

Legislative Alert from League of Women Voters NH – Jan. 29-31 plus plus early warning of some bills of major public interest in February. If you have trouble reading this via email, you may read it in pdf format on the [Hot Legislation webpage of LWVNH.org](http://www.lwvnh.org)

The SENATE and HOUSE will each meet in VOTING SESSION on Thurs, Jan. 31, 2019 at 10:00 am. No priority bills, from League's point of view, are on the agenda in the Senate.

The complete list of bills being voted on in the House are in this week's House Calendar:

http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/house/caljournals/calendars/2019/HC_9.pdf

(for those of you new to following legislation: the Calendar contains two lists of bills to be voted on. The Consent calendar has those bills that came out of committee with unanimous or nearly so recommendations. Little if any discussion will occur on the House floor. The Regular calendar is the rest of the bills, where you can expect discussion among House members. Begins on p. 6 this week.)

If you wish to make your views known to your own senator or representatives on any of these bills, now is the time to call or email them. You can find their contact info at this link:

<http://gencourt.state.nh.us/house/members/wml.aspx>

Among the **House bills to be voted on Jan. 31** that we mentioned earlier are the following:

HB 124, repealing the law that established buffer zones of 25' around reproductive health care facilities. Judiciary committee recommends Inexpedient to Legislate 14-4. (explanation of both sides on p. 7 of the House calendar)

HR 6, urging the United States to lead a global effort to prevent nuclear war. State/Federal Relations committee recommends Inexpedient to Legislate 11 to 8. Majority opinion says in part "that HR 6 is not ready to be submitted and needs a lot of work. It should have been drafted as an HJR." (p. 9)

No League priority bills will be voted on in the House this week.

Public Hearings on Bills. A very busy week for Education and Election Law committees in the House.

TUESDAY, Jan. 29

HOUSE EDUCATION, Room 207, Legislative Office Building

10:00 a.m. Executive session on a number of bills, including HB 222, criteria for teachers in charter schools; HB 269, grounds for denial of a chartered public school application; HB 327-FN-A, making an appropriation to the community college system to continue the math learning communities program; HB 149, apportionment of costs in cooperative school districts; HB 169, requiring school districts to submit an annual report concerning gifted students.

Then after lunch, in Rooms 210-211, LOB because they are expecting a crowd, **4 bills dealing with state funding of public education. Each approaches the issue differently. Should be a challenging afternoon.**

1:00 p.m. [HB 678-FN](#), This bill raises the cost per pupil of providing the opportunity for an adequate education (state funding formula) and adds differential aid for transportation costs.

1:30 p.m. [HB 713-FN-L](#), This bill increases base per pupil and for pupils qualifying for free/reduced lunch, establishes a grant program for additional funds based on town's equalized valuation, repeals stabilization grants

2:15 p.m. [HB 711-FN-L](#), Deletes stabilization grants, Increases the base adequacy aid per student. Clarifies the consumer price index adjustment to the cost of an adequate education. Revises charter school provisions relative to school aid rates.

3:00 p.m. [HB 709-FN-A-L](#), This bill increases the base per pupil cost for an adequate education; increases differentiated aid; establishes fiscal capacity disparity aid to municipalities based on equalized valuation per pupil; requires school districts to report on the use of adequate education grant funds; amends the law governing transportation in kindergarten through grade 12; and repeals stabilization grants to municipalities.

HOUSE ELECTION LAW, Room 308, LOB

A number of bills will be heard, beginning at 10:00 a.m. League will support some that make the voting process more efficient for officials and for the public.

11:30 [HB 554](#), “trust but verify” bill allowing moderators to do a hand count of one race to test accuracy of the ballot counting machines.

1:30 p.m. [HB 541](#), relative to allocating electoral college electors based on the **National Popular Vote**. *League has dusted off its testimony on this bill. League supports getting rid of the Electoral College so that every vote has the same power. The National Popular Vote Compact is an interim step, which we support at the state and national League levels.*

2:00 p.m. [HB 706-FN-A](#), establishing an **independent redistricting commission**. League will testify in support!

HOUSE FINANCE - DIVISION II, Room 209, LOB

10:00 a.m. Briefing by Department of Education

SENATE FINANCE Room 100, State House

1:00 p.m. [SB 1-FN](#), **family and medical leave plan**. If this bill draws a large crowd, the hearing may be moved. Sign will be posted outside the door.

HOUSE MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT, Room 301, LOB

10:30 AM [HB 129](#) enables municipalities to establish a cap on the **education property tax** for residents aged 65 and older who meet certain criteria.

1 pm 1:00 p.m. [HB 207](#), allowing towns and cities to adopt a **property tax credit against education taxes** for people over 55 with no kids in school.

HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS, Room 202, LOB **Taxes**

10:00 a.m. [HB 686-FN-A-L](#), calculating and funding the interim cost of an adequate education and **extending the interest and dividends tax to capital gains**.

11:00 a.m. [HB 676-FN-A-L](#), This bill repeals the **statewide education property tax** and transfers that funding of adequate education costs to state general funds. The bill also repeals the low and moderate income homeowners property tax relief program for relief from the statewide education property tax.

WEDNESDAY, Jan. 30

SENATE ELECTION LAW AND MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS Room 102, Legislative Office Building

Several non-priority election law bills beginning at 9 am.

9:15 am [SB68](#) allowing release of the voter database under court order and with personal identifiers redacted, to determine whether the right to vote has been infringed up

10:30 am SB102 requires **disclosure of federal income tax returns by presidential and vp candidates** and posting of the returns on the Sec. Of State’s website. (similar HB 202 was heard in the House 1/22/19)

10:45 a.m. SB 153, **establishing state holidays for biennial state primary elections** and

quadrennial presidential primary elections (*presumably so that schools can close those days, for safety reasons and allowing more space for parking and polling places at schools*)

HOUSE LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION, Room 303, LOB Two proposed constitutional amendments related to the Legislature itself.

10:00 a.m. CACR 2, Providing that compensation of legislators may be determined by a joint resolution with approval of the executive council.

10:45 a.m. [CACR 7](#), Providing that the number of representatives in the NH House be reduced.

HOUSE COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS, Room 302, LOB Healthcare

1:30 p.m. HB 604, establish a commission to assess benefits & costs of a **“health care for all”** program

2:30 p.m. HB 697-FN-A, relative to **Medicare for all**.

HOUSE EDUCATION, Room 207, LOB

A number of bills beginning at 10 am. Not funding bills.

HOUSE ELECTION LAW, Room 308, LOB

10:00 a.m. [HB 728-FN](#), establishes procedures for **ranked-choice voting** for federal and state offices (*LWVNH does not have a position on ranked choice voting. Some other state Leagues have supported this. We will observe discussion at this hearing.*)

10:30 a.m. HB 588, amends presidential nominations filing forms.

11:00 a.m. HB 593, relative to updating official voter checklists.

11:30 a.m. HB 603, relative to procedures for apportioning electoral districts. (*This is a return of the algorithm bill of a couple of years ago.*)

1:00 p.m. [HB 611-FN](#), **allowing voters to vote by absentee ballot**. This bill removes much of the language that currently restricts absentee voting to those who are disabled or out of town, etc. *League will likely support after studying the details.*

1:30 p.m. HB 643, **changing the date of the state primary election to June**. *Opinions, anyone?*

2:00 p.m. HB 651, allowing the use of campaign funds for child care expenses.

2:30 p.m. HB 666, relative to recounts in elections.

3:00 p.m. [HB 718-FN-L](#), relative to instant voting in elections (*League doesn't understand this one. It almost sounds like a caucus. Will be interesting to learn more.*)

HOUSE STATE-FEDERAL RELATIONS AND VETERANS AFFAIRS, Room 206, LOB

11:00 a.m. HCR 6, applying to Congress to propose a congressional term limits constitutional amendment.

1:00 p.m. HCR 7, urging the President and Congress to adopt a policy renouncing the first use of nuclear weapons.

2:00 p.m. HJR 2, recommending and requesting the president of the US and the Congress to exclude NH from offshore oil and gas drilling and exploration activities. (*League supports*)

Looking ahead:

HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS, Room 202, LOB

Tuesday, Feb. 5 11:00 a.m. HB 632-FN, This bill removes the application of the education tax credit in RSA 77-G to taxes due under the interest and dividends tax, and on July 1, 2020 **deletes the education tax credit program**. (*reverses a bill from the last session*)

HOUSE CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY, Room 204, LOB

HB 481-FN-A-L, **legalization and regulation of cannabis** and making appropriations therefor.

Hearing on Feb. 5, 1 pm, in LOB 210-211
Work session on Feb. 6, 1 pm LOB 204
Executive session on Feb. 12, 10 am LOB 204.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13

CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY, Rooms 210-211, LOB **Firearms**

1:00 p.m. HB 109-FN, requiring **background checks** for commercial firearms sales.

2:30 p.m. HB 514-FN, imposing a **waiting period** between the purchase and delivery of a firearm.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19

CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY, Representatives Hall, State House

10:00 a.m. HB 455-FN, **repealing the death penalty** for capital murder. (*League's national position supports getting rid of the death penalty.*)