

## Legislative alert Feb 10-13, 2020 from League of Women Voters NH

Because of the snow/sleet and dangerous driving conditions legislators would have faced on Feb. 6, Governor Sununu postponed his **State of the State speech** until **Thursday, Feb. 13, at 2 pm**. The NH House also postponed its Feb. 6 session.

The Senate did meet on Feb. 6, passed SJR1 (vote 15-8) which prohibits the state board of education from implementing the Learn Everywhere 1400 program that was proposed and studied last year, and JLCAR denied approval of rules to implement that program. The Senate vote confirmed JLCAR's decision. *[complicated, but League supports the JLCAR decision and the Senate's vote to keep local school board's decision-making power over granting graduation credit.]*

### The NH Senate will meet in voting session on Feb. 13, 10 am.

Among the bills on their Calendar are the following:

SB 422, relative to changes of **registration of voters** at primary elections. Recommended Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 5-0. "This bill as amended will permit all voters to change their party affiliation at primary elections and it will make certain changes to the party change card."

SB 563, re authorizing the **issuance of bonds or notes by a municipality**. Recommended Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0. "This bill will standardize the required vote for authorization of the issuance of bonds or notes by a municipality in SB 2 towns and traditional town meeting towns. Currently, SB 2 towns need a 3/5ths vote for the adoption of the issuance of a bond or note and a traditional town meeting town needs 2/3rds. This legislation corrects that disparity and will require a 3/5ths vote for both."

SB 514, relative to alternative learning credit rules of the state board of **education**.

Recommended Ought to Pass, Vote 4-0. *[League note: we observed this hearing. It creates a process for vetting ELO course providers while not requiring local schools to use these providers nor does it force districts to accept credits for graduation. A logical alternative to the defeated Learn Everywhere program.]*

SB 287-FN, requiring the commissioner of the department of environmental services to revise rules relative to perfluorinated chemical contamination in **drinking water**. Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 5-0.

SB 305-FN, relative to the establishment of an **election information portal**. Recommended Interim Study, Vote 6-0. *[this bill would allow further discussion of ways to work toward online voter registration, thus League supports this bill.]*

SB 474, relative to the **income tax on interest and dividends**. Recommended Inexpedient to Legislate, Vote 4-1. *[League note: this is a change in the name of the tax, not a change in the tax itself. It would prevent us from saying that NH has no income tax.]*

SB 527-FN, relative to **historical racing**. Recommendation Interim Study, Vote 3-2. *[League testified against this bill. It essentially would allow slot machine-like devices at charity gaming venues, an extension of gambling in NH.]*

**The House will meet in voting session on Feb. 13.** The members have also been told to reserve Feb. 19 & 20 for sessions.

For Feb. 13: A number of non-priority bills are on the Consent Calendar. Some bills of interest on the Regular Calendar include the following:

HB 1649-FN-A, establishing a **road usage fee**. OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. Vote 17-3 "The intent of the road usage fee is to ensure that motor vehicles using our state's roads and bridges provide their fair share of funds for the maintenance of the roads and

bridges. ...This bill establishes a road usage fee for motor vehicles registered to travel on our roads based on the combined Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) city/highway miles per gallon (MPG) rating of the vehicle at the time of registration. This fee would be collected at the time of the annual vehicle registration and deposited into the Highway Fund.”

HB 1605-FN, requiring children under the age of 2 years be restrained in a motor vehicle.

MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. MINORITY: REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY. Vote 10-9, conflict is over whether the details of the bill meet federal guidelines.

There will be no House **committee hearings** on **Presidential Primary Day, Tues. Feb. 11.**

### **Monday, February 10**

HOUSE SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENERGY, Room 304, Legislative Office Bldg

9:30 am Full committee **work session** on HB 1218-FN, relative to net energy metering and limits for customer generators; HB 1225, allowing increased net energy metering limits for municipal hydroelectric facilities; HB 1402, establishing procedures for municipal host customer-generators of electrical energy; HB 1481, relative to the net metering cap for customer-generators; HB 1515, relative to group host net energy metering; HB 1262, relative to the purchase of output of limited electrical energy producers. **Executive session** on these bills will be Wed., Feb. 12 beginning at 10 am.

### **Wednesday, February 12**

SENATE ELECTION LAW AND MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS, Room 102, LOB

10:00 a.m. SB 482, relative to **building codes** for tiny houses.

HOUSE CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY, Room 204, Legislative Office Bldg

9:00 am Subcommittee work session on HB 1254-FN, relative to the **parole** of prisoners and the procedures of the adult parole board.

