

Legislative alert for May 30-June 2, from League of Women Voters NH.

If you wish to make your views known to your state Senator regarding the budget, the capital budget, or other bills, now is the time to email or phone your senator.

On Thursday the House will vote on SB3, the voter registration domicile bill that League and many others have opposed. This week is the last chance to convince your Representatives to vote against this unnecessary election law bill. See our earlier alerts and our Testimony page for more information.

The **Senate** will meet in full session **to vote on the state's budget and other bills. Wednesday, May 31, 1 pm, and Thursday, June 1, 10 am.** Details of the budget are available at the following links:

Here is the link to the **budget itself (often called HB-1--this year called HB517)** (note that it is 840 pages, so not something one can skim easily):

<http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/scaljournals/calendars/2017/sc%2025Supplement.pdf>

Here is the link to the **vehicle for enacting the state biennial budget (often called HB-2, but using another bill number this year--HB144):**

<http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/scaljournals/calendars/2017/sc%2025Supplement%202.pdf>

A couple of bills are on the consent calendar (likely no debate) including HB372, an election law bill that is recommended as "re-refer to committee." This allows the Senate Election Law committee to hold onto a domicile/residence/inhabitant bill that they can amend, if they believe it is needed, for next session.

First big item is HB144, the budget, and its partner HB517. Don't let the titles of the bills fool you--these are the state budget bills.

On the regular calendar, immediately after the operating budget, is the **Capital Budget, HB25.** This differs from the operating budget referenced above, includes large "one-time" expenses, everything from replacing a roof on a state building to community colleges information technology infrastructure and transportation items. Some items are matched or offset by federal dollars. Details can be found in this week's Senate calendar (about 18 pages of details) <http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/scaljournals/calendars/2017/sc%2025.pdf> .

Note that a public hearing on the "HB 2" bill is scheduled for Tuesday, May 30, 10 am, in Representatives Hall (Senate Finance committee). This is likely to be live streamed, so you can watch on your computer. Hunt for the live stream on this website:

<http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/senate/default.aspx> .

Also to be voted on by the full Senate are other bills (probably on Thursday), including the following of particular interest:

FINANCE – HB 400, requiring the department of health and human services to develop a 10-year plan for mental health services, requiring the commissioner of the department of health

and human services to issue certain requests for applications and requests for proposals, establishing the positions of associate commissioner and medical director in the department of health and human services, establishing the office of the child advocate and the oversight commission for children's services and juvenile justice, and establishing a home and community-based behavioral health services program for children. Committee recommends Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 6-0.

FINANCE – HB 652-FN, establishing a veterans track within the court system and relative to annulment of a sentence imposed by a mental health court. Committee recommends Ought to Pass, Vote 5-0. (League supports)

JUDICIARY – HB 215, establishing a commission to study the legalization, regulation, and taxation of marijuana. Committee recommends Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 4-1.

The **House** will meet in full session **Thursday, June 1, 10 am**. This is the last day (2017) for the House to vote on bills originating in the Senate. Many bills have statements pro and con by committee members in this week's calendar--worth checking out for bills you care about: http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/house/caljourns/calendars/2017/HC_26.pdf

On the **Consent calendar (so unlikely to be debated)** are the following of special interest: **SB 44, prohibiting the state from requiring implementation of common core standards.** EDUCATION Committee recommends OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT by a Vote 16-2. Rep. Victoria Sullivan for Education: "As amended, this bill clarifies and places in statute that NO school district shall be required to adopt common core standards or common core state standards (CCSS). Should the local school board choose not to adopt CCSS, the board shall determine, approve, and implement alternative academic standards. Further, the amended bill requires that the state board of education shall not approve any new academic standards without prior review and recommendation of the legislative oversight committee established in RSA 193-C: 7."

ELECTION LAW recommends **SB 114**, prohibiting a candidate from receiving the nomination of more than one party INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE by a unanimous vote.

FINANCE unanimously recommends OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT **SB 101-FN**, (New Title) relative to enrollment eligibility for regional career and technical education programs and relative to high school students participating in New Hampshire's dual and concurrent enrollment program and making an appropriation therefor. Rep. Kenneth Weyler for Finance: "This bill does three things. First it enables high school students who are in a

four-year high school in Manchester to enroll in career technical education (CTE) courses in their first year. Since the CTE program is a three-year curriculum, this will allow some students to perhaps take college prep courses in their fourth year. Second, it provides funding from the state for high school students who want to take college level courses taught in their high school by a community college-certified high school teacher. Third, it provides funding for a high school student to attend one or two classes at a community college and receive credit for both high school and college. A similar bill, HB 641, was retained to work out funding. The funding has varied from \$250 per class to \$150. The final amendment in SB 101 removes the funding in hopes that it would become a permanent line in the budget.”

LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION recommends unanimously OUGHT TO PASS for **SB 142**, relative to honoring E. Maude Ferguson, the first woman elected to the New Hampshire senate. Rep. Kathleen Hoelzel for Legislative Administration: “E. Maude Ferguson of Bristol was the first woman to serve in the New Hampshire Senate. She was elected to this office in 1930 after serving two terms in the state House of Representatives. She worked diligently for the cause of women’s rights. This bill will honor her accomplishments and dedication to the state and her town of Bristol by directing the Joint Legislative Historical Committee to give priority to acquiring a portrait of Senator Ferguson and working to find a suitable place to display it in the State House.” (*League likes this recognition of the role of women in NH’s government.*)

On the regular calendar and sure to engender debate are the following (among many): CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY recommending Ought to Pass with Amendment 12-8, **SB 66-FN**, (New Title) including a fetus in the definition of “another” for purposes of certain criminal offenses. Rep. John Burt for the Majority: “This bill, as amended, would provide that a viable fetus shall be included in the definition of “another” for the purposes of first and second degree murder, manslaughter, negligent homicide, and causing or aiding a suicide.” Rep. Laura Pantelakos for the Minority: “The minority has serious concerns about the unintended consequences of this bill as amended by the committee. This bill recognizes a fetus as a person and an independent victim of a crime. In other states with fetal personhood laws, pregnant women have been arrested, charged, prosecuted and forced to undergo medical treatment such as unwanted Caesarean sections, blood transfusions and psychiatric commitment. We also believe that the 20-week standard is arbitrary and has no medical or legal basis.” (longer explanations on both sides in this week’s calendar.)

EDUCATION recommends Ought to Pass with Amendment 13-6 on **SB6, the so-called “Croydon Bill”** regarding sending students out of district when no school exists in district. It is worth reading the entire majority/minority statements on this important bill in this week’s calendar (p. 12)

ELECTION LAW recommends Ought to Pass with Amendment along a party line vote of 11-9 on the infamous **SB3, the voter registration domicile bill**. (*League continues to oppose this bill and hopes people will ask their representatives to vote against it.*)

SB 113, relative to an **electronic poll book trial program**. OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT vote 19-1. (*League supports—don’t know why it’s not on Consent calendar.*)

SB 248, regarding **rescheduling elections in case of an emergency**. Creates a study committee to inquire as to whether or not the legislature ought to revise our statutes in regards to postponing election day, and if postponement is allowed, how absentee ballots should be processed. OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT vote 19-1. (*League has followed this closely and believes a study committee is very much needed to avert future confusion—we support.*)

FINANCE recommends OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT, unanimously, **SB 38-FN**, (2nd New Title) making an appropriation to the department of transportation for **local highway aid and aid for municipal bridges**, relative to distribution of highway aid, and relative to red list bridges.

SB 155, relative to implementation of the Medicaid managed care program. OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT by a vote of 24-1. Rep. Erin Hennessey for Finance: “This bill, as amended, delays Medicaid managed care step 2 implementation until no earlier than July 1, 2019. Implementation of managed care step 2 could have a significant and unclear negative impact on our county budgets and has been the subject of significant discussions at county delegation meetings during the budget process. Delaying Medicaid managed care step 2 until the beginning of state fiscal years 2020 and 2021 will provide the counties and the legislature sufficient time to study this matter and make appropriate changes as required. This amended bill further directs that the Commissioner of the Department of Health and Human Services shall re-procure contracts with vendors of Medicaid managed care programs, thus ensuring that more favorable terms for these services are available.”

SB 191-FN, (New Title) relative to the definition of average daily membership in attendance. Finance recommends unanimously OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. Rep. Karen Umberger for Finance: “This bill, as amended, provides for **funding for full-day**

kindergarten as well as a method for funding the cost. **Keno was used as the method of funding.** It is anticipated to provide \$4 million in funding in the first year and \$9-12 million in subsequent years. All of the money from Keno will go to the education trust fund. A district which has or implements full-day kindergarten will receive an additional \$1,100 for each student. This applies to both the public schools and the public charter schools. In the first year that a school district starts full-day kindergarten, the superintendent will certify at the beginning of the school year the enrollment in full-day kindergarten and will be provided the \$1,100 per pupil grant. In subsequent years average daily membership (ADM), which is the current way we fund K-12 for public schools, will be used to determine the grant amount. At their parent's option, students shall be permitted to attend kindergarten for a half day."

(League opposes expanding gambling as a source of state revenues because it is unreliable and regressive, but this was the Finance committee's solution to public support for funding full day kindergarten and finding a way to pay for it. Will it work? The Senate has traditionally voted down Keno. We're not sure how we feel about this bill.)

(SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENERGY-- a number of bills League has not managed to follow. Check this week's calendar for details.)

Upcoming House hearings: As in the Senate, there are no hearings on current bills, just commission meetings etc. going on in the next week. One exception is the following: Thursday, June 8 - EDUCATION, Room 207, LOB 1:00 p.m. or immediately following session, full committee work session on retained **SB 193-FN**, establishing education freedom savings accounts for students (**the school voucher bill**); and **HB 609-FN-A**, establishing a children's savings account program and making an appropriation therefor. Executive session on pending legislation may be held throughout the day, time permitting, from the time the committee is initially convened.