

**The NH House met in two long voting sessions, Wed. March 11 and Thursday March 12** beginning at 9 am (and ending at 3:45 am on Friday, we've been told). Thank you, hard-working Representatives! The Senate also met both days.

Ignoring the bills on the Consent Calendar, League highlighted some bills in our last legislative alert. **Here are the results of the votes in each body.**

What do they votes mean? If a bill got an OUGHT TO PASS or OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT vote, it will move on to the opposite body for a hearing and a vote. If it was voted INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE it is dead for this year. If the body referred the bill to INTERIM STUDY, it will either die quietly or get some study in hopes of a better bill be being prepared for 2021. A vote to TABLE a bill means, in theory, the voting body can take up the bill later this session—not likely but possible.

Taken out of order, League wants everyone to know that our priority bill for this year, the creation of an independent advisory redistricting commission, passed in the House on Thursday, 203 to 121.

[HB 1665-FN-A](#), establishing an **independent advisory redistricting commission**. OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT 203-121.

#### CRIMINAL JUSTICE

HB 1350, **requiring a locking safety device be provided for commercial firearm sales and transfers**. INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.

HB 1608-FN, **prohibiting the manufacture, sale, transfer, and possession of large capacity ammunition feeding devices**. OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT

HB 1613-FN, **allowing prisoners serving life sentences to be eligible for parole after 25 years**. INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.

#### EDUCATION

HB 1251, relative to participation in school sports programs for female student-athletes. INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE [note: this is the bill that would **ban transgender students from female sports**]

HB 1285, relative to **possession of firearms on school property**. OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT

HB 1321, establishing a committee to study the **reporting criteria of chartered public schools**. OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.

HB 1423, relative to reports on education **tax credit scholarships**. OUGHT TO PASS. *[league note: this is the program that allows businesses to designate some of their tax money due to a scholarship fund for which families can apply, to be used for private, religious, or home schooled expenses]*

HB 1636, relative to **special education services for children in charter schools**. INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.

## ELECTION LAW:

HB 1266, relative to **absentee ballot request forms**. OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.

*[Does not change eligibility for voting standards, just the form for an absentee ballot]*

HB 1279, relative to the terms resident, inhabitant, residence, and residency. OUGHT TO PASS. 189-133 *[League note: this bill would reverse 2018's HB 1264 about voter registration for those in the state for a limited time, such as contract workers and college students. The bill is in the courts right now. League supports overturning HB1264 by passing this bill, but the party line vote suggests the Governor would veto it anyway.]*

HB 1390, relative to access to ballots and verification counts of machine-counted ballots. REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY. *[hence a study rather than passage is the committee's recommendation]*

HB 1415, establishing a committee to study disclosure **anonymous out-of-state contributions preceding an election**. OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT passed on a voice vote *[amendment changed the language to allow a broader study reporting of money in politics – League supports.]*

HB 1534, establishing a **commission to study the creation of online voter registration for the 2022 state elections**. OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT passed on a voice vote. "... as amended would establish a commission to study the creation of online voter registration for the 2022 state elections. The 9-member commission ... will be tasked with identifying the means, costs, and processes necessary to accept online voter registrations and to ensure their accuracy and security." *[League supports. Let's move voter registration into the 21<sup>st</sup> century!]*

HB 1651-FN, relative to **prisoners' voting rights**. OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. Passed on a voice vote "...clarifies New Hampshire's law on incarcerated voters by specifically referencing the statute giving said voters access to the absentee ballot process... despite their incarceration due to a misdemeanor or while awaiting trial. These changes make New Hampshire's voting laws easier to navigate and create uniformity among the forms voters fill out and the laws underlying those forms... *[League supports. This does not change current law that those serving sentences for felonies do not have voting rights until after their release from incarceration.]*

HB 1653-FN, relative to domicile, residency, voter registration, and investigation of voter verification letters. OUGHT TO PASS. 191-121 *[This bill would reverse SB3 from 2017, currently in litigation and awaiting a court decision. League is the plaintiff in this case against the state, and we support ending the process with an Ought To Pass vote.]*

HB 1672-FN, **allowing voters to vote by absentee ballot**. OUGHT TO PASS. 194-132 *[in a time of health risks to many, this bill makes more sense than ever] [League supports]*

## ENVIRONMENT AND AGRICULTURE

HB 1319, **prohibiting the siting of new landfills or expansions of existing landfills near** [within 2 miles of] **state parks**, national parks, or USDA forest land. OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. 189-123

HB 1422-FN, establishing a **moratorium on the issuance of permits for new landfills or the expansion** of existing landfills for the purpose of **studying the creating of municipal waste districts**. REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY.

