

LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN

Town Meeting Postponement Bill Tuesday

Bulletin 04, 2018 Session
January 12, 2018

SB 438, the bill that transfers authority to postpone the official ballot voting session of town meeting from the moderator to the Secretary of State, is scheduled for a hearing on **Tuesday, January 16, at 9:00 a.m., in LOB Room 102**, before the Senate Election Law and Internal Affairs Committee. *Please come and tell the committee what you think about this bill.*

The bill was drafted by the Secretary of State’s office with no input from NHMA or, to our knowledge, from anyone else. It does more than just give control over the ballot voting session to a state official who does not have, and has never had, any authority or any role in town meeting. It also proclaims—despite dozens of statutes and over two centuries of history to the contrary—that the town “meeting” and the town “election” are two discrete events. It states, “Notwithstanding any other provision of law, for the purposes of all statutes pertaining to annual and special meetings of towns, . . .

- “Meeting” means the discussion of business of the towns, school districts, or village districts and voting on warrant articles only by voice, division, or secret “yes-no” ballot vote. Meeting shall include the deliberative session of an annual meeting in [SB 2] towns Meetings are governed by RSA 39 and RSA 40.
- “Election” means the choosing of officers by official ballot and in [SB 2] towns, voting on warrant articles by use of official ballot. . . . Elections are governed by RSA 669, RSA 670, and RSA 671 and the election provisions of RSA 40:13.

Anyone with a rudimentary understanding of town meeting law will quickly appreciate the havoc that these changes will wreak, as towns grapple with the scores, if not hundreds, of statutory conflicts these contrived definitions will create. On the positive side, this is a full-employment act for municipal lawyers, who will spend years unraveling the mess.

Anyone who cares about the integrity of town meeting is encouraged to attend the hearing and/or contact members of [the committee](#) and your own senator.

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Right-to-Know Bill Would Paralyze Municipalities

The Senate Public & Municipal Affairs Committee has scheduled a hearing on [SB 395](#) for **Wednesday, January 17, at 10:45 a.m., in LOB Room 102**. The language of this bill is extremely confusing, but it is clearly an effort to overrule a recent New Hampshire Supreme Court decision in which the court ruled that a school district was not required to send governmental records by e-mail in response to a right-to-know request. The court simply applied the law, which has been in effect for 50 years, stating that a citizen has a right to inspect governmental records “during the regular or business hours of all public bodies or agencies, and *on the regular business premises* of such public bodies or agencies.” There is not, and has never been, an obligation to *send* records by e-mail, U.S. mail, or any other method.

SB 395 would change that, essentially giving everyone a right to demand that governmental records be sent by e-mail “in the requester’s preferred format.” No doubt this seemed like a perfectly reasonable requirement to the eleven senators and four representatives who signed on as sponsors of the bill. After all, why should the little old lady in the boondocks be required to drive five miles to town hall to get the selectmen’s minutes when the administrative assistant can send them with a few mouse clicks?

Except that this change would apply to more than just the little old lady who has a legitimate interest in a few sets of selectmen’s minutes. It would also apply to the college student who wants the town to do the research for her thesis, and to the data troll who is demanding tens of thousands of records for purely commercial purposes. Legislators may not be aware that municipalities and school districts routinely receive these requests, frequently from out-of-state companies that have no legitimate interest in open government—they are simply mining information that they can sell.

By limiting a requester to reviewing records “on the regular business premises,” the existing law acts as a check on these vexatious requests. As an example, many New Hampshire municipalities recently received a three-page demand from a Washington, D.C., law firm for documents related to the implementation of SB 3, the new voter domicile bill. That request was not intended to serve any legitimate open-government purpose; it was to collect ammunition to use in challenging the voter domicile law. We advised municipalities to respond by telling the Washington lawyers that they were welcome to come to town hall to review the records for themselves. To our knowledge, those invitations have not been accepted.

