

Legislative alert May 15-19, from League of Women Voters NH

The next **House session will be Thursday, May 18, 10 am.** They will be addressing only House bills that have been amended by the Senate, including an emergency supplemental appropriation to fund Health and Human Services until the end of the year. (Bills amended in Senate are listed in the Calendar, but it is not clear which ones they will be voting on: http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/house/caljournals/calendars/2017/HC_24.pdf) They will not be acting on any Senate-originated bills, including SB3, at this session. The next likely full House session is June 1.

The next **Senate session will be Thursday, May 18, 10 am.** Light list of bills this week. Among the bills they will vote on are the following of League and public interest:

Election Law: HB552, relative to voter verification letters. The wording of this bill has been reworked carefully in consultation with the Dept. of Justice and the Secretary of State over several weeks. It clarifies processes that the Sec. of State may use to "conduct an inquiry" into voter affidavits when postcards are not returned or letters are returned as undeliverable. The current language seems to be more accurate of process within the scope of the Sec. of State's office than the original bill, which League opposed. Committee voted 5-0 Ought to Pass as Amended.

Finance: HB652, establishing a veterans track in the court system. League believes that the mental health courts and drug courts that have been established in recent years have shown significant advantages and hope that a veterans track would do the same. Committee voted 5-0 Ought to Pass.

Ways and Means: HB316, statewide property tax exemption for commercial and industrial construction. Committee recommends Ought to Pass 3-2, so this is likely to generate debate. League regrets we haven't been following this bill through committees.

Ways and Means: HB560, establishing Keno. While League opposes expanded gambling and in the past testified against allowing Keno, this bill allows local control and limits the hours and venues greatly. We did not testify. Committee recommends re-refer to committee 4-1 (presumably for further work on the bill.) We will track future amendments if this bill is retained.

Committee meetings and hearings of interest in the coming week; many of them will be executive sessions, which are public but no public testimony is taken:

House hearings:

Tuesday, May 16:

EDUCATION: LOB Rm 207 10:30 am -- continued exec session on SB8, relative to towns with no public schools

ELECTION LAW: LOB 308, 10 am-- SB248, the amended bill that creates a study committee regarding elections postponed under emergency conditions. Study committee is needed!

10:20 Executive session on several bills including SB3 (domicile re voter registration) (we oppose); SB113 electronic poll books (we support); SB33 defining political advocacy organizations (HB533, seems to be same language, has been retained for further study by the House); SB114 prohibiting cross-party nominations.

FINANCE all three divisions are holding work sessions today--see Calendar for details

http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/house/caljourns/calendars/2017/HC_24.pdf

Wednesday, May 17:

LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION: LOB 305-07 10:30 am, executive session on charges made against Representatives Fisher and Frost.

(Looking ahead a week) Wed., May 24:

FINANCE LOB room 210-211: 10 am exec session on a number of bills including SB38 (rds & bridges); SB57 (drinking water in Amherst); SB155 (Medicaid managed care); SB191 (education); SB247 (lead poisoning prevention fund)

Senate hearings: All hearings seem to be executive sessions week of May 15-19.

FINANCE State House room 103 in exec session on Monday (1 pm), Tues (1 pm), Wed (3 pm), Thurs (3 pm or one hour after full session ends), Fri 9 am

Monday, May 15: Capital Budget exec session State House 100, 9 am

Tuesday, May 16: Health and Human Services exec session LOB room 101.