



New Hampshire Association of Counties

1/20/17

STATE HOUSE UPDATE

Prepared by the Dupont Group

HEARINGS NEXT WEEK

Time	Location	Bill	Title
Tuesday			
1/24 09:00 AM	LOB 302 (H-Commerce and Consumer Affairs) Subcommittee Work Session	HB 330	Relative to Form and Rate Filing Fees.
Tuesday			
1/24 10:00 AM	LOB 301 (H-Municipal and County Government) Public Hearing	HB 212	Relative to Police Attendance At Public Meetings and Functions.
Tuesday			
1/24 10:00 AM	LOB 304 (H-Science, Technology and Energy) Full Committee Work Session	HB 191	Relative to The Authority Of Towns to Issue Bonds For The Expansion Of Internet Service.
Tuesday			
1/24 10:00 AM	LOB 306 (H-Executive Departments and Administration) Public Hearing	HB 369	Relative to The Amortization Of Retirement System Unfunded Accrued Liability.
Tuesday			
1/24 10:00 AM	SH 100 (S-Judiciary) Hearing	SB 68	Relative to Sentencing For Violations Of Probation.
Tuesday			
1/24 10:30 AM	LOB 301 (H-Municipal and County Government) Public Hearing	HB 272	Relative to The Election Of County Commissioners In Carroll County.
Tuesday			
1/24 10:45 AM	LOB 306 (H-Executive Departments and Administration) Public Hearing	HB 425	Relative to The Retirement System Assumed Rate Of Return For The Biennium Beginning July 1, 2017.
Tuesday			
1/24 11:00 AM	LOB 301 (H-Municipal and County Government) Public Hearing	HB 296	Allowing Counties to Authorize and Fund Forensic Audits.

Tuesday			
1/24 11:30 AM	LOB 306 (H-Executive Departments and Administration) Public Hearing	HB 413	Relative to Payment By The State Of A Portion Of Retirement System Contributions Of Political Subdivision Employers.
Tuesday			
1/24 01:00 PM	LOB 301 (H-Municipal and County Government) Executive Session	HB 261	Relative to Background Checks For County Employees.
Tuesday			
1/24 01:00 PM	LOB 301 (H-Municipal and County Government) Executive Session	HB 108	Relative to Municipal Record Retention and Conversion.
Tuesday			
1/24 01:00 PM	LOB 304 (H-Science, Technology and Energy) Executive Session	HB 191	Relative to The Authority Of Towns to Issue Bonds For The Expansion Of Internet Service.
Tuesday			
1/24 01:15 PM	LOB 306 (H-Executive Departments and Administration) Public Hearing	HB 542	Relative to Retired Members Employed In A Part-time Position By Retirement System Employers.
Tuesday			
1/24 01:45 PM	LOB 208 (H-Judiciary) Public Hearing	HB 524	Relative to Participation In Meetings Open to The Public.
Tuesday			
1/24 02:00 PM	LOB 204 (H-Criminal Justice and Public Safety) Public Hearing	HB 474	Limiting The Use Of Cell Site Simulator Devices By Law Enforcement Agencies.
Tuesday			
1/24 02:00 PM	LOB 306 (H-Executive Departments and Administration) Public Hearing	HB 543	Relative to Part-time Employment By A Retiree For A Retirement System Employer.
Tuesday			
1/24 02:30 PM	LOB 208 (H-Judiciary) Public Hearing	HB 460	Relative to Minutes Under The Right-to-know Law.
Tuesday			
1/24 02:45 PM	LOB 306 (H-Executive Departments and Administration) Public Hearing	HB 561	Relative to Contributions By Employers Of Part-time Employees Receiving Retirement System Pensions and Relative to Enforcement Of Provisions Concerning Retired Members Working Part-time After Retirement.
Wednesday			
1/25 10:00 AM	LOB 305-307 (H-Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services) Public Hearing	HB 115	Establishing A State Minimum Wage and Providing For Adjustments to The Minimum Wage.
Wednesday			
1/25 10:30 AM	LOB 306 (H-Executive Departments and Administration) Executive Session	HB 425	Relative to The Retirement System Assumed Rate Of Return For The Biennium Beginning July 1, 2017.