SB 395 would eliminate that option and require municipalities and school districts—and state agencies—to spend hundreds of hours responding to frivolous, voluminous requests that serve no legitimate purpose. It is a bill with good intentions but disastrous consequences. Please come to the hearing and speak against the bill if possible; otherwise, please contact members of the [committee](#) and your own senator and urge them to ***kill SB 395***.

HB 561 Draws a Crowd – New Amendment Heads to Senate

In last week’s *Bulletin* we indicated that the hearing on [HB 561](#), dealing with New Hampshire Retirement System (NHRS) retirees retuning to work in part-time positions for NHRS employers, would be held during the week of January 15. After publishing that *Bulletin*, we issued a *Legislative Alert* announcing that the hearing on **HB 561** was instead scheduled for this past Wednesday. The Senate Executive Departments and Administration Committee heard testimony for over three hours from a packed room of municipal and other government officials.

The extensive testimony demonstrated how important these part-time positions, filled by experienced and capable retirees, are to the operations of cities, towns, counties, and school districts of all sizes and across the state, particularly in law enforcement.

As we explained in previous *Bulletins* and the *Alert*, current law imposes a 32-hours per week limit on retirees working in part-time positions (with certain exceptions for seasonal workers). **HB 561** as proposed to be amended by the committee last December would prohibit retirees from working more than 1,040 hours per calendar year, which averages 20 hours per week. At the hearing on Wednesday, a new amendment was proposed that would cap the hours at 1,300 per year, an average of 25 hours per week.

In our testimony Wednesday, we emphasized that having a retiree fill a part-time position that has always been a part-time position (*i.e.*, never contributing to NHRS) has no impact whatsoever on the retirement system. Only when a full-time position (particularly a high-paying, high-profile position) is converted to a part-time position so the employer and retiree can avoid paying retirement contributions, is there an impact. While NHRS actuaries have not identified a “material impact” of this practice to date, such situations are the “elephant in the room” that generated the perception problems associated with this bill.

On Thursday, by a 4 to 1 vote, the committee adopted a new amendment to **HB 561**. [Amendment #2018-0110s](#) does the following (as we currently understand it):

- Grandfathers all NHRS retirees currently employed in a part-time position for an NHRS employer. The concern addressed here was that these people retired with the understanding that they could work up to 32 hours per week to help supplement their pensions, and made retirement decisions based on that understanding. However, this grandfather provision is limited to the part-time position currently held, and does not carry over to any future part-time positions the retiree may fill.
- Limits any retiree hired into a part-time position after the effective date of the bill to 1,300 hours per year (average of 25 hours per week) without consequence.
- Subjects any retiree hired into a part-time position after the effective date of the bill and working more than 1,300 hours but less than 1,600 hours per year to a retirement system **“surcharge” of 3% from the retiree and 5% from the employer** on the total compensation paid for that year. This surcharge is not considered a retirement “contribution” and does not affect the retiree’s pension benefits, but would be deposited into the annuity fund of the retirement system.
- Subjects any retiree who exceeds the 1,600 hours per year limit to a penalty provision, forfeiting the state annuity portion of his or her pension for one year.
- Restores to service any retiree hired into a position requiring mandatory membership in the NHRS and suspends his or her pension (as provided in current law).
- Prohibits a retiree from being employed in a part-time position for an NHRS employer for a period of 28 days from the retiree’s effective date of retirement.
- Changes the employer’s current monthly reporting on retirees to annual reporting.
- These provisions would be effective upon passage of the bill.

Information provided to the committee by NHRS indicated that for the month of September 2017, the average number of hours worked by retirees was less than 20 per week, with fewer than 500 retirees working more than 25 hours per week. Therefore, the committee felt that the

(HB 561 — Continued from Page 3)

provisions of the amendment would affect a small number of retirees and that the annual limit of 1,300 hours per year, rather than 25 hours per week, would provide the opportunity to manage within that limit.

HB 561 as amended will likely go the full Senate next Thursday. If you have concerns with the latest version of **HB 561**, let your [senator](#) know ASAP!