1:00 pm HB 1663-FN-A-L, relative to the legalization and regulation of **cannabis**

1:30 pm HB 1608-FN, prohibiting the manufacture, sale, transfer, and possession of **large capacity ammunition feeding devices**. *[League supports]*

2:00 pm HB 1613-FN, allowing prisoners serving life sentences to be eligible for parole after 25 years.

HOUSE EDUCATION Room 207 Legislative Office Bldg

1:30 pm HB 1636, relative to **special education services** for children in charter schools.

2:15 pm HB 1232, relative to the burden of proof in special education hearings.

2:45 pm HB 1558-FN, relative to the provision of special education services for older students.

3:15 pm HB 1473, requiring schools to have a special education parent advisory council.

HOUSE ENVIRONMENT AND AGRICULTURE, Room 303, Legislative Office Bldg

10:00 am HB 1195, relative to **pesticide use** and notification of such use on community playgrounds.

11:00 am HB 1190, relative to banning the pesticide chlorpyrifos.

1:00 pm HB 1172, prohibiting state agencies from spraying pesticides targeting mosquitoes before dusk.

2:00 pm HB 1196, relative to eliminating exposure to certain pesticides and establishing an alternative pest management working group.

3:00 pm HB 1208, relative to notification of pesticide application in residential property.

HOUSE JUDICIARY, Room 208, Legislative Office Bldg **[privacy bills]**

10:00 am HB 1226, prohibiting surveillance by the state on public ways or sidewalks.

10:30 am HB 1236, relative to the expectation of privacy.

1:00 pm HB 1659-FN, relative to patient directed care and patient's rights with regard to **end-of-life decisions**. Executive session on these bills in Judiciary is March 4.

### Thursday, February 13

HOUSE EDUCATION, Room 207, Legislative Office Bldg

10:00 am HB 1635, requiring **climate education** in grade and secondary schools.

HOUSE ELECTION LAW, Room 308, Legislative Office Bldg

9:00 am Subcommittee work session on HB 1665-FN-A, establishing an **independent redistricting commission**. *[League's priority bill this session. We support!]*

10:00 am Subcommittee work session on HB 1395, establishing a committee to study ballot access and ways to improve civic engagement in NH; HB 1534, establishing a commission to study the creation of **online voter registration** for the 2022 state elections. *[League supports efforts to move voting in NH into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.]*

HOUSE LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION, Room 303, Legislative Office Bldg

10:15 am HB 1303, establishing a commission **to study expanding public testimony opportunities** to remote locations statewide. *[We have no info on the cost of this technology, but it would certainly let more people observe and testify at hearings on bills without going to Concord. League supports studying the possibility.]*

HOUSE RESOURCES, RECREATION AND DEVELOPMENT, Room 305, Legislative Office

Bldg 9:00 am HB 1252-FN, relative to **large groundwater withdrawals** from replacement wells. 9:30 am HB 1347, addressing impacts to other water users from new sources of water for **community water systems**.

### Tuesday, February 18

SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES, Room 103, State House

9:00 a.m. SB 493-FN-A, relative to register of deeds fees used to support the land and community heritage investment program (LCHIP), and establishing a committee to study the economic impact of **land conservation** and to review the LCHIP surcharge.

***Hint of the week...*** a bill's number reflects its origin. SB... bills start in the Senate, pass on to hearings in the House only if they are passed in a Senate voting session. HB... bills are just the opposite. If you figure out where a bill is, it will help you contact the right legislator at the right time.

***How do I make my views known on bills the House or Senate will vote on?***

As a citizen of this state, you have every right to contact your Representative(s) and Senator to tell them why you think a bill is a good bill or a bad idea. Be sure to identify yourself as a constituent—tell them your town right up front so they'll pay attention (they want your support in the next election.)

You can find the names and contact information of your Reps and Senator by clicking on the "Contact your state representative" link on the left side of the General Court's homepage.

<http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/>

Then scroll to your town's name and the reps and senator will appear. Click on each one separately to find their email, perhaps a phone number, and a paper mailing address.

When you contact your legislator, be as specific about the bill as you can be. State the subject of the bill, the number if you know it, your reason for supporting or opposing it, and any relevant personal experience that will help the legislator understand the human impact of a bill.

You can contact your rep/senator as soon as you learn about a bill, or you can wait until the week before they are set to vote in session. What you shouldn't do is try to call or email them the day of the session—too much going on then.