

Hearings in NH Legislature WEEK OF JAN. 16-18, 2018, with looks ahead up to Feb. 6.

There are hearings for those interested in education; also some for those focused on voting rights. A few others listed of more general interest. Complete list of hearings is in the Senate and House Calendars for this week.

To read the text of a bill, go to this webpage http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/bill_status/quick_search.html and type in the number this way: hb1494

Click on Submit. When the bill comes up, click on Bill Text (on my computer, PDF is easier to read)

LOB in room references below means Legislative Office Building, the building behind (across the street from) the Capitol.

Neither the House nor the Senate meets in session this week. Next Senate session is Jan. 18; Next House session probably Feb. 7.

TUESDAY Jan. 16, 2018 HOUSE HEARINGS

COMMERCE & CONSUMER AFFAIRS, Room 302, LOB

9:15 AM Subcommittee meeting on [HB 1793](#), establishing a NH single payer health system, as a follow-up to a well-attended hearing held 1/12/18.

11:00 AM [HB 628](#), a family and medical leave insurance program.

FINANCE, LOB ROOM 210-211

1:30 PM SB193 Title: establishing education freedom savings accounts for students [the “voucher” bill that would allow use of public money for private schools and home schooling]

League has followed this bill extensively as it went from awful through a careful examination, compromise, and amendment procedure to a bill that the House passed last week 184-162. Finance must now examine it. Our recent consensus meetings indicate a League position OPPOSING this bill.

COMMERCE, LOB 302

11 AM HB 628-FN: relative to a family and medical leave insurance program. [This bill passed the House 183-151 on Jan. 9, now goes to Commerce/Consumer Affairs for another hearing; don't know why.]

EDUCATION, Room 207, LOB

9:30 a.m.HB 1494, relative to the definition of academic standards.

9:50 a.m.HB 1495, relative to standards for determining an adequate education.

10:50 a.m.HB 1496, relative to requirements for performance based accountability for an adequate education.

11:30 a.m.HB 1674, relative to computer science and digital skills required for an adequate education.

1:00 p.m.HB 1493, relative to the statewide assessment system of performance in schools.

1:30 p.m.HB 1497, relative to accountability for school performance.

2:30 p.m.HB 1369, limiting educational assessments to academic skills and knowledge.

ELECTION LAW, Room 308, LOB

10:00 a.m.HB 1713, relative to the transfer of digital copies of voter checklists to qualified political organizations and candidates. [this adds to paper copies of lists that candidates and parties can currently buy from the Sec. Of State the ability to request and get free digital copies upon request—League wonders what will be the payroll costs to the state to do this]

10:30 a.m.HB 1770-FN-L, relative to verification of checklists.

10:50 a.m.HB 1773-FN-A, relative to campaign contributions and expenditures. **League supports this bill**, encourages a **show of support at the hearing**. Briefly, “This bill establishes a fund to provide campaign financing for eligible candidates for governor, councilor, and state senator. The bill also establishes a clean elections board and a clean elections enforcement unit to administer the fund and

enforce campaign finance laws.” This bill fits our campaign finance reform position. Rally organized by Open Democracy.

11:30 a.m. HB 1368, relative to political contributions made by limited liability companies [**League supports** this campaign finance reform bill.]

12:00 p.m. HB 1667-FN, relative to permissible campaign contributions by business organizations and labor unions and relative funding source disclosure for political advertising. [**League supports this bill.** Campaign finance reform (greater disclosure)]

TUESDAY, JAN. 16: SENATE HEARINGS:

ELECTION LAW AND INTERNAL AFFAIRS Room 102, LOB

9:00 a.m. SB 438, relative to the postponement of local elections. [**League objects** to the overreach of power by the state (in this case, the secretary of state) over the powers traditionally belonging to the towns/cities. “Local control” may be dying. The NH Municipal Assn has this blurb about the bill: “The bill was drafted by the Secretary of State’s office with no input from NHMA or, to our knowledge, from anyone else. It does more than just give control over the ballot voting session to a state official who does not have, and has never had, any authority or any role in town meeting. It also proclaims - despite dozens of statutes and over two centuries of history to the contrary - that the town “meeting” and the town “election” are two discrete events”]

9:20 a.m. SB 439, repealing the authority to share voter information or data with other states.

9:40 a.m. SB 440-FN, relative to prohibited political contributions [**League supports**—campaign finance enforcement].