Interest on Delinquent Taxes

The perennial effort to reduce the rate of interest on delinquent property taxes is back. **HB 1673** is scheduled for a hearing next **Tuesday, January 16, at 10:45 a.m., in LOB Room 202**, before the House Ways and Means Committee. The bill reduces the interest rate from 12 percent (18 percent after execution) to the “annual underpayment rate” for state taxes as prescribed in RSA 21-J:28, which is currently 6 percent. NHMA estimates that this reduction would reduce municipal revenues by approximately \$13 million annually—and probably more than that, because it would reduce the incentive for timely payment.

Those who want to reduce the interest rate frequently compare it to interest on commercial loans or mortgages; but there is a big difference between a commercial loan and a late tax payment. One is a mutually agreed transaction, with interest paid for money borrowed, while the other is payment for an overdue debt. There are also frequent comparisons to the interest rates on overdue state and federal taxes (as with the current bill)—but those comparisons overlook the fact that delinquent state and federal taxes also carry penalties in addition to the interest rates. Compared to those rates, the interest on delinquent property taxes is not out of line.

As most local officials know, these interest rates are not primarily about the money—their value is as an incentive for the prompt payment of taxes. Unlike the federal government, municipalities may not run a deficit, and unlike the state, they do not have a multitude of revenue sources. Getting property taxes paid on time is essential.

Please attend the hearing if possible, or contact members of the [Ways and Means Committee](#) and encourage them to *oppose HB 1673*.

Meals and Rooms Tax Distribution Bills

On **Thursday, January 18, in LOB Room 202, at 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.**, respectively, the House Ways and Means Committee will hear testimony on **HB 1491** and **HB 1609**, both dealing with the meals and rooms tax.

HB 1491 proposes to distribute a portion of the meals and rooms tax revenue back to municipalities in proportion to where the tax was generated. The amount distributed in this manner would be up to \$5 million per year after the additional \$5 million required by the statutory catch-up formula has been provided under the normal distribution formula (which is based on population estimates). However, we must note that for the current biennium, and for at least one year in each of the past several biennia, the legislature has suspended the catch-up formula, declining to provide additional meals and rooms tax funding to municipalities.

(Meals and Rooms— Continued from Page 4)

HB 1609 is an **NHMA policy bill** that proposes to establish a local option occupancy surcharge under the meals and rooms tax. The surcharge could not exceed \$2 per occupancy per 24-hour period, would be collected by the Department of Revenue Administration as part of the meals and rooms tax, and would be distributed to the municipality annually at the same time the meals and rooms tax distribution occurs, generally at the end of December. The option to assess this surcharge must be approved by the municipality's legislative body, with money from the surcharge being deposited into a capital reserve fund, a revolving fund, or a special revenue fund.

Municipalities interested in either or both bills should plan to attend the hearing(s) on Thursday afternoon.

Retirement Contribution Bill Still Alive!

A retained bill from last year that would begin to restore the state's obligation to pay a portion of New Hampshire Retirement System costs for teachers, police, and firefighters came close to passing the House this week, and it's not dead yet. **HB 413** requires the state to pay 15 percent of the employer costs for those employee groups—a far cry from the longstanding 35 percent, but still a big step in the right direction.

The bill had passed the House by a large margin last year but was then referred to the House Finance Committee, where it was retained. In November the Finance Committee reported the bill as Inexpedient to Legislate by a 17-9 vote. The clear message was that legislators liked the idea in theory, but were unwilling to fund it.

But the ITL motion passed the House on Tuesday by a bare 172-166 margin, meaning if only four representatives had voted differently, the motion would have failed and presumably would have been followed by an Ought to Pass motion.

It gets better. A representative who voted for the ITL motion has filed a notice of reconsideration, which means that when the House next convenes, a motion for reconsideration will come forward--and if the membership in attendance is exactly the same (admittedly unlikely), only three more representatives will need to change their votes. The House apparently will not meet in session again until early February, leaving plenty of time for local officials to work on their representatives. Please take a look at the [roll call results](#) to see how your representatives voted and lobby them to either hold firm or change their vote, as appropriate. ***Note that a "yea" vote was to kill the bill—not what we want! These are the minds that need to be changed.***

Good News on RGGI Funding

Thanks in part, we're sure, to the efforts of local officials, the House last week overturned the recommendations of the Science, Technology & Energy Committee on two bills dealing with proceeds from the sale of carbon allowances under the regional greenhouse gas initiative.

