

Legislative Alert for May 8-12 from League of Women Voters NH

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http://lwvnh.org/files/legislative_alert_may_8-12.pdf

Next Senate session is Thursday, May 11, 10 am.

For the complete list of bills tabled, those on the consent calendar, and those on the regular calendar, see this week's Senate Calendar:

http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/Senate/calendars_journals/calendars/2017/sc_22.pdf

Bills on the regular calendar (suggesting there will be debate) **include the following:**

COMMERCE, HB 250, establishing a committee to consider revisions to the New Hampshire health insurance laws, specifically establishing a commission to assess the benefits and costs of a "health care for all" program for New Hampshire. Committee recommends Inexpedient to Legislate, Vote 3-1. (We apologize for missing the hearing on this bill in our last alert—several people called us to task. Apparently there was much public support in the hearing for establishing this study committee, perhaps even more now that the AHCA federal plan passed the House on May 4, 217-213.)

EDUCATION, HB 356-FN, establishing a committee to study education funding and the cost of an opportunity for an adequate education. Committee recommends Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 4-1.

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. (While the League's study of women incarcerated in NH didn't specifically address female veterans, we did learn about alternative courts during our study. Our resultant position supported both alternatives to incarceration and specialized courts, such as drug courts and mental health courts, that focus on the underlying issues offenders deal with. The veterans' track in the court system would seem to meet our criteria for improved justice. We support this bill.)

JUDICIARY, HB 640-FN, relative to the penalties for possession of marijuana. Committee recommends Ought to Pass with Amendment, Vote 3-2. For those of age, the possession of a small amount becomes a violation rather than a misdemeanor. The bill as amended from the original version seems to reduce the amount from one ounce to three-fourths ounce as the threshold. The amended bill begins thus: "Reducing the penalty for possessing $\frac{3}{4}$ of an ounce

or less of marijuana to a violation and allowing offenders to pay fines by mail will result in less time and resources spent on such cases, allowing police and courts to spend more time and resources dealing with serious crime.”

Senate hearings week of May 8-12:

Monday, May 8 CAPITAL BUDGET Room 100, State House. Agency presentations starting at 10 am. (also executive sessions on Friday, starting at 2 pm, and Monday, May 15, starting at 9 pm)

FINANCE Room 103, State House. Work session on the budget starting at 1 pm. (also Wed, starting at 3 pm)

Tuesday, May 9 ELECTION LAW AND INTERNAL AFFAIRS Room 102, Legislative Office Bldg. 10 am. Executive session will include at least two of League’s priority bills, HB552 and HB372.

Wednesday, May 10 WAYS AND MEANS Room 100, State House, revenue presentations starting at 9 am (the budget)

There is no House session scheduled for this week. No date yet for next session.

House hearings week of May 8-12:

Tuesday, May 9:

ELECTION LAW, Room 308, Legislative Office Bldg 10:00 a.m. Full committee work session on SB 113, relative to an electronic poll book trial program; (League supports).

Work session on **SB 3**, relative to domicile for voting purposes. League opposes as did nearly all the hundreds of people who came to public hearings on this bill. For text of bill as last amended, click here: http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/bill_status/billText.aspx?sy=2017&txtFormat=html&v=SA&id=885

Executive session may be held throughout the day (very likely). Might include **SB 33** closes the loophole that allows independent spending groups to avoid registering with the Secretary of State and filing expenditure reports. (League supports closing campaign finance loopholes.)

FINANCE, Rooms 210-211, Legislative Office Bldg (Note: the two bills below passed the full House but now have to be heard for their fiscal impact, thus these Finance committee hearings.)

1:30 p.m. SB 191-FN, establishing the kindergarten initiative development support grant program.

2:30 p.m. SB 247-FN-A, preventing childhood lead poisoning from paint and water and making an appropriation to a special fund.

FINANCE - DIVISION I, Room 212, LOB

10 am Hearing on non-germane amendments to SB 57-FN-A, followed by work session on same bill (drinking water & wastewater funds)

11:30 a.m. Division work session on SB 197-FN-A, making an appropriation to the department of justice to enforce election and lobbying laws. (League supports—The attorney general's office needs adequate funding to do its job!)

LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION, Rooms 305-307, LOB

10:00 a.m. Public hearing to consider the matter of Representatives Fisher (Laconia) and Frost (Dover) as referred to the committee by the House of Representatives. The committee will review the merits of the allegations against Representative Fisher (Laconia) at this time. (This and Wednesday's hearing follow an hour plus of discussion at the full House session on May 4.)

Wednesday, May 10:

COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS, Room 302, LOB

10:00 a.m. SB 157, relative to network adequacy and consumer rights under the managed care law.

10:30 a.m. SB 158, relative to authorization for clinician-prescribed substance use disorder services. (League suspects that these state healthcare initiatives will generate more interest as the AHCA moves from the House to Senate at the Federal level.)

EDUCATION joint hearing with SENATE EDUCATION, Room 207, LOB

10:00 a.m. Application briefing presented by the NH Dept of Education on the Every Student Succeeds Act.

FINANCE - DIVISION II, Room 209, LOB 2:00 p.m. Division work session on SB 191-FN, establishing the kindergarten initiative development support grant program. (Bill already passed in the House, now needs fiscal examination.)

FINANCE - DIVISION III, Rooms 210-211, LOB

10:00 a.m. Division work session on SB 247-FN-A, preventing childhood lead poisoning from paint and water and making an appropriation to a special fund. (Same situation as above.)

1:00 p.m. Division work session on SB 155, relative to implementation of the Medicaid managed care program.

LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION, Rooms 305-307, LOB

1:30 p.m. Public hearing to consider the matter of Representatives Fisher and Frost as referred to the committee by the House of Representatives. The committee will review the merits of the allegations against Representative Frost (Dover) at this time.

Thursday, May 11: FINANCE - DIVISION II, Room 209, LOB 10:00 a.m. Work session on SB 38, which would provide \$30 million in additional highway block grant funding and \$6.8 million in additional bridge aid above the money typically provided to municipalities from the highway fund. (Funds coming from state surplus expected late June)--bill passed the House May 4.

Looking a week ahead:

Tuesday, May 16 – House EDUCATION, Room 207, LOB, 10:30 a.m. Continued executive session on SB 8-FN, relative to school attendance in towns with no public schools.

For more details on House hearings, see the House calendar for this week:

http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/house/caljournals/calendars/2017/HC_23.pdf