

LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN

Restoration of State Retirement Contribution Equates to Property Tax Relief

Bulletin 04, 2019 Session
January 18, 2019

On Wednesday, January 23, at 1:00 p.m., in LOB Room 306, the House Executive Departments and Administration Committee will hear testimony on [HB 497](#), an NHMA policy bill that proposes to reinstate a portion of the state contribution toward the New Hampshire Retirement System (NHRS) costs for teachers, police, and firefighters.

As many of you know, the State of New Hampshire had funded a portion of the retirement costs for teachers, police, and firefighters, a practice that dated back to 1940 under the predecessor retirement systems and continued when these systems were consolidated into the NHRS. Since 1977, the state contribution had been set by statute at 35% of the cost, with municipalities, counties and school districts paying the remaining 65%. (Municipalities, counties and schools paid 100% of the cost for all other employees enrolled in the NHRS.)

The 35% state contribution was gradually lowered from 2010 through 2012 then eliminated entirely, resulting in local governments paying 100% of the retirement costs in 2013 and beyond. This elimination of the state contribution had an immediate impact on property taxes, increasing costs to local governments to pay what had previously been the state share—to an aggregate of approximately \$50 million per year. Because the NHRS employer rates have increased since 2013, if the 35% state contribution were still in statute today, local governments would have paid an estimated \$90 million less in their 2018 NHRS annual contributions.

HB 497 proposes to reenact a portion of that state contribution beginning July 1, 2019 at 15% of the retirement costs for teachers, police and firefighters. This bill should sound familiar, as it is identical to [HB 413](#) from the 2017 legislative session. **HB 413** initially passed the House by an overwhelming majority of 267 to 83, was retained by the House Finance Committee, then lost by four votes (172 to 166) in the 2018 session after a majority of the House Finance Committee recommended killing the bill.

The fiscal note on **HB 497** indicates that this bill will relieve local governments of approximately \$42 to \$43 million annually in retirement costs in

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(Retirement Contribution— Continued from Page 1)

fiscal years 2020-2021. Just as the elimination of the state contribution increased property taxes, restoration of a portion of that state contribution will provide property tax relief across the state.

Please let members of the [House Executive Departments and Administration Committee](#) know how important a role **HB 497** will play in providing much-needed property tax relief. If your state representatives are not on this committee, still make sure **HB 497** is on their radar, and urge them to **sign in support** of this bill at the hearing next Wednesday!

Town Meeting Postponement

HB 408—NHMA’s policy bill addressing the postponement of town meeting—had its first hearing yesterday. The bill preserves the moderator’s authority to postpone the official ballot voting session, while addressing legitimate issues that have been identified, including the process for absentee voting, a date certain for the postponed election, and consultation by the moderator with other local officials prior to postponing.

About 15 people testified, most of them local officials, including several moderators. Although some who spoke raised concerns about certain aspects of the bill, no one opposed it. Indeed, there appeared to be consensus among all who testified that the determination of whether to postpone should be made at the local level. We are encouraged by what we heard, but there is more work to be done to resolve several issues raised during the hearing.

One issue is whether the bill should include a requirement to notify someone at the state level. The bill currently does not contain such a requirement.

Another involves postponement in towns that are part of multi-town school districts. The bill as submitted would allow postponement even if not all the towns in the district decide to postpone. However, an NHMA-supported amendment was offered at the hearing to allow postponement in multi-town districts only if *all* towns agree. We acknowledge that this is not a perfect solution, but allowing some towns in the district to postpone, while others do not, would require the non-postponing towns to withhold election results—also an imperfect solution.

The final issue raised is perhaps the most concerning to our members: several people suggested that the postponement of the town elections should be addressed in RSA 669, the town election statute (as well as 670 for village districts and 671 for schools), not in RSA 40, the town meeting statute. We disagree.

The town election is part of, not separate from, the town meeting. The ballot questions considered at the town election are the first articles that appear on the town meeting warrant, and it is RSA 40 that governs town meeting. Further, RSA 669 governs *the election of officers* on the official ballot—but the election of officers is not the only item voted on at the official ballot voting session. Other questions are voted on the official ballot, most notably zoning amendments. Therefore, authorizing postponement only in the “election statutes” would not allow postponement of the entire voting session.

No decision was made about the bill, but there is a good chance it will be assigned to a subcommittee for consideration of these issues. We will keep you posted.