Wednesday			
1/25 10:30 AM	LOB 306 (H-Executive Departments and Administration) Executive Session	HB 369	Relative to The Amortization Of Retirement System Unfunded Accrued Liability.
Wednesday			
1/25 10:30 AM	LOB 306 (H-Executive Departments and Administration) Executive Session	HB 219	Establishing A Demographic Study Committee.
Wednesday			
1/25 10:30 AM	LOB 306 (H-Executive Departments and Administration) Executive Session	HB 413	Relative to Payment By The State Of A Portion Of Retirement System Contributions Of Political Subdivision Employers.
Wednesday			
1/25 11:00 AM	LOB 204 (H-Criminal Justice and Public Safety) Public Hearing	HB 285	Relative to The Imposition Of Concurrent and Consecutive Sentences.
Wednesday			
1/25 01:00 PM	LOB 204 (H-Criminal Justice and Public Safety) Public Hearing	HB 526	Relative to Rules Relating to Prison Rehabilitation Programs and Inmate Health.
Wednesday			
1/25 01:45 PM	LOB 204 (H-Criminal Justice and Public Safety) Public Hearing	HB 544	Relative to Earned Time Credits For Prisoners Participating In Rehabilitative or Educational Programming.
Wednesday			
1/25 02:00 PM	LOB 307 (H-Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services) Public Hearing	HB 346	Relative to The Payment Of Wages to An Employee.
Wednesday			
1/25 02:30 PM	LOB 204 (H-Criminal Justice and Public Safety) Public Hearing	HB 205	Relative to Flying A Drone Above A Correctional Facility.
Wednesday			
1/25 02:30 PM	LOB 307 (H-Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services) Public Hearing	HB 442	Relative to Criminal Records Checks In The Employee Application Process.
Thursday			
1/26 10:00 AM	SH 103 (S-) Hearing	SB 35	Relative to The Procedure For Legislators to Disclose A Conflict or Personal Interest In Legislation.
Thursday			
1/26 02:30 PM	LOB 301 (H-Municipal and County Government) Subcommittee Work Session	HB 251	Relative to The Use Of Capital Reserve Fund Appropriations By Municipalities.

Highlights From This Week

Executive Session Results

Criminal Justice Committee

HB 143– relative to recommittal of a prisoner by the parole board—OTP 19-1

HB 228– Relative to transportation of alcoholic beverages by a minor—OTP w/Amendment 18-2

HB 282– relative to a prisoner’s participation in the work release program—ITL 18-2

HB 153– requiring a manslaughter charge for heroin and fentanyl dealers when the user dies—ITL 20-0

Judiciary Committee

HB 183– establishing a commission to study the costs of requests for information under right to know—
ITL 16-1

HB 178– establishing a commission to study processes to resolve right to know complaints—OTP 18-0

HB 259– relative to records of the probate court—OTP w/Amendment 17-0

These files shall be preserved in both electronic and non-electronic form

HB 170– relative to posting notice and minutes of public meetings in the public body’s website

This was deferred to a future executive session to allow amendments to be made

Hearings

HB 261– relative to background checks for county employees

Jane Jontz and Sara Lewko testified on behalf of the Association

Jeff Kellett, , background check coordinator for the State Police, testified against the bill. The Federal Law that enables the SPOT is 92-544. This allows for the 2 exemptions for a background check that he mentioned 1) active criminal investigation or 2) law enforcement employment. The checks that they are running at SPOT are tied into the FBI system and they cannot separate out a state background check only at the SPOT locations. Right now Ill states that the State Police are the only location where employment background checks may be made. To change this it would require a change to the federal rules.

The Committee was sympathetic to the HR position, but with the federal restriction likely they will ITL the bill.

HB 167– relative to audits of county funds

The language as written does not accomplish what the sponsors intended. The language reads “may conduct” not shall

Rep McCarthy who is a co-sponsor spoke in opposition of the bill

It was mentioned that there were similar bills that have been introduced this session that would work better

The committee is likely to ITL this bill without revisions

HB 223– prohibiting recipients of county or municipal funds from using such funds for lobbying

Cordelli introduced the bill

Testimony was about 50-50 split for and against

There were several questions about how this would be accomplished and what additional burdens would be placed on these organizations

Cathy Stacey testified on behalf of the Association and received supportive questions from the committee

Chairman Belanger pointed out that a very similar bill came up in 2014-1015 session and was ITL 17-0 in committee

Based off reading of committee questions likely this bill will be ITL

HB 239- establishing a committee to study reducing costs of county government

Rep Cordelli introduced the bill

He spoke a lot about making IT changes to make county government more efficient

The Committee seemed skeptical

The NHAC was mentioned by several reps and the importance of including us in any committee

Rep Sterling said to the committee that if you vote for this bill you must be willing to serve as one of the members of the committee

This one was a bit harder to read, I could see it passing because it is just a study committee, but at the same time I don't think every member saw a value un this type of committee

HB 108– relative to municipal record retention

Allows municipal records to be stored as pdfa files and dispose of the paper copy as they see fit

Only applies to records that are kept less than 10 years

All who testified spoke in support of the bill

Likely that the Committee will pass this bill with an amendment to clean up the language

HB 252– relative to pro se litigants under the right to know law

This legislation would apply to all cases

Most of the testimony was in support of the bill, however Cordell Johnson from the Municipal Association spoke in opposition

There were some concerns from the committee about timing and the language in the bill from the committee

Unclear what the committee was thinking overall.

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.