10:00 a.m. SB 527-FN-L, relative to absentee voting [this bill would require those voting absentee to submit a photocopy of an acceptable photo ID such as a drivers license with the application. Failure to do so would have the elections officials revert to the current system of comparing the signature on the application with that on the ballot application, so at least there remains that “out” for people who don’t drive—such as elderly or people with handicaps who wish to vote absentee for acceptable reasons. But League suspects nefarious motives here to suppress the vote by intimidating voters without drivers licenses.]

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES Room 101, LOB

1:00 p.m. SB 310-FN, establishing a pilot program for community-based diversion services (**League supports, will sign in**)

WEDNESDAY, Jan. 17 HOUSE hearings:

EDUCATION, Room 207, LOB

10:00 a.m. HB 1217, amending the certification requirements for school nurses.

11:00 a.m. HB 1593, authorizing a school district meeting to adopt an article authorizing the trustees of the trust fund to charge certain expenses against capital reserve funds.

11:30 a.m. HB 1636, establishing a committee to study teacher preparation and education programs.

1:00 p.m. HB 1403, relative to members of the state board of education.

1:30 p.m. HB 1272, relative to the powers of local boards of education.

2:00 p.m. HB 1612, relative to data security in schools.

HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND ELDERLY AFFAIRS, Room 205, LOB

11:00 a.m. HB 1707-FN, relative to information regarding abortion [specified information must be provided to women in advance of procedure, including options to abortion, creating a 24 hours waiting period].

PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS, Rooms 201-203, LOB

10:00 a.m. HB 1706, relative to the construction of a Lake Sunapee public boat ramp.

[Of interest to members in the Lake Sunapee area—same bill as submitted last year that became a study commission which is working right now. Don't know why someone resubmitted the bill.]

1:00 p.m. Presentation: Briefing by Department of Transportation on the 10-Year Highway Plan.

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

10:00 a.m. HB 1524, relative to election-related amendments to the United States Constitution [League likes these amendments proposed to get big money out of politics, increase transparency, and get rid of gerrymandering. Do they have a snowball's chance...?]

11:00 a.m. HCR 12, applying to Congress to propose a congressional term limits constitutional amendment.

WEDNESDAY, Jan. 17 SENATE HEARINGS:

PUBLIC AND MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS Room 102, LOB

10:15 a.m. SB 394, enabling municipalities to establish term limits for elected officials.

THURSDAY, JAN. 18, 2018 HOUSE HEARINGS:

EDUCATION, Room 207, LOB

9:30 a.m. HB 1694, requiring a civics examination as a high school graduation requirement.

10:00 a.m. HB 1499, relative to the focus and components of New Hampshire kindergartens.

10:45 a.m. HB 1744, authorizing a parent to exempt his or her child from participating in the statewide assessment program.

11:30 a.m. HB 1552, requiring school districts to submit an annual report concerning gifted students.

1:00 p.m. HB 1761, relative to the math learning communities program in secondary schools.

2:00 p.m. HB 1819-FN, relative to administration of the education tax credit.

ELECTION LAW, Room 308, LOB

10:00 a.m. HB 1666, relative to redistricting. LEAGUE SUPPORTS, WILL TESTIFY.

10:30 a.m. HB 1699, relative to state representative districts for Hudson and Pelham. [splits these two towns into separate districts effective 2018 election. Currently the two towns share 11 state reps.]

10:50 a.m. HB 1239, relative to nomination of political organizations.

11:30 a.m. HB 1448, relative to the definition of "party" for election purposes.

12:00 p.m. HB 1479-L, relative to the nomination of political candidates.

12:30 p.m. HB 1568-FN, allowing voters to register as members of political organizations.

FINANCE - DIVISION II, Room 209, LOB

10:00 a.m. Division work session on HB 525-FN, relative to stabilization grants for education.

1:00 p.m. Division work session on HB 609-FN-A, establishing a student career and college investment program and making an appropriation therefor.

WAYS AND MEANS, LOB 202

11:15 a.m. HB 1355, establishing a commission to study adaptation of the tax structure of the state to economic and demographic change. [seems like a good idea to us]

LOOKING AHEAD: SENATE HEARINGS

Tuesday, Jan. 23, 2018 EDUCATION, LOB room 103

9:30 a.m. SB 382, relative to withdrawal from cooperative school districts.

Tuesday, Feb. 6, 2018 EDUCATION Room 103, LOB

9:00 a.m. SB 435, relative to alternative programs for granting credit leading to graduation.

