

Legislative Alert from the League of Women Voters NH, for bills in the NH Legislature Jan. 28 thru 30, with some committees already scheduled thru Feb. 19.

The big day for League and anyone opposed to gerrymandering is Tuesday Jan. 28, when the new bill for an independent redistricting commission is being heard at 10:30. If you can attend to sign in as a supporting this bill, that would be great! We hope there will be a big crowd and we get moved to Representatives Hall in the State House..

The Senate will meet in session on Thursday, Jan. 30, to vote on a number of bills. Among the bills that will get discussion on the floor are the following:

SB 410-FN, relative to the **state minimum hourly rate**. Recommended Ought to Pass, Vote 3-2.

HB 253, relative to **criminal records checks in the employee application process**. Recommended for Interim Study, Vote 5-0.

SB 537, proclaiming **January 24 as Granny D. Day**. Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0. *[League supports this bill recognizing a NH champion of campaign finance reform. Look up her story if you don't know it.]*

Senate hearings:

Tuesday, Jan. 28

EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, Room 103, Legislative Office Bldg

9:00 am SB 481, relative to **chartered public school use of unused school district facilities**.

[There are no League priority bills in Senate committees this week. Senate calendar does not go beyond Jan. 30.]

The House will meet in session on Feb. 6, following the joint session in which Governor Sununu will give his State of the State speech at 10 am.

House hearings:

Tuesday, Jan. 28

ELECTION LAW, Room 308, Legislative Office Bldg

10:00 am HB 1531, relative to the release of voting information in a presidential election.

10:30 am HB 1665-FN-A, establishing an **independent redistricting commission**. *[This is the League's top priority this year!]*

11:00 am HB 1390, relative to access to ballots and **verification counts of machine-counted ballots**.

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

10:00 am Executive session on a number of bills including two related to **guns**, HB1101-FN, imposing a **waiting period** between the purchase and delivery of a firearm; and HB 1379-FN, requiring a **background check** for commercial firearms sales. [see note at the end of this alert to find out more about "executive sessions"]

FINANCE - DIVISION I, Room 212, Legislative Office Bldg

11:30 am Division work session on SB 283-FN, relative to **post-election audits** of electronic ballot counting devices.

1:00 pm Division work session on SB 7-FN-L, establishing the **secure modern accurate registration act** (SMART ACT). [Work sessions will continue at 10 am on Wednesday Jan. 29]

PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS, Room 201, Legislative Office Bldg

11:00 am Executive session on HB 1649-FN-A, establishing a **road usage fee** and making an appropriation therefor; HB 1650-FN-A-L, establishing a **road usage registration fee** and making an appropriation therefor

WAYS AND MEANS, Room 202, Legislative Office Bldg

11:00 pm HB 1646-FN, relative to historic racing. *[Similar to the Senate bill on which League offered written testimony in opposition. We will do so again with this bill.]*

Wednesday, Jan. 29

HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND ELDERLY AFFAIRS, Room 205, Legislative Office Bldg
Beginning at 10 am, several bills related to **medical cannabis**.

JUDICIARY, Representatives Hall, in the State House. [Expecting a large public turnout.]

10:00 am HB 1475-FN, prohibiting **abortions** after detection of fetal heartbeat *[similar bills in other states have already been struck down]*

11:00 am HB 1640-FN, relative to parental notification prior to **abortion** *[would remove the current provision allowing for judicial bypass]*

1:00 pm HB 1675-FN, relative to the right of any infant born alive to medically appropriate and reasonable care and treatment.

2:00 pm HB 1678-FN, relative to prohibiting **abortion** in certain cases *[specifically prohibits doctors from performing abortions when they are sought because of a diagnosis of a genetic abnormality]*

STATE-FEDERAL RELATIONS AND VETERANS AFFAIRS, Room 206, Legislative Office Bldg
[These hearings had been scheduled for last Wednesday, were postponed to Jan. 29]

9:30 am HR 12, urging Congress to declare perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (**PFAs**) a superfund chemical and provide sufficient programming and funding for education, treatment, and remediation of the effects of PFAS.

11:00 am HCR 10, urging Congress to grant states broader authority to set higher **environmental standards** than those established in federal law.

