

Legislative Alert from League of Women Voters for March 16-20, 2020

Brief report from the House voting session on March 11 & 12: First, a huge thank you to our representatives who were there until 3:45 am on Friday to finish up voting on nearly 200 bills.

Most of the election law bills that League supports passed, but some of them along party lines, which does not bode well for a veto override if the Governor doesn't like them. That includes our priority bill, the **independent advisory redistricting bill HB1665, which passed 203 to 121**. We thank all those from both parties who voted YES on this bi-partisan bill to end gerrymandering and create fair voting districts in 2021. The bill moves over to the Senate. We will let you know when it is scheduled for a hearing there. We continue to hope legislators and the Governor recognize this a bill that the voters want and both parties should support. No one knows which party will be in power in 2021 when the new districts will be drawn!

The Senate, on a party-line vote, passed a paid family medical leave bill Thursday despite a near certain veto by Gov. Chris Sununu. [House Bill 712](#) is similar to a proposal Sununu vetoed last year. League has no position on this but it is of increasing concern in this time of a potential health crisis.

Updates on other bills that passed or failed from last week's huge Legislative Alert will be published on our LWVNH.org Hot Legislation website by noon on Saturday. There are many to be checked out. <http://lwvnh.org/currentlegislation.html>

The Senate will meet in session on Thursday, March 19, 2020 at 10:00 am

*Among the bills the Senate will vote on are these **Environment**-related bills*

SB 427, establishing the **NH youth climate and conservation council**. Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 4-0.

SB 429, establishing a committee to study the feasibility of building regional **plastic to oil conversion plants** throughout the state. Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 4-0.

SB 590, establishing a committee to **develop science-based emissions reduction goals for NH**. Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 4-0.

SB 629-FN, establishing the **solid waste reduction management fund and establishing a solid waste disposal surcharge**. Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 3-1.

SB 493-FN-A, relative to register of deeds fees and voluntary contributions 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. Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0.

SB 496-FN, establishing a **per and polyfluoroalkyl substances fund** and programs and making an appropriation therefor. Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0.

SB 641-FN, establishing a state assistance to **public drinking water systems** program and fund. Interim Study, Vote 5-0.

SB 668-FN-A, establishing an **offshore wind commission**, establishing an office of offshore wind industry development in the department of business and economic affairs, and making an appropriation therefor. Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 5-0.

Next voting session of the NH House to be scheduled by the chair (not week of March 16-20).

House and Senate committees will hear some bills that have already "crossed over" following passage in the other body; finance committees are taking a look at some bills that already passed their body once but have a fiscal note attached. These bills will then go back to the whole body for another vote with a recommendation from Finance.

Tuesday, March 17

HOUSE ELECTION LAW, Room 308, Legislative Office Bldg

10:00 am SB 229-FN, establishing a committee to study the value of conducting **post-election audits**.
10:30 am SB 231-FN, establishing a committee to study **truth in political advertising**. *League supports.*
11:00 am SB 304-FN-A, establishing a committee to study **public funding of certain state election campaigns**. *League supports.*
11:30 am SB 422, relative to **changes of registration of voters at primary elections**. *League supports.*

SENATE EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, Room 103, Legislative Office Bldg
9:00 am HB 1454, relative to credit for **alternative, extended learning, and work-based programs**.
9:20 am HB 251, establishing a committee to study criminal records check policies for nonpublic schools and private entities that receive public funds.
9:40 am HB 721-FN-L, relative to **special education** in towns with no public schools.
10:00 am HB 327-FN-A, making an appropriation to the community college system to continue the **math learning communities program** in partnership with New Hampshire high schools.
10:15 am HB 1371, proclaiming March 2 Reading in New Hampshire Day. *A bit late, folks.*
10:30 am HB 1185, establishing a committee to study forms of **apprenticeship programs** currently in place in New Hampshire.

SENATE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, Room 101, Legislative Office Bldg
1:00 p.m. SB 507, relative to **prescription medication for treatment or prevention of communicable disease**.
1:15 p.m. Hearing on proposed Amendment #2020-1212s, relative to prescription medication for treatment or prevention of communicable disease, requiring insurers to waive cost-sharing for **coronavirus** testing, and establishing certain protections regarding the coronavirus, to SB 507, relative to prescription medication for treatment or prevention of communicable disease.

SENATE JUDICIARY, Room 100, SH
9:00 a.m. CACR 20, Providing that the retirement age of judges be increased. (proposed constitutional amendment]

HOUSE MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT, Room 301, LOB
10:00 a.m. Executive session on HB 1218-FN, relative to **net energy metering limits** for customer generators and the purchase of output of limited electrical energy producers;
SB 79, relative to required reporting on waste reduction.

Wednesday, March 18

HOUSE FINANCE, Rooms 210-211, Legislative Office Bldg
1:00 pm Executive session on a number of bills that already passed the House once, need Finance to check out the details and send back to the House for a re-vote.

Thursday, March 19

HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND ELDERLY AFFAIRS, Room 205, Legislative Office Bldg
10:00 am Executive session on a number of **healthcare related bills** that have already passed in the Senate.