9:15 a.m. SB 436, relative to tuition in the community college system.

9:30 a.m. SB 437, relative to the robotics education development program.

9:45 a.m. SB 441, relative to final grades in schools.

LOOKING AHEAD : HOUSE HEARINGS

Tuesday, January 23 LOB room 308. ELECTION LAW Committee

10:00 a.m. HB 1520, relative to access to ballots and relative to verification counts of machine-counted ballots.

10:30 a.m. HB 1582, relative to the authority of the moderator to verify the device count.

11:00 a.m. HB 1486, relative to “over voted” ballots.

1:00 p.m. [HB 1540](#) (an act relative to ranked choice voting) League does not have a national position on this issue, but at the state level we been following the efforts in Maine, led by League and others, to institute this method.

Tuesday, Jan. 23, EDUCATION, Room 207, LOB

10:00 a.m. HB 1353, establishing a commission to study equal access and opportunity for students with disabilities to participate in athletics.

10:30 a.m. HB 1409, relative to child restraint practices in schools and treatment facilities.

11:00 a.m. HB 1439, relative to requirements for private schools that contract with school districts.

11:30 a.m. HB 1551, relative to the retention of records of individualized education programs.

1:00 p.m. HB 1354, adding the speaker of the house of representatives and senate president as permanent members of the university system board of trustees.

1:30 p.m. HB 1528, prohibiting discrimination in the university and community college systems.

Tuesday, Jan. 23 FINANCE - DIVISION II, Room 209, LOB

10:00 a.m. Division work session on HB 1814-FN-L, relative to additional education grants to municipalities for the purpose of restoring reductions in stabilization grants

1:00 p.m. Division work session on SB 193-FN, [the school “vouchers” bill] League will observe.

Wednesday, Jan. 24, probably in the morning, EDUCATION: a special presentation to the House Education Committee about charter schools—League wants to learn more too. Likely in LOB 207 or near there.

Thursday Jan. 25, 2018 EDUCATION, Room 207, LOB

10:00 a.m. Executive session on HB 1452, HB 1819-FN, HB 1698-FN-L, HB 1593,

1:00 p.m. HB 1263, relative to educational evaluation of home schooled children.

Thursday Jan. 25, 2018 ELECTION LAW, Room 308, LOB

10:00 a.m. HB 1220, relative to valid identification to obtain a ballot [**League opposes:** in this bill the target is people 65-70 who may no longer drive but do use an expired license as ID at the polls—makes the voter ID law tougher on the elderly]

10:30 a.m. HB 1510-FN, relative to voters using out-of-state drivers’ licenses as identification. [**League opposes.** This bill makes sense only if everyone who votes also currently owns a car in NH, so it is another student voter suppression bill, and could be seen as a poll tax to boot]

11:00 a.m. HB 1264, relative to construction of the terms “resident,” “inhabitant,” “residence,” and “residency.” [yet another voter suppression bill to muddy the waters—**League opposes**]

1:00 p.m. HB 1543, relative to domicile of students for voting purposes. [**League opposes** this most heinous student voter suppression bill yet! Shame on the representative who wrote it, who could find no co-sponsors apparently because it is so blatantly bad.]

2:00 p.m. HB 1772-FN, permitting online voting registration. **League supports**

Tuesday, Jan. 30, 2018 CHILDREN AND FAMILY LAW, LOB room 206

2:00 p.m. HB 1650, removing education as required by law as a criterion for determining child neglect. [text of bill gives as one reason “The Division for Children, Youth & Families staff are not trained to evaluate education but are trained to assess allegations of abuse or neglect.” Also cites that of 600 allegations investigated in the past, only 5% proved to be grounds for further action.]

Tuesday Jan. 30, 2018 EDUCATION LOB 207

1:00 p.m. HB 1492-L, relative to a course of action when a child’s attendance at a school has resulted in a manifest educational hardship. [an important bill for League to follow]

Wednesday, Jan. 31, 2018 JUDICIARY, Room 208, LOB

10:00 a.m. HB 1680-FN, relative to abortions after viability [does not define gestation age for viability; could lead to criminal cases against physicians]

11:00 a.m. HB 1721-FN, relative to coercive abortions. [the text of this bill reveals a strong anti-abortion bias, is intrusive into the life of woman. League opposes.]

1:00 p.m. HB 1319, prohibiting discrimination based on gender identity. [**League supports**; last year’s bill was tabled after hours of floor debate]