The House first took up **HB 559**, which NHMA supports, and which increases to \$5 million (from \$2 million) the amount of proceeds allocated annually for municipal and school district

(RGGI Funding— Continued from Page 5)

energy efficiency projects. The House defeated the committee's recommendation of Inexpedient to Legislate on a 160-182 roll call vote, then passed the bill by a 189-153 margin. However, the bill was then referred to the House Finance Committee for further review. (We are unsure why, because it does not appear to affect state finances.)

The House next took up **HB 592**, which would have eliminated the funding for energy efficiency projects. Given the vote on **HB 559**, it was not surprising that the House again overturned the committee's recommendation (Ought to Pass) and voted to kill **HB 592**.

The Finance Committee hearing on **HB 559** is scheduled for next **Wednesday, January 17, at 11:00 a.m., in LOB Rooms 210-211**. Please attend to support the bill if you can.

A Strange Hearing for a Strange Bill

On Wednesday, the House Municipal and County Government Committee heard testimony on [HB 1749](#), a bill to preempt municipalities from managing and controlling town or city-owned land when it comes to the *use* of guns or knives. The hearing was scheduled for Representatives' Hall in anticipation of a large turnout, but only 15 or so people testified, and they were pretty evenly split between support and opposition.

Adding some confusion, the bill's proponents had provided an unofficial amendment to the committee, but many who testified had not seen it and the committee chair noted it was not officially up for discussion. That left several people who were opposed to the bill as drafted, but supportive of the amendment, in a tough spot.

In support of the bill, we heard the same arguments that were made for the underlying statute, RSA 159:26, which gives the state exclusive authority over the ownership, use, possession, etc., of firearms, and states that no ordinance or regulation of a political subdivision may regulate such matters, except as specifically provided by statute. There was testimony that without **HB 1749**, gun owners could inadvertently get into trouble going from one municipality to another because of differing local gun regulations. But municipalities already cannot regulate the *possession* of guns, so how might that happen?

There was also testimony that municipal officials brazenly enact ordinances in violation of the law and that there is no mechanism to hold them accountable or to address illegally passed regulations. Municipal officials can make mistakes, true, but there is a comprehensive and familiar set of laws and court procedures to address situations where officials of any sort overstep their authority.

A selectman from the town of Milford, which was "called out" in the bill, clarified that the town did not ban target shooting on all town property, but rather limited it on a specific large tract of land to an area with a shooting range, explaining that this was done for safety reasons and lead pollution control after a considerable period of public deliberation.

So what is it that the proponents want? To be able to wander from town to town, shooting their guns on public property wherever and whenever they want?

(Guns on Town Property— Continued from Page 6)

There is no question that citizens may carry their guns wherever they want and that towns cannot limit what they can do on private property. Although some questioned why the selectmen should control public property (it belongs to the taxpayers, not the selectmen), RSA 41:11-a does give them authority to regulate the *use* of municipal property, and that does—and should—include the use of firearms. The current law is sufficient, and the committee should spend no further time on **HB 1749**.

Water Quality Standards Bills

On Wednesday and Thursday, the House Resources, Recreation and Development Committee heard testimony on a number of bills dealing with water quality standards and testing—**HB 1590**, **HB 1592**, **HB 1618**, **HB 1727**, and **HB 1737**. After testimony from the Department of Environmental Services, the committee voted to request that **HB 1590**, dealing with surface water contaminants, and **HB 1618**, dealing with ambient water quality standards, be referred to the Legislative Budget Assistant's Office for determination of the fiscal impacts from both bills to the state (DES) and to public water systems. Additional committee meetings will likely occur once those fiscal impact statements have been completed.

