



New Hampshire Association of Counties

1/27/17

STATE HOUSE UPDATE

Prepared by the Dupont Group

HEARINGS NEXT WEEK

Time	Location	Bill	Title
Monday			
1/30 09:00 AM	LOB 306 (H-Executive Departments and Administration) Subcommittee Work Session	HB 97	Relative to The Use Of Drones.
Tuesday			
1/31 09:45 AM	LOB 301 (H-Municipal and County Government) Subcommittee Work Session	HB 251	Relative to The Use Of Capital Reserve Fund Appropriations By Municipalities.
Tuesday			
1/31 10:00 AM	LOB 302 (H-Commerce and Consumer Affairs) Public Hearing	HB 308	Requiring Propane Companies to File Notice with The Register Of Deeds Of Underground Propane Tanks.
Tuesday			
1/31 10:30 AM	LOB 204 (H-Criminal Justice and Public Safety) Public Hearing	HB 643	Mandating The Wearing Of Body Cameras By Certain Law Enforcement Officers.
Tuesday			
1/31 10:30 AM	LOB 208 (H-Judiciary) Public Hearing	HB 617	Relative to Jury Trials For Imposition Of Fines In Zoning Violations.
Tuesday			
1/31 01:00 PM	LOB 301 (H-Municipal and County Government) Executive Session	HB 167	Relative to Audits Of County Funds.
Tuesday			
1/31 01:00 PM	LOB 301 (H-Municipal and County Government) Executive Session	HB 144	Relative to Procedures For Adoption Of The Budget For Rockingham County.
Tuesday			
1/31 01:00 PM	LOB 301 (H-Municipal and County Government) Executive Session	HB 223	Prohibiting Recipients Of County or Municipal Funds From Using Such Funds For Lobbying.

Tuesday			
1/31 01:00 PM	LOB 301 (H-Municipal and County Government) Executive Session	HB 189	Establishing A Homestead Right.
Tuesday			
1/31 01:00 PM	LOB 306 (H-Executive Departments and Administration) Public Hearing	HB 593	Granting Group Ii Retirement System Status to Certain Positions In The Department Of Corrections.
Tuesday			
1/31 01:20 PM	LOB 103 (S-Transportation) Hearing	SB 179	Making Appropriations For The Operation, Maintenance, and Repair Of Certain Welcome Centers and Rest Areas In Coos County.
Tuesday			
1/31 01:45 PM	LOB 101 (S-Health and Human Services) Hearing	SB 146	Requiring The Department Of Health and Human Services to Develop A Centralized State System For Transporting Persons Subject to Involuntary Emergency Admission.
Tuesday			
1/31 02:15 PM	LOB 205 (H-Health, Human Services & Elderly Affairs) Public Hearing	HB 601	Relative to Referral to The Sununu Youth Service Center Of Youths Administered Narcan By A First Responder For A Heroin Overdose.
Wednesday			
2/1 08:30 AM	LOB 204 (H-Criminal Justice and Public Safety) Subcommittee Work Session	HB 474	Limiting The Use Of Cell Site Simulator Devices By Law Enforcement Agencies.
Wednesday			
2/1 09:00 AM	LOB 101 (S-Executive Departments and Administration) Hearing	SB 133	Relative to Security Screening At State Correctional Facilities.
Wednesday			
2/1 09:00 AM	LOB 303 (H-Commerce and Consumer Affairs) Subcommittee Work Session	HB 308	Requiring Propane Companies to File Notice with The Register Of Deeds Of Underground Propane Tanks.
Wednesday			
2/1 10:00 AM	LOB 306 (H-Executive Departments and Administration) Public Hearing	HB 624	Relative to Group Ii Vested Deferred Retirements, The Age Of Dependents In The Retiree Health Plan, and Retired Judges' Participation In The Retiree Health Plan.
Wednesday			
2/1 10:15 AM	LOB 101 (S-Executive Departments and Administration) Hearing	SB 132	Establishing A State Registry Of Historic Burial Grounds and Cemeteries.
Wednesday			
2/1 10:15 AM	LOB 201 (H-Public Works and Highways) Public Hearing	HB 563	Making An Appropriation For The Carroll and Strafford Counties Freight Rail Improvements Project and Making An Appropriation For The Coos County Freight Rail Improvements Project.

Wednesday

2/1 10:30 AM	LOB 202 (H-Ways and Means) Public Hearing	HB 644	Extending The Interest and Dividends Tax to Capital Gains, Increasing Exemptions From The Tax, and Providing For Retirement System Contributions On Behalf Of Employers Other Than The State.
Wednesday			
2/1 10:30 AM	LOB 207 (H-Education) Public Hearing	HB 605	Establishing A Scholarship For Students Pursuing Careers In The Service Of Children and The Elderly.
Wednesday			
2/1 10:45 AM	LOB 306 (H-Executive Departments and Administration) Public Hearing	HB 649	Making Emergency Medical Technicians and Rescue Squad Members Eligible For A Death Benefit If Killed In The Line Of Duty.
Wednesday			
2/1 11:15 AM	LOB 306 (H-Executive Departments and Administration) Public Hearing	HB 631	Establishing A Cash Balance Pension Plan For New Hires and Non-vested Employees.
Wednesday			
2/1 11:40 AM	LOB 301 (H-Municipal and County Government) Public Hearing	HB 619	Relative to Medical Services For Prisoners.
Wednesday			
2/1 01:00 PM	LOB 301-303 (H-Executive Departments and Administration) Public Hearing	HB 653	Relative to Health Care Premium Contributions For Medicare Eligible State Retirees.
Wednesday			
2/1 01:00 PM	LOB 306 (H-Municipal and County Government) Executive Session	HB 239	Establishing A Committee to Study Reducing The Cost Of County Government.
Wednesday			
2/1 01:00 PM	LOB 306 (H-Municipal and County Government) Executive Session	HB 212	Relative to Police Attendance At Public Meetings and Functions.
Wednesday			
2/1 01:00 PM	LOB 306 (H-Municipal and County Government) Executive Session	HB 296	Allowing Counties to Authorize and Fund Forensic Audits.
Wednesday			
2/1 01:00 PM	LOB 306 (H-Municipal and County Government) Executive Session	HB 120	Relative to Deposit Of County Unassigned Fund Balances In A Revenue Stabilization Reserve Account.
Wednesday			
2/1 01:00 PM	LOB 306 (H-Municipal and County Government) Executive Session	HB 261	Relative to Background Checks For County Employees.
Wednesday			
2/1 01:00 PM	LOB 306 (H-Municipal and County Government) Executive Session	HB 272	Relative to The Election Of County Commissioners In Carroll County.

