

League of Women Voters NH **Legislative Alert for Feb. 5 and 6**, with peek ahead for 5 major bills. If you have trouble reading this in your email, you may download the pdf from the League's website: http://lwvnh.org/files/legislative_alert_feb.5-12_2019.pdf

The House and Senate will meet in Joint Session on Thursday, **February 14**, 2019, at 10:00 a.m. to hear **Governor Sununu's budget address**. Following the budget address, the House will meet in regular session. (Unclear whether Senate will also meet afterward.) (The Governor's speech will be covered on NHPR and will be live-streamed from the state house.)

Brief explanation for those not familiar with state legislature terms—skip this if you know the process: Most of the bills listed here will have hearings on the date listed—that is, a public session in which the sponsor and the public make their cases pro or con the bill to the committee assigned to the bill. Later, the committee may hold one or more work sessions on the bill to discuss among themselves. No public testimony, but public has the right to observe. Next step is an executive session, also open for public observation, at which time the committee votes how to recommend the bill to the entire House or Senate: they can recommend OUGHT TO PASS, or OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED, or INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE which means kill the bill, or RETAIN or INTERIM STUDY for further work. The text of bills can be found in the Calendars at the <http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/> links in the lower right corner box.

TUESDAY, FEB. 5

HOUSE CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY, Representatives Hall, State House
1:00 p.m. **HB 481-FN-A-L, legalization and regulation of cannabis**

Feb. 6 at 1 pm in LOB 204, work session

Feb. 12 at 10 am in LOB 204, executive session.

HOUSE EDUCATION, Room 207, LOB *(Our sincere appreciation of this committee, who have a huge number of important and complex bills to work on. Hard to believe they expect to exec all these bills before 1 pm, when they will tackle the school funding bills in the first of several work sessions.)*

10:00 a.m. Executive session on a number of bills including

HB 123, emergency response plans in schools;

HB 131, commission on mental health education programs;

HB 164, reporting statistics on student behavior;

HB 170, requiring a civics examination as a high school requirement;

HB 171, commission to study equal access and opportunity for students with disabilities to participate in athletics;

HB 175, requirements for school building aid grants;

HB 176-FN-A, grants for school building aid and making an appropriation therefor;

HB 177-FN, calculation of stabilization grants;

HB 184-FN, calculation of kindergarten students in the average daily membership and repealing prorated kindergarten funding based on Keno revenues;

HB 435, certain terminology in the rulemaking authority of the department of education;

HB 226, renomination of teachers;

HB 677-FN-A, discipline of students, addressing students' behavioral needs, and making an appropriation therefor;

HB 231, requiring school districts to establish policies relating to suspensions and expulsions;

HB 251, relative to criminal background checks for education personnel;

HB 383, relative to nondiscrimination in public and nonpublic schools;

HB 258, establishing a committee to study teacher preparation and education programs;
HB 275, relative to school nurse certification;
HB 289, rescinding the right to allow the recitation of the Lord's prayer in public elementary schools;
HB 302, communications between school administrative units and certain other entities;
HB 357, relative to the public school infrastructure fund.

1:00 p.m. Subcommittee work session on HB 678-FN, **state funding of the cost of an adequate education for all New Hampshire students;**

HB 713-FN-L, **education funding;**

HB 711-FN-L, **funding an adequate education;**

HB 709-FN-A-L, relative to the **formula for determining funding for an adequate education.**

Another work session on these bills Thursday, Feb. 7.

SENATE EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT Room 103, LOB

10:00 a.m. SB 12-FN-A, establishing the NH **college grad retention incentive partnership program**

HOUSE ELECTION LAW, Room 308, LOB

10:00 a.m. Executive session on a number of bills, none of which are LWV priority bills.

HOUSE FINANCE, Rooms 210-211, LOB

11:00 a.m. HB 734-FN-L, annual percentage reduction in **stabilization grants to school districts.**

HOUSE HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND ELDERLY AFFAIRS, Room 104, LOB

10:00 a.m. Subcommittee work session on several bills including HB 610-FN, **treatment alternatives to opioids;** HB 638, requiring health care providers to provide an opioid disclosure form to patients

SENATE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES Room 101, LOB

2:15 p.m. [SB 4](#), relative to the **group and individual health insurance market;** establishes the provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2009, Public Law 111-148, as amended

HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS, Room 202-204, LOB

11:00 a.m. [HB 632-FN](#), removes the application of the **education tax credit** in RSA 77-G to personal taxes due under the interest & dividends tax...on July 1, 2020 deletes the education tax credit program.

HOUSE RESOURCES, RECREATION AND DEVELOPMENT, Room 305, LOB

1:45 p.m. Of interest to **Lake Sunapee area residents & users:** HB 727-FN-A, boat ramp and parking improvements at Mount Sunapee state park beach and making an appropriation therefor. (Executive session on Feb. 13, last on the list for the morning's work)

SENATE JUDICIARY State House rm 100

SB 313 Right to Know: "establishes procedures to streamline the resolution of complaints under RSA 91-A... establishes the citizens' **right-to-know appeals commission** and the office of the right-to-know ombudsman. This bill also establishes an alternative process to resolve right-to-know complaints. This bill is a result of the commission established in 2017, 126.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 6

HOUSE COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS, Room 104, LOB

9:30 a.m. Subcommittee work session on a number of **healthcare insurance/Medicare** related bills.

HOUSE ELECTION LAW, Room 308, LOB

10:00 a.m. Executive session on CACR 5, providing that **17 year olds** who will be eligible to vote in the general election be permitted to vote on that election's primary election (League testified in support); CACR 6, providing that any inhabitant who so desires **may vote by absentee ballot** in primary and general elections; HB 440, relative to **disclosure of federal tax information as a condition of eligibility for federal office**.