SAG for Wastewater Projects

On Thursday the House Finance Committee heard testimony on [HB 352](#), an **NHMA policy bill**, which proposes to appropriate money to the State Aid Grant (SAG) program for 70 completed, or nearly completed, wastewater projects in 35 municipalities across the state. We thank the many legislators and municipal officials who testified or signed in support of this bill. Much of the testimony focused on the need to lift the current moratorium and restore funding for this 20% state grant program, not just for these 70 projects, but for other eligible wastewater projects that will arise in the future.

The bill is scheduled for a work session in the House Finance Committee Division I on **Wednesday, January 23, at 10:30 a.m., in LOB Room 212.**

NHDES Proposes Water Quality Standards

In accordance with the requirements of Chapter 368, Laws of 2018 (SB 309), the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES), in consultation with the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services, recently issued proposed maximum contaminant levels (MCL) for certain perfluorochemicals in drinking water and ambient groundwater as follows:

PFOA.....	38 parts per trillion
PFOS.....	70 parts per trillion
PFOA and PFAS (combined).....	70 parts per trillion
PFHxS.....	85 parts per trillion
PFNA.....	23 parts per trillion

Accompanying the proposed standards was an extensive report documenting how NHDES arrived at these recommended levels. The report indicates that NHDES calculated these proposed health-protective levels using the science-based process as both the drinking water standard and the ambient groundwater standards, without adjustments based on detection and treatment technology or projected compliance costs. While unable to analyze costs in keeping with federal Environmental Protection Agency and Office of Management and Budget guidance, the report nevertheless includes estimated costs for public water systems to comply with the proposed standards based on existing sampling data available to NHDES. Click here for a copy of the [*Summary Report on the NH Department of Environmental Services Development of Maximum Contaminant Levels and Ambient Groundwater Quality Standards.*](#)

Public hearings on the administrative rules regarding the proposed MCLs will occur in southern New Hampshire, at Pease Tradeport, and at the NHDES offices in Concord in early March, which provides time to review the proposal and companion report. Depending on the comments received, it is anticipated that the final administrative rule proposals will be filed by summer. The effective date of the new rules has yet to be determined. Once adopted, these administrative rules will have the effect of law.

Please share this information with municipal officials involved with water and wastewater operations in your municipality and advise us of concerns regarding these proposed standards.

Motor Vehicle Registration Fine

[HB 563](#), an **NHMA policy bill**, proposes to raise the fine for failure to properly register a motor vehicle. The fine for this violation shall be \$100 *per day* that the violation occurs (as opposed to the current one-time \$100 fine) unless reduced by the director of the Division of Motor Vehicles for good cause. **HB 563** is scheduled for a hearing in the House Ways and Means Committee on **Thursday, January 24, at 11:00 a.m., in LOB Room 202.**

Registration of Motor Vehicles

[SB 37](#) modifies the length of time from “exclusively” to “for 6 months or more” that a nonresident must garage a vehicle in New Hampshire in order to qualify the vehicle for nonresident registration. There is no statement on this bill indicating the potential fiscal impact on state or municipal motor vehicle registration revenue. A hearing on **SB 37** is scheduled for **Tuesday, January 22 at 1:00 p.m. in LOB room 103** before the [Senate Transportation Committee](#).

Exemption from Timber Tax

[HB 206](#) proposes to exempt owners and occupiers of residential land not in current use from the 10% timber tax assessed under RSA 79-A. While an exact fiscal impact cannot be estimated, such an exemption will obviously reduce the amount of timber tax revenue assessed and collected by municipalities. A hearing on **HB 206** is scheduled for **Tuesday, January 22, at 1:30 p.m., in LOB Room 301**, before the [House Municipal and County Government Committee](#).

HOUSE CALENDAR

TUESDAY, JANUARY 22, 2019

ELECTION LAW, Room 308, LOB

1:00 p.m. **CACR 9**, relating to redistricting. Providing that an independent redistricting commission shall be established to draw boundaries for state and federal offices. **NHMA Policy.**

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION, Room 306, LOB

1:30 p.m. **HB 418-FN**, relative to the limitations on part-time employment under the New Hampshire retirement system.

FISH AND GAME AND MARINE RESOURCES, Room 307, LOB

1:00 p.m. **HB 281**, relative to beaver deceivers.

MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT, Room 301, LOB

10:50 a.m. **HB 142**, relative to liability for deferred property taxes.

11:00 a.m. **HB 407-FN**, clarifying the non-taxability of certain telecommunications devices and equipment.

11:30 a.m. **HB 479-FN**, relative to eligibility for the low and moderate income homeowners property tax relief.

1:00 p.m. **HB 403-L**, authorizing towns to utilize credit unions for town business.

1:30 p.m. **HB 206-FN-A-L**, eliminating timber taxes for certain properties.

2:00 p.m. **HB 392-FN-L**, requiring the northern New Hampshire correctional facility to make a payment in lieu of taxes to the city of Berlin.

2:30 p.m. **HB 636-FN-A-L**, relative to state reimbursement of town and city property tax credits and exemptions.

(House Calendar— Continued from Page 4)

PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS, Room 201, LOB

11:30 a.m. **HB 384**, relative to access to historic burial sites on state-owned land.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENERGY, Room 304, LOB

1:45 p.m. **HB 365**, relative to net energy metering limits for customer generators. **NHMA Policy.**

2:45 p.m. **HB 466**, relative to the capacity of electricity customer generators for eligibility for net energy metering.

TRANSPORTATION, Room 203, LOB

10:00 a.m. **HB 391**, relative to permits for vehicle registration.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2019

EDUCATION, Room 207, LOB

11:00 a.m. **HB 411**, relative to equalized property valuation used to apportion expenses in cooperative school districts.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION, Room 306, LOB

1:00 p.m. **HB 497-FN-A-L**, relative to payment by the state of a portion of retirement system contributions of political subdivision employers. **NHMA Policy.**

JUDICIARY, Room 208, LOB

10:00 a.m. **HB 153**, relative to circumstances under which police officer disciplinary records shall be public documents.

10:30 a.m. **HB 154**, prohibiting non-disclosure agreements in certain legal actions against a governmental body.

11:00 a.m. **HB 286-L**, relative to free inspection of records under the right-to-know law.

11:30 a.m. **HB 396-FN-L**, relative to delay or denial of records under the right-to-know law.

LABOR, INDUSTRIAL AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES, Room 304, LOB

10:00 a.m. **HB 227**, relative to the length of time an employer may lease an employee through an Employee leasing company.

1:30 p.m. **HB 211**, relative to inquiries by prospective employers concerning salary history.

MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT, Room 301, LOB

11:00 a.m. **HB 579**, relative to local control of optional automobile registration discounts for seniors, veterans, and disabled persons.

11:30 a.m. **HB 581-FN-L**, relative to payment of membership dues for professional organizations on Behalf of employees of municipalities and school districts.

PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS, Room 201, LOB

10:00 a.m. **HB 492-FN-L**, relative to rates for parking meters.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENERGY, Rooms 305-307, LOB

2:00 p.m. **HB 404**, relative to a local option for liquefied natural gas storage facility sitings.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 24, 2019

JUDICIARY, Room 208, LOB

2:00 p.m. **HB 527**, relative to allodial title and violations of the oath of office.

WAYS AND MEANS, Room 202, LOB

11:00 a.m. **HB 563-FN**, relating to the fees for failing to register a motor vehicle.

3:00 p.m. **CACR 10**, relating to a state income tax. Providing that revenue from any state income tax shall be returned to the cities, towns, school districts, and counties to assist in property tax relief.

SENATE CALENDAR

TUESDAY, JANUARY 22, 2019

COMMERCE, Room 100, SH

2:30 p.m. **SB 18**, relative to authorized employee wage deductions.

2:45 p.m. **SB 19**, relative to the privacy of certain information concerning public employees.

3:00 p.m. **SB 20**, relative to notification requirements for employees, workplace inspections, and the youth employment law.

ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES, Room 103, SH

10:15 a.m. **SB 43**, establishing a commission to study barriers to increased land development in New Hampshire.

JUDICIARY, Room 100, SH

10:00 a.m. **SB 36**, creating a cause of action for certain constitutional deprivations of right.

TRANSPORTATION, Room 103, LOB

1:00 p.m. **SB 37**, relative to the registration of motor vehicles.

1:30 p.m. **SB 39**, relative to the repair of roads not maintained by a municipality.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2019

ELECTION LAW AND MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS, Room 102, LOB

9:00 a.m. **SB 21**, relative to notice to cut timber.