HOUSE CALENDAR

TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2018

COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS, Room 302, LOB

2:30 p.m. **HB 1782-FN**, relative to insurance payments for ambulance providers.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY, Room 204, LOB

11:00 a.m. **HB 1406**, relative to canceled carry licenses and evidence of domicile for voting purposes.

ELECTION LAW, Room 308, LOB

10:30 a.m. **HB 1770-FN-L**, relative to verification of checklists.

HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND ELDERLY AFFAIRS, Room 205, LOB

2:15 p.m. **HB 1811-FN-A**, relative to the New Hampshire health protection program.

MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT, Room 301, LOB

10:00 a.m. **HB 1221**, relative to petitioned warrant articles.

10:30 a.m. **HB 1332**, allowing warrant articles to be split by the deliberative session.

11:00 a.m. **HB 1392**, relative to publishing the tallies of votes of municipal budget committee members on warrant articles.

PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS, Room 201, LOB

10:15 a.m. **HB 1693**, relative to appropriations for bridge construction or reconstruction.

RESOURCES, RECREATION AND DEVELOPMENT, Room 305, LOB

11:30 a.m. **HB 1226**, relative to restricting the watering of lawns through the use of private wells.

1:00 p.m. Continued public hearing on **HB 1585**, requiring conservation commissions to keep a natural resources inventory.

WAYS AND MEANS, Room 202, LOB

- 10:00 a.m. **HB 1251**, relative to indicia for payment of taxes on the transfer of real property.
10:15 a.m. **HB 1478-FN-A**, reducing the rate on the tax on transfer of real property.
10:45 a.m. **HB 1673-FN-L**, relative to the interest charged on late and delinquent property tax payments.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2018

CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY, Room 204, LOB

- 10:00 a.m. **HB 1298**, relative to unalienable rights of inhabitants.
11:20 a.m. **HB 1445**, relative to penalties for corrupt practices.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION, Room 306, LOB

- 11:30 a.m. **HB 1670-FN**, relative to bonds for public employees.

FINANCE, Rooms 210-211, LOB

- 11:00 a.m. **HB 559-FN**, relative to expenditures from the energy efficiency fund.

JUDICIARY, Room 208, LOB

- 10:15 a.m. **HB 1717-FN**, requiring a jury trial before the municipality transfers certain property.

LABOR, INDUSTRIAL AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES, Room 307, LOB

- 11:30 a.m. **HB 1330**, relative to the wrongful discharge of an employee.

MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT, Room 301, LOB

- 10:15 a.m. **HB 1266**, relative to apportionment of property taxes in municipalities that are part of cooperative school districts.
10:30 a.m. **HB 1630**, relative to unfunded property tax exemptions or credits.
11:00 a.m. **HB 1631-L**, relative to the assessment of property in municipalities that are part of a multitown school district.
11:30 a.m. **HB 1244**, relative to applicability of local zoning ordinances.
1:00 p.m. **HB 1299-FN-L**, relative to the recall of selectmen.
1:30 p.m. **HB 1444**, requiring the legislative body to approve the appointment of town managers and prohibiting town managers from hiring contractors to perform the duties of town managers.
2:00 p.m. **HB 1461**, relative to penalties for unconstitutional actions by municipal officials.
2:30 p.m. **HB 1657**, relative to the removal of an elected treasurer.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 2018

CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY, Room 204, LOB

- 10:00 a.m. **HB 1283**, prohibiting sobriety checkpoints.

ELECTION LAW, Room 308, LOB

- 10:00 a.m. **HB 1666**, relative to redistricting.
10:30 a.m. **HB 1699**, relative to state representative districts for Hudson and Pelham.