SENATE ELECTION LAW AND MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS Room 102, LOB

9:15 a.m. [SB 156](#), relative to political contributions made by **limited liability companies**. "requires that a political contribution by a limited liability company be allocated to members for purposes of determining whether a member has exceeded the contribution limits." *a repeat from the last session.*

9:30 a.m. SB 155, relative to permissible campaign contributions by business organizations.

10:00 a.m. [SB 305-FN](#), "allows the division of motor vehicles to accept voter registration forms as part of the drivers' license issuance or renewal process." (*motor-voter?*)

10:45 a.m. [SB 231-FN](#), promoting **truth in political advertising**. (Well, duh. Here is what the "purpose" statement of this bill says: "New Hampshire citizens deserve integrity not only in the election process, but in the presentation, publication, and promulgation of information about candidates seeking public office. The deliberate publication of false information by political interests to influence election outcomes misleads the public and undermines the integrity of our elections. This act establishes consequences for political advertising which materially misstates and/or misrepresents facts about a candidate's position and voting record on an issue. ...Deliberately misleading the public to gain control of government should have consequences as well. This act in no way restricts the ability of a political person or organization, including an independent expenditure group, to exercise their right of free speech. However, it does establish a consequence for making false statements.")

HOUSE LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION, Room 303, LOB

10:30 a.m. [HB 457-FN](#), requiring meetings and sessions of committees of the House of Representatives to be recorded and made available on the Internet. (*great idea to let the public know what all the arguments for bills are, but it does cost over \$300,000 the first year, over \$200,000 each year after.*)

11:15 a.m. [HB 519](#), relative to selection of delegates to an **Article V convention**. *One reason League opposes Article V conventions is the lack of precision about how delegates are to be chosen. Not sure this bill clears it up, as it refers to enabling legislation.*

1:00 p.m. HCR 1, rescinding all requests by the New Hampshire legislature for a **federal constitutional convention**. (*League will testify in favor of this bill, as we have a national position in opposition to constitutional conventions. See our [National Positions](#) on our website for further explanation (pp 31-32)*)

HOUSE STATE-FEDERAL RELATIONS AND VETERANS AFFAIRS, Room 206, LOB (these bills are resolutions, non-binding, formally sending the views of the legislature to the federal government.)

10:00 a.m. HCR 6, applying to Congress to propose a **congressional term limits** constitutional amendment. (*League opposes term limits*)

11:00 a.m. HCR 7, urging the President and Congress to adopt a policy renouncing the first use of **nuclear weapons**.

1:00 p.m. HJR 2, recommending and requesting the President and the US Congress to exclude the state of New Hampshire from **offshore oil and gas drilling** and exploration activities. (*League supports, along with a number of other state Leagues and the national League*) (*postponed from last week*) (Executive session on the above three bills will be on **Feb. 13** at 10 am)

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7

HOUSE STATE-FEDERAL RELATIONS AND VETERANS AFFAIRS, Room 206, LOB
10:00 a.m. Executive session on HCR 5, requesting the US Congress to propose a constitutional amendment **to reverse** the ruling of the US Supreme Court in **Citizens United** case.

HOUSE EDUCATION, Room 207, LOB

10:00 a.m. Subcommittee continues its work session on **four major education funding bills**: HB 678-FN, HB 713-FN-L, HB 711-FN-L, HB 709-FN-A-L

SENATE EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT Room 103, LOB

9:00 a.m. [SB 268-FN](#), providing **in-state tuition rates** at any university system of New Hampshire institution for any person registered to vote in this state. *(Please look at the fiscal note attached to this bill. In the first year the university system would lose nearly \$140 million in revenue if this were to be applied, with various suggestions including increasing tuition to make it up. Is this merely a sneaky way to build support for laws that would keep college students from voting? We don't know but look forward to hearing the lone sponsor's explanation.)*

9:15 a.m. SB 265-FN-L, maintaining **stabilization grants (education funding)** at the current level.

10:45 a.m. SB 303-FN, relative to **state aid to school districts**.

11:30 a.m. SB 143, relative to **administrative costs of state aid for special education**

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

9:00 a.m. Full committee work session on 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**

2 pm: Executive session on several bills including two proposed constitutional amendments: CACR 11, providing that **a broad-based sales tax shall be prohibited**; CACR 12, providing that **an income tax on personal income shall be prohibited**.

Looking ahead to the next few weeks—some key bills that are making news.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12 HOUSE CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY, LOB 204,
1:30 p.m. HB 726-FN, relative to the **secure psychiatric unit** and making an appropriation therefor.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13 HOUSE CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY, Rooms 210-211, LOB **Firearms violence prevention**

1:00 p.m. [HB 109-FN](#), requiring **background checks** for commercial firearms sales. “requires commercial firearms sales or transfers in this state to be subject to a criminal background check and provides a criminal penalty for a violation. The bill excludes private, noncommercial sales or transfers between individuals, provided neither individual is prohibited from owning or possessing a firearm”

2:30 p.m. [HB 514-FN](#), imposing a **waiting period** (7 business days) between the purchase and delivery of a firearm.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19 HOUSE CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY,
Representatives Hall, State House

10:00 a.m. HB 455-FN, **abolishing the death penalty for capital murder**. *(Executive session on this bill Wed., Feb. 20, at 10 am, LOB 204). (League's national position opposes the death penalty.)*

WEDNESDAY, February 20 SENATE ELECTION LAW LOB 102

(no time set yet) SB8, the third of the independent redistricting commission bills. League will testify in support.