1:00 pm HJR 4, urging Congress to enact legislation or propose a constitutional amendment to grant **statehood to the District of Columbia**. *[League supports]*

1:45 pm HCR 9, rescinding all requests by the New Hampshire legislature for a **federal constitutional convention**. *[League supports, based on our national study of a few years ago. League will testify.]*

[Executive session on above bills will be Feb. 26, 10:30 am]

Thursday, Jan. 30

EDUCATION, Room 207, Legislative Office Bldg

1:00 pm Executive work session on the following bills related to granting credit and to charter schools: HB 1321, establishing a committee to study the reporting criteria of chartered public schools; HB 1369, relative to the acceptance of high school course credits from certain schools or education agencies; HB 1412, requiring secondary schools to grant educational credit for certain courses completed; HB 1454, relative to credit for alternative, extended learning, and work-based programs; HB 1336, relative to disclosure of information regarding high school student assessment

ENVIRONMENT AND AGRICULTURE, Room 303, Legislative Office Bldg

10:00 am Full committee work session [on a number of **animal welfare bills**.]

Tuesday, Feb. 4

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

1:00 pm HB 1350, requiring a locking safety device be provided for **commercial firearm sales** and transfers.

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

1:00 pm HB 1425-FN, requiring the removal of all containers containing **PFAS** compounds from public schools and hospitals.

1:45 pm HB 1537, relative to standards for perfluorochemicals in drinking water and ambient groundwater.

Wednesday, Feb. 5

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

10:00 am HB 1663-FN-A-L, relative to the **legalization and regulation of cannabis** and making appropriations therefor.

LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION, Room 303, Legislative Office Bldg [Note: a **CACR** is a proposed Constitutional Amendment. It requires a 3/5 supporting vote in each body of the legislature to get on the November ballot, then 2/3 of the voters voting on the specific CACR would need to vote yes for it to become part of the NH Constitution.]

10:00 am CACR 13, relating to **compensation of the legislature**. Providing that members shall receive mileage for attendance on veto days and when voting on a budget following a continuing resolution.

10:30 am CACR 16, relating to **recall elections**. Providing that the general court may authorize recall elections.

11:00 am CACR 18, relating to the general court. Providing that the house or the senate may independently order a **referendum** to reduce a penalty established in law.

11:30 am HB 1385, relative to portraits and memorial objects in the state house, legislative office building and Upham Walker house.

11:45 am HB 1297, directing the legislative budget assistant to conduct a **financial audit of the secretary of state's office** [Executive session on the above bills on Feb. 19 at 2:30 pm]

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

2:15 pm HB 1444-FN, requiring the **adoption of vehicle emissions standards** based on the California clean car standards.

3:15 pm HB 1310, relative to authorizing the state to set higher **environmental standards** than those established in federal law.

Wednesday, Feb. 12

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

1:00 pm HB 1608-FN, **prohibiting the manufacture, sale, transfer, and possession of large capacity ammunition feeding devices**.

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

Wednesday, Feb. 19

LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION, Room 303, Legislative Office Bldg

10:45 am HB 1303, establishing a commission to study **expanding public testimony opportunities to remote locations statewide**. [League is interested in this bill that would give more members and of course the general public the opportunity to testify on bills without going to Concord. It doesn't specify the method, merely would create a commission to study how to do this.]

(Additional bills will be added to the Feb. Calendar next week. We appreciate the heads-up from some committees of their scheduled hearings so far in advance.)

What is an Executive Session? This is when the committee that heard the bill and testimony discusses the bill and votes how to recommend the bill when it gets to the floor of the House or Senate. These are public sessions but public testimony is not taken, nor may the public "sign in" support or oppose at executive sessions. The committee may, however, request information from the state agencies involved or ask other experts to speak. The vote is a roll-call vote.

The committee may vote **Ought To Pass** (meaning support the bill) or

Inexpedient To Legislate (meaning this bill should be killed.) A "yes" vote on the floor to an ITL recommended bill is essentially a vote against the bill. (Read that twice if needed.)

The committee may also recommend a bill be held for **Interim Study** (or "**Rereferred**" in the Senate), especially when the committee thinks the bill has merit but need serious amendment to work.

Even though public testimony is not taken, these are interesting hearings to attend as the members reveal their concerns about the big picture and the details. And one can see exactly how each member votes.