.m. Executive session on HB 109-FN, requiring background checks for commercial **firearms** sales; HB 481-FN-A-L, relative to the legalization and regulation of **cannabis** and making appropriations therefor; HB 705-FN, increasing the cap on assistance for victims of crime and relative to the rights of victims of crime; HB 722-FN, relative to the retail sale and taxation of **marijuana**; HB 726-FN, relative to the **secure psychiatric unit** and making an appropriation therefor.

LOOKING AHEAD...

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26

HOUSE RESOURCES, RECREATION, DEVELOPMENT LOB rm 305
1:00 pm HB 495 establish a commission on drinking water

TUESDAY, MARCH 5

HOUSE RESOURCES, RECREATION, DEVELOPMENT LOB rm 305
11:15 HB 73 establish 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.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6

HOUSE STATE-FEDERAL RELATIONS AND VETERANS AFFAIRS, Room 206 LOB
10:00 a.m. Executive session on HCR 6, applying to Congress to propose a congressional term limits constitutional amendment; HCR 7, urging the President and Congress to adopt a policy renouncing the first use of nuclear weapons; HJR 2, recommending and requesting the President and the Congress to exclude NH from offshore oil and gas drilling and exploration activities *(these are all resolutions to be forwarded to federal govt if passed.)*

For those still working on understanding the schedule in the legislature, here are a few things we think we've figured out:

If a bill has a fiscal note (that's the FN after the bill number) or for some other reason needs to go to a second committee, it must be voted on in either the House or the Senate (wherever it originated) by February 28 (House) or March 7 (Senate).

If it passes in the House or Senate, it goes to the Finance (or other) committee in the originating body. Finance holds public hearings, gets into the fiscal weeds of the bill, holds an executive session and can recommend it Ought To Pass, Inexpedient to Legislate, or suggest it be retained for further work.

The bill then goes back to the full House or Senate for another vote, which must happen before March 21 (I think—might be April 4 in the House). Only if it passes again will it “cross over” to the other body.

“Crossover” for bills without significant fiscal impact is March 21. Only if bills are passed by the originating body by that date will they “cross over” for another hearing in the appropriate committee in the second body. Another opportunity for us to testify!

Thus we can expect the Feb. 27-28 House voting session will have a large number of bills to consider, most with fiscal impact.

Work on the two-year state budget has a different set of deadlines.
Okay, that's clear as mud.