## JUDICIARY

HB 1143, **repealing limited liability for manufacturers, distributors, dealers, or importers of firearms or ammunition.** OUGHT TO PASS. 170-126

### *(three bills on right to privacy)*

HB 1226, prohibiting surveillance by the state on public ways or sidewalks. OUGHT TO PASS. 267-18 [strong bipartisan support!]

HB 1236, relative to the expectation of privacy. OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT passed on a voice vote

HB 1376, establishing a civil penalty for unauthorized sharing of electronic location information. OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. passed on a voice vote.

HB 1475-FN, **prohibiting abortions after detection of fetal heartbeat.** INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.

HB 1640-FN, relative to **parental notification prior to abortion.** INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. 191-102

HB 1678-FN, relative to **prohibiting abortion in certain cases.** INEXPEDIENT TO LEGIS-LATE. 193-101

HB 1659-FN, relative to patient directed care and patient's rights with regard to **end-of-life decisions.** REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY.

## MUNICIPAL & COUNTY GOVERNMENT

HB 1160-LOCAL, **allowing municipalities to collect an occupancy fee from operators of local room rentals.** OUGHT TO PASS. 174-113 "This bill enables municipalities to charge up to two dollars as an occupancy fee for local room rentals which goes directly to local government to help offset costs of added services for paying guests staying overnight."

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENERGY will be voting on a number of bills about energy that League has not been following.

HB 1481, relative to the **net metering cap for customer-generators.** Tabled.

HB 1496-FN, relative to the **regional greenhouse gas initiative cap** and trade program for controlling carbon dioxide emissions. OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. 180-101

HB 1444-FN, requiring the adoption of **vehicle emissions standards** based on the California clean car standards. OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. 179-109

STATE-FEDERAL RELATIONS *[League note: HCR and HJR bills are resolutions expressing the views of the state to the federal government. They do not have statutory power.]*

HCR 9, **rescinding all requests by the NH legislature for a federal constitutional convention.** TABLED. *[League supports and so testified earlier, in line with our national position that Article V conventions must be carefully and specifically crafted and limited to one topic.]*

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

HJR 4, urging Congress to enact legislation or propose a constitutional amendment to **grant statehood to the District of Columbia.** TABLED. *[League supports and so testified earlier, in line with our national position.]*

#### TRANSPORTATION

HB 1401, **prohibiting smoking and e-cigarettes in motor vehicles when a passenger is under 16 years of age.** OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT.

#### WAYS AND MEANS

CACR 17, Providing that **a new state broad-based tax may be enacted only to reduce property taxes.** INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE

HB 1646-FN, relative to historic racing. TABLED

#### **Senate met in session Wed. March 11 at 3 pm and Thurs March 12 at 10 am.**

Long list of bills on the Consent Calendar

On the regular Calendar:

#### COMMERCE

SB 687-FN, relative to **transparency in prescription drug pricing** and establishing a New Hampshire prescription drug affordability board. Ought to Pass with Amendment PASSED ON A VOICE VOTE.

#### ELECTION LAW

SB 631-FN, **authorizing online voter registration.** Ought to Pass with Amendment, 14-10 *[League supports]*

SB 695-FN, relative to sharing voter registration information [with other states, to find duplicate registrations, etc.] .Ought to Pass, 14-10 *[League supports]*

#### FINANCE

SB 730-FN-L, establishing the granite state **paid family leave plan.** Interim Study, 14-10

HB 712-FN, relative to a **family and medical leave insurance program.** Ought to Pass, 14-10.