Wednesday			
2/1 01:00 PM	Representatives Hall (H-Criminal Justice and Public Safety) Public Hearing	HB 640	Relative to The Penalties For Possession Of Marijuana.
Wednesday			
2/1 02:00 PM	LOB 301-303 (H-Executive Departments and Administration) Public Hearing	HB 645	Relative to Retiree Health Care Benefits For Future Retirees.
Wednesday			
2/1 02:00 PM	LOB 307 (H-Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services) Public Hearing	HB 628	Relative to A Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program.
Wednesday			
2/1 02:30 PM	LOB 208 (H-Judiciary) Public Hearing	HB 476	Relative to The Duties Of Registers Of Probate.
Wednesday			
2/1 03:30 PM	LOB 303 (H-Executive Departments and Administration) Subcommittee Work Session	HB 542	Relative to Retired Members Employed In A Part-time Position By Retirement System Employers.
Wednesday			
2/1 03:30 PM	LOB 303 (H-Executive Departments and Administration) Subcommittee Work Session	HB 543	Relative to Part-time Employment By A Retiree For A Retirement System Employer.
Wednesday			
2/1 03:30 PM	LOB 303 (H-Executive Departments and Administration) Subcommittee Work Session	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.
Thursday			
2/2 09:45 AM	LOB 101 (S-Health and Human Services) Hearing	SB 152	Relative to Criminal History Background Checks For Certain Health Care Workers.

Highlights From This Week

Executive Session Results

Executive Departments

HB 369 relative to the amortization of retirement system unfunded accrued liability—retained

HB 219 establishing a demographic study committee—still in committee

HB 413 relative to payment by the state of a portion of retirement system contributions of political subdivision employers—ITL 10-9

HB 425 relative to the retirement system assumed rate of return for the biennium beginning July 1, 2017—ITL 18-0

Municipal and County Government

HB 261 relative to background checks for county employees—delayed to next week

HB 108 relative to municipal record retention and conversion.—Amendment 2017-0081(corrects typos in the bill and changes the deciding factor to municipality and removes governing body—OTPA 14-1

Science Technology & Energy

HB 191 relative to the authority of towns to issue bonds for the expansion of Internet service—ITL 14-7

Hearings

HB 330- relative to form and rate filing fees.

Applies to insurance not the counties

Removed from tracking list

HB 272—relative to the election of county commissioners in Carroll county

Representative Butler introduced the bill

Most questions were about how counties elect commissioners now

Rep McCarthy testified in opposition to the bill

Presented a letter signed by 11 of 14 delegation members opposed to the bill

Presented a letter from Gene Chandler opposed to the bill

Argued that this was politically motivated

The committee was a bit difficult to read on this one. Most questions were technical questions.

HB 296— allowing counties to authorize and fund forensic audits.

Rep Cordelli introduced the bill

Stated delegations have the authority to get a performance audit but not a forensic one

Rehashed Carroll County's "missing money"

Many questions about what a forensic audit is and why they need it

Representative Belanger seemed to have the most difficulty with the language as written
Rep McCarthy spoke in support of the bill

This fixes the problem that the Commissioners have to spend appropriated funds

Overall I think the committee is skeptical about this bill and the need for a forensic audit vs a financial

HB 543— relative to part-time employment by a retiree for a retirement system employer.

Ray Bower and David Dione testified on behalf of the committee in opposition of the bill

NH Veterans Home, Substitute Teachers and several other testified against the bill as well.

The committee appeared sympathetic to our position and the important role that retirees can play

The retirement system stated that as the bill is written there is no way for them to enforce this

I think it is likely that this bill will be ITL

HB 442— relative to criminal records checks in the employee application process.

This is check the box legislation

Counties would fall under exemption (c) Any other position that requires automatic disqualification of
an applicant with a criminal history pursuant to federal or state law.

Several other organizations proposed the following exemption addition

(d) Any other position for which the employer is required by federal law or regulation to access
and use an individual's criminal history.

I think once these amendments are made the committee is likely to pass the bill

HB 476—relative to the duties of registers of probate.

This would restore the duties of probate back to the counties

Testimony was split and extensive

Speaking Against the bill were Judge King and Donna Sytek

Argued that this was a do nothing position that had no place in the court system and it would be
better to eliminate the position all together. Also stated that there have been no problems or
complaints since the courts took this over and it would be impossible to send this back to the
Counties

Speaking in Support of the bill were Rep Itse, Senator Gray, Bill Gardner, Jane Bradstreet

Argued that this was the right thing to do and that there are problems. The duties that probate has
retained are important and it is not a do nothing position. The courts have locked them out of
doing their jobs. They system we have now is unconstitutional.

This committee was recessed until next week.

CACR 8— relating to eliminating registers of probate. Providing that part II, article 71 be amended to
eliminate registers of probate.

Complete rehash of HB 476 Testimony

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.