



New Hampshire Association of Counties

1/13/17

STATE HOUSE UPDATE

Prepared by the Dupont Group

HEARINGS NEXT WEEK

Time	Location	Bill	Title
Tuesday			
1/17 10:30 AM	LOB 208 (H-Judiciary) Public Hearing	HB 292	Relative to A Jury Trial For The Execution Of A Tax Lien.
Tuesday			
1/17 11:00 AM	LOB 301 (H-Municipal and County Government) Public Hearing	HB 108	Relative to Municipal Record Retention and Conversion.
Tuesday			
1/17 11:15 AM	LOB 306 (H-Executive Departments and Administration) Public Hearing	HB 171	Prohibiting The State or Its Political Subdivisions From Assisting A Federal Agency In The Collection Of Electronic Data Without A Warrant.
Tuesday			
1/17 01:00 PM	LOB 204 (H-Criminal Justice and Public Safety) Executive Session	HB 153	Requiring A Manslaughter Charge For Heroin and Fentanyl Dealers When The User Dies.
Tuesday			
1/17 01:00 PM	LOB 204 (H-Criminal Justice and Public Safety) Executive Session	HB 143	Relative to Recommittal Of A Prisoner By The Parole Board.
Tuesday			
1/17 01:00 PM	LOB 204 (H-Criminal Justice and Public Safety) Executive Session	HB 282	Relative to A Prisoner's Participation In The Work Release Program.
Tuesday			
1/17 01:00 PM	LOB 208 (H-Judiciary) Executive Session	HB 183	Establishing A Commission to Study Costs Of Requests For Information Under The Right-to-know Law.
Tuesday			
1/17 01:00 PM	LOB 208 (H-Judiciary) Executive Session	HB 178	Establishing A Commission to Study Processes to Resolve Right-to-know Complaints.

Tuesday			
1/17 01:00 PM	LOB 208 (H-Judiciary) Executive Session	HB 259	Relative to The Records Of The Probate Court.
Tuesday			
1/17 01:00 PM	LOB 208 (H-Judiciary) Executive Session	HB 170	Relative to Posting Notice and Minutes Of Public Meetings On The Public Body's Website.
Tuesday			
1/17 01:30 PM	LOB 301 (H-Municipal and County Government) Public Hearing	HB 251	Relative to The Use Of Capital Reserve Fund Appropriations By Municipalities.
Tuesday			
1/17 02:00 PM	LOB 301 (H-Municipal and County Government) Public Hearing	HB 261	Relative to Background Checks For County Employees.
Wednesday			
1/18 10:30 AM	LOB 301 (H-Municipal and County Government) Public Hearing	HB 144	Relative to Procedures For Adoption Of The Budget For Rockingham County.
Wednesday			
1/18 11:00 AM	LOB 208 (H-Judiciary) Public Hearing	CACR 3	Relating to Disqualification By Age. Providing That There Be No Age Disqualification For A Judge Of Any Court, Judge Of Probate, or Sheriff.
Wednesday			
1/18 11:00 AM	LOB 301 (H-Municipal and County Government) Public Hearing	HB 167	Relative to Audits Of County Funds.
Wednesday			
1/18 11:00 AM	LOB 307 (H-Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services) Public Hearing	HB 194	Permitting Employers to Pay Wages to Employees Weekly or Biweekly.
Wednesday			
1/18 11:00 AM	LOB 308 (H-Election Law) Public Hearing	HB 235	Allowing The Use Of An Assisted Living Facility Photo Identification Card For Voter Identification Purposes.
Wednesday			
1/18 11:30 AM	LOB 301 (H-Municipal and County Government) Public Hearing	HB 189	Establishing A Homestead Right.
Wednesday			
1/18 01:00 PM	LOB 301 (H-Municipal and County Government) Public Hearing	HB 223	Prohibiting Recipients Of County or Municipal Funds From Using Such Funds For Lobbying.

Wednesday			
1/18 01:30 PM	LOB 204 (H-Criminal Justice and Public Safety) Public Hearing	HB 345	Relative to Entering Dismissals Of Cases By Nolle Prosequi.
Wednesday			
1/18 02:00 PM	LOB 301 (H-Municipal and County Government) Public Hearing	HB 239	Establishing A Committee to Study Reducing The Cost Of County Government.
Thursday			
1/19 10:00 AM	LOB 204 (H-Criminal Justice and Public Safety) Public Hearing	HB 156	Including A Fetus In The Definition Of "another" For Purposes Of Certain Criminal Offenses.
Thursday			
1/19 01:30 PM	LOB 306 (H-Executive Departments and Administration) Public Hearing	HB 97	Relative to The Use Of Drones.
Thursday			
1/19 02:15 PM	LOB 202 (H-Ways and Means) Public Hearing	HB 359	Relative to Returning A Percentage Of The Lchip Fee to The Municipality Where The Real Estate Transfer From Which The Fee Originates Is Located.

Highlights From This Week

Municipal and County Government Presentation

-Ron White and George Maglaras presented to the Municipal and County Government Committee. Offering the Association as a resource to the Committee

HB 170—Relative to Posting Notices and Minutes of Public Meetings on Town/City Website. (Comeau)

-This bill would require cities and towns with a website to post all meeting notices and public minutes on the official website within 5 days

-There were a lot of questions from the committee about the feasibility of the 5 day timeline and the cost that it would bring to the smaller communities.

-The committee remains skeptical

HB 120—Relative to revenue stabilization fund for counties (Bucio)

-This bill would allow counties to set up a revenue stabilization fund

-There were several questions and concerns from the committee regarding some of the language that was in the draft legislation

-George Maglaras, testified as Strafford County Commission not on behalf of the Association. Maglaras presented alternate language that would allow counties to set up the fund, with similar language already in statute.

-The Committee seemed skeptical of the original draft language. If changes are not made it is unlikely that this bill will get a favorable recommendation from the committee.

HB 172— relative to tax anticipation notes in counties (McCarthy)

-Rep. Frank McCarthy introduced his bill

-There were very few questions from the committee

-Difficult to judge their opinion

HB 127— relative to vacancies in county offices (Weyler)

-Rep Weyler introduced the bill

-Would make it possible for counties to fill vacancies by secret ballot rather than formal Roll Call vote

-Was noted that some counties already use secret ballot, Weyler stated that the Secretary of State's view is that it must be done by a formal Roll Call vote not secret ballot

HB 238 and HB 191 were heard together

-HB 238 Creates a study committee to look for funding sources for more rural broadband using either governmental or public private partnerships

-HB 191 permits municipalities to issue bonds for the purpose of providing or expanding Internet service

-As drafted the bill would enable counties as well as muni to issue bonds for the purpose of providing or expanding Internet service. Current law allows for this if an existing carrier does not serve the area, but the bill would strike this limitation

-There was a strong group of broadband industry folks there opposed to the bill, but also a lot of Peterborough and other Cheshire county folks there supporting the bill

-Too early to know what the committee will, but expect a work session on these bills in the near future

NOTES

Language for bills is beginning to emerge. If a bill has an official HB or SB number then the language is available to the public. You can review the language of any bill throughout the session at

http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/bill_status/quick_search.html.