WAYS AND MEANS, Room 202, LOB

- 10:00 a.m. **HB 1722-FN-L**, relative to the property tax exemption for chartered public school property, including leased property.
- 10:45 a.m. **HB 1282**, repealing the provisions for tax exemptions for certain chartered public school facilities.
- 1:15 p.m. **HB 1548-FN**, relative to meals and rooms taxes applicable to room remarketers.
- 1:30 p.m. **HB 1491-FN-A-L**, relative to the disposition of meals and rooms tax revenues to town and cities.
- 2:30 p.m. **HB 1609**, establishing a local option for an additional surcharge on occupancy under the meals and rooms tax. **NHMA Policy.**

TUESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2018

ELECTION LAW, Room 308, LOB

- 10:00 a.m. **HB 1520**, relative to access to ballots and relative to verification counts of machine-counted ballots.
- 10:30 a.m. **HB 1582**, relative to the authority of the moderator to verify the device count.
- 11:00 a.m. **HB 1486**, relative to “over voted” ballots.
- 1:00 p.m. **HB 1540-FN**, relative to ranked-choice voting.
- 1:30 p.m. **HB 1240**, allowing voters to vote for multiple candidates for an office.

ENVIRONMENT AND AGRICULTURE, Room 303, LOB

- 10:00 a.m. **HB 1212**, establishing a local option for commercial buildings with environmental liability that are delinquent on property taxes.
- 11:00 a.m. **HB 1238**, relative to animal cruelty and costs of care for such animals.
- 1:00 p.m. **HB 1231-FN-L**, relative to dog licenses.
- 2:00 p.m. **HB 1233**, preempting local regulation of seeds and fertilizer.

FISH AND GAME AND MARINE RESOURCES, Room 307, LOB

- 1:00 p.m. **HB 1726-FN**, relative to reimbursement to municipalities for certain search and rescue operations.

JUDICIARY, Room 208, LOB

- 10:00 a.m. **HB 1344**, relative to collective bargaining under the right-to-know law.
- 10:30 a.m. **HB 1579-FN**, requiring records to be kept for certain exempt convenings under the right-to-know law.
- 11:00 a.m. **HB 1323**, relative to employment of chief executive officers under the right-to-know law.
- 1:00 p.m. **HB 1347**, relative to information to be included in the minutes under the right-to-know law.
- 1:30 p.m. **HB 1786-L**, prohibiting costs for inspection of governmental records under the right-to-know law.
- 2:00 p.m. **HB 1788-FN-L**, relative to costs charged under the right-to-know law.
- 2:30 p.m. **HB 1789-FN-L**, relative to costs of requests which are in electronic format under the right-to-know law.

MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT, Room 301, LOB

- 9:30 a.m. **HB 1202-L**, relative to town revolving funds for group net metering.
- 10:00 a.m. **HB 1431**, prohibiting the state and political subdivisions from acquiring military-equipped vehicles or equipment which are not readily available in an open national commercial market.
- 10:30 a.m. **HB 1655-L**, relative to fines for violations of town or city code violations.

WAYS AND MEANS, Room 202, LOB

- 10:00 a.m. **HB 1502**, adding the tax exemption for water and air pollution control facilities to the tax expenditure review.
- 11:30 a.m. **HB 1619**, adding the rehabilitation of tourist lodging to qualifying structures under the community revitalization tax relief incentive program.
- 2:30 p.m. **HB 1381**, relative to determining the taxable value of utility property for local property taxation.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2018

LABOR, INDUSTRIAL AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES, Room 307, LOB

- 10:00 a.m. **HB 1393**, relative to compensation for vacation time and personal time earned.
- 1:00 p.m. **HB 1451**, relative to employee work schedules and rest periods.

MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT, Room 301, LOB

- 1:00 p.m. **HB 1303**, relative to the purposes of revolving funds in towns.
- 1:30 p.m. **HB 1366**, authorizing the town meeting to fund capital reserve funds through the operating budget.
- 2:00 p.m. **HB 1616**, requiring legislative approval for regional planning commissions to accept money from governmental sources other than the state of New Hampshire or its political subdivisions.
- 2:30 p.m. **HB 1402**, relative to ordinances regarding forestry activities.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 25, 2018

ELECTION LAW, Room 308, LOB

- 10:00 a.m. **HB 1220**, relative to valid identification to obtain a ballot.
- 10:30 a.m. **HB 1510-FN**, relative to voters using out-of-state drivers' licenses as identification.
- 11:00 a.m. **HB 1264**, relative to construction of the terms "resident," "inhabitant," "residence," and "residency."
- 1:00 p.m. **HB 1543**, relative to domicile of students for voting purposes.
- 2:00 p.m. **HB 1772-FN**, permitting online voting registration.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION, Room 306, LOB

- 1:00 p.m. **HB 1755-FN**, establishing an office of the inspector general.

JUDICIARY, Room 208, LOB

- 10:00 a.m. **HB 1701**, making the Coakley Landfill Group subject to the provisions of RSA 91-A.
- 1:30 p.m. **HB 1627-FN**, prohibiting the transmission of images or sounds of another person who is on private property or to conduct surveillance activity.
- 2:00 p.m. **HB 1750-FN**, relative to an expectation of privacy in personal information.
- 2:30 p.m. **HB 1760-FN**, establishing an expectation of privacy in personal materials.

MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT, Room 301, LOB

- 1:00 p.m. **HB 1307**, relative to the default budget in certain towns.
1:30 p.m. **HB 1396-L**, relative to requirements for a default budget.
2:00 p.m. **HB 1547**, requiring review of default budgets by the department of revenue administration.
2:30 p.m. **HB 1652**, relative to default budgets.

SENATE CALENDAR

TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2018

COMMERCE, Room 100, SH

- 2:00 p.m. **SB 428**, relative to the payment of weekly and biweekly wages.

ELECTION LAW AND INTERNAL AFFAIRS, Room 102, LOB

- 9:00 a.m. **SB 438**, relative to the postponement of local elections.
10:00 a.m. **SB 527-FN-L**, relative to absentee voting.

ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES, Room 103, SH

- 9:15 a.m. **SB 453**, relative to requirements and criteria for a competitive grant program for drinking water protection.
9:45 a.m. **SB 444**, relative to cutting timber near certain waters and public highways.

FINANCE, Room 103, SH

- 2:15 p.m. **SB 471**, relative to the authority of municipalities to address potential natural threats.

TRANSPORTATION, Room 103, LOB

- 2:00 p.m. **SB 347**, relative to seasonal highway weight limits.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2018

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION, Room 101, LOB

- 9:00 a.m. **SB 463-FN**, establishing an architectural paint can recycling program.

PUBLIC AND MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS, Room 102, LOB

- 9:45 a.m. **SB 508**, establishing a committee to study the prevalence of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) among first responders.
10:00 a.m. **SB 504-FN**, relative to sales of tax-deeded property.
10:15 a.m. **SB 394**, enabling municipalities to establish term limits for elected officials.
10:30 a.m. **SB 505**, requiring abutter notice of the construction of a crematory.
10:45 a.m. **SB 395**, relative to access electronic records under the right-to-know law.

WAYS AND MEANS, Room 100, SH

- 9:40 a.m. **SB 565-FN**, relative to aircraft registration fees and airways tolls.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2018

ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES, Room 103, SH

- 9:15 a.m. **SB 446**, relative to net energy metering limits for customer-generators.
9:30 a.m. **SB 528-FN-L**, relative to dam registration fees and relative to permit fees for constructing or reconstructing a dam.
9:45 a.m. **SB 454**, relative to ambient water quality standards and maximum contaminant levels for certain perfluorinated chemicals.
10:00 a.m. **SB 309-FN**, relative to standards for perfluorochemicals in drinking water, ambient groundwater, and surface water.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2018

PUBLIC AND MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS, Room 102, LOB

- 9:00 a.m. **SB 339**, relative to voting by zoning boards of adjustment.
9:40 a.m. **SB 430**, relative to priority of liens for liability for support of assisted persons.
10:00 a.m. **SB 503**, relative to increasing the maximum amount of the optional veterans' tax credit.
10:20 a.m. **SB 506**, limiting amendments to warrant articles.

NEW BILLS

SB 309-FN requires the commissioner of the department of environmental services to adopt a state drinking water standard, ambient groundwater quality standards, and surface waste quality standards relative to perfluorinated chemicals. Sen. Innis of New Castle; **ENR**.

SB 527-FN-LOCAL establishes additional procedures for verification of absentee voter documents and for correcting errors and omissions by absentee voters. Sen. Birdsell of Hampstead; **EL&IA**.

SB 528-FN-LOCAL increases the annual registration fee for dams. Sen. Bradley of Wolfeboro; **ENR**.

SB 529-FN authorizes the town of Warren to remove timber and debris from a section of the Baker River and to dredge the river channel. Sen. Giuda of Warren; **ENR**.

SB 530-FN prohibits the erection, installation, and maintenance of high voltage electric transmission lines along municipal highways and grants municipalities exclusive authority to grant licenses for utility poles, conduits, and wires along municipal highways. Sen. Giuda of Warren; **ENR**.

SB 541-FN-A establishes a fund to reimburse costs associated with firefighters who have cancer, to consist of moneys from an annual assessment against insurance carriers. Sen. Innis of New Castle; **F-S**.

SB 547 requires police and fire stations to collect household medications from individuals, which will then be transported to disposal locations by a carrier approved by the department of health and human services. Sen. Innis of New Castle; **HHS**.

(New Bills— Continued from Page 12)

SB 552 authorizes a trauma victim's legal representative to specify to which trauma hospital the patient shall be transported by first responders. Sen. Giuda of Warren; **HHS**.

SB 533 establishes a presumption in the case of police officers, firefighters, and emergency medical providers that post-traumatic stress disorder is work-related and compensable under workers' compensation. Sen. Hennessey of Hanover; **COM-S**.

SB 554-FN sets the minimum hourly rate paid to employees based on whether the employer offers health benefits to the employee through an employer-sponsored plan. Sen. Soucy of Manchester; **COM-S**.

SB 555-FN-A establishes the citizens' right-to-know appeals commission and the office of the right-to-know ombudsman, and establishes an alternative process to resolve right-to-know complaints. Sen. Giuda of Warren; **JUD-S**.

SB 557-FN establishes a board with concurrent, appellate jurisdiction with the superior court regarding municipal decisions on housing and housing developments. Sen. Giuda of Warren; **JUD-S**.

SB 561-FN requires the department of transportation to install a beacon at an intersection in Melvin Village. Sen. Bradley of Wolfeboro; **TRANS-S**.

SB 565-FN requires quarterly reporting by airport owners, modifies registration and operating fees for aircraft, and adjusts the distribution of operating fee revenue. Sen. Giuda of Warren; **W&M-S**.

SB 569-FN allows a law enforcement agency to petition the superior court to require a bond from a person charged with abuse or neglect of an animal to cover the agency's cost of caring for the animal, and makes other changes to the animal cruelty and animal breeding laws. Sen. Bradley of Wolfeboro; **ENR**.

SB 575-FN establishes requirements for and restrictions on electric vehicle charging stations, and requires installation of signage along state and local roads directing drivers to charging stations. Sen. Watters of Dover; **TRANS-S**.

HOUSE FLOOR ACTION

Tuesday, January 9, 2018

HB 92, revising the definition of the state building code and ratifying changes to the state building code adopted by the state building code review board. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

HB 168, relative to the definition of the New Hampshire fire code. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

HB 413-FN-A-LOCAL, relative to payment by the state of a portion of retirement system contributions of political subdivision employers. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

(Floor Action— Continued from Page 12)

HB 559-FN, relative to expenditures from the energy efficiency fund. **Passed with Amendment; referred to F-H.**

HB 592-FN, repealing the regional greenhouse gas initiative. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**



2018 **Upcoming NHMA Workshops and Webinars**

Jan. 13	2018 Moderators Workshop for SB 2 Town Meeting
Jan. 17	NHMA Webinar—2018 Legislative Preview
Jan. 24	NHMA Webinar—Preparing for Town Meeting
Feb. 17	2018 Moderators Workshop for Traditional Town Meeting
Feb. 21	NHMA Webinar—Election Law Changes in 2018

Please register online through our website (Scroll down on left to Calendar of Events—www.nhmunicipal.org.)