9:15 a.m. **SB 22**, relative to the construction property tax exemption.

9:45 a.m. **SB 23-L**, relative to a town establishing a minimum age to purchase a product.

10:00 a.m. **SB 46**, relative to qualifications of the inspectors of election.

10:15 a.m. **SB 48**, relative to the city chief election officer.

10:30 a.m. **SB 47**, relative to inspectors of election.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION, Room 101, LOB

10:30 a.m. **SB 28**, relative to an active employee member of the retirement system independent investment committee.

WAYS AND MEANS, Room 100, SH

9:15 a.m. **SB 57-FN**, relative to phasing out and repealing the utility property tax.

New 2019 House Bills

CACR 9 establishes an independent redistricting commission to draw the boundaries for state and federal elections. **NHMA Policy.** Rep. Doherty of Pembroke; **EL.**

CACR 10 provides that all revenue from any income tax enacted in the state shall be returned to cities, towns, school districts, and counties for property tax relief. Rep. Schamberg of Wilmot; **W&M-H.**

HB 481-FN-A-LOCAL establishes procedures for the legalization, regulation, and taxation of cannabis; the licensing and regulation of cannabis establishments; and the regulation of hemp and hemp products. Rep. Cushing of Hampton; **CJ&PS.**

HB 484-FN-LOCAL increases the fee for group dog licenses when there are more than five dogs. Rep. Bixby of Dover; **E&A.**

HB 485-FN allows the liquor commission to issue a one-day special license to the owner or manager of a farm. Rep. Bixby of Dover; **COM-H.**

HB 491 clarifies that failure to answer a request of a peace officer to identify oneself is not grounds for arrest. Rep. Rodd of Bradford; **CJ&PS.**

HB 492-FN-LOCAL permits a municipality that incurs costs associated with operating and maintaining a state facility to increase the rate for state parking meters to defray such costs. Rep. Bushway of Hampton; **PW.**

HB 494 directs the department of environmental services to pursue a remedy regarding the removal or containment of certain contaminants from the Coakley Landfill. Rep. Cushing of Hampton; **E&A.**

HB 495 establishes the long-term seacoast commission on drinking water. Rep. Cushing of Hampton; **RR&D.**

HB 497-FN-A-LOCAL provides that the state shall pay 15 percent of contributions of retirement system employers other than the state for group I teachers and group II members. **NHMA Policy.** Rep. Cushing of Hampton; **ED&A-H.**

HB 498-FN prohibits operation of OHRVs on class V highways. Rep. Moynihan of Dummer; **TRANS-H.**

HB 499 allows a county to transfer surplus revenues of unincorporated towns and unorganized places to the county to be used for capital expenditures. Rep. Moynihan of Dummer; **M&CG.**

HB 501-FN establishes a cost of care fund to assist municipalities caring for animals during animal cruelty cases. Rep. O'Connor of Derry; **E&A.**

HB 505 eliminates statutory restrictions on the ability of voters to vote for multiple candidates for the same office. Rep. Abramson of Seabrook; **EL.**

HB 506-FN-LOCAL makes the state primary election day a legal holiday and requires that city and town offices be closed on the state primary and general election days, with certain exceptions. Rep. Read of Newmarket; **ED&A-H.**

HB 517-FN-LOCAL repeals the requirement that a vehicle owner must obtain a registration permit from the city or town. Rep. Marple of Hooksett; **TRANS-H.**

HB 524 exempts a home child day care agency from sprinkler system requirements under the state and local fire code if the agency has at least 2 accessible means of egress. Rep. McWilliams of Concord; **ED&A-H.**

HB 527 recognizes the allodial land rights of inhabitants of the state of New Hampshire and provides that a public servant who seeks to diminish such rights may be found in violation of his or her oath of office. Rep. Marple of Hooksett; **JUD-H.**

HB 531 permits unrelated caregivers to deliver absentee ballots on behalf of voters who reside in nursing homes or assisted living facilities. Rep. Ebel of New London; **EL.**

HB 532 requires an employer to pay its employees for earned but unused vacation or personal time and to pay terminated employees for vacation time and personal time. Rep. Cahill of Newmarket; **LABOR.**

HB 535-FN-LOCAL permits persons 60 years of age or older to vote up to 5 weeks prior to the date of a general election under procedures approved by the secretary of state. Rep. Komi of Manchester; **EL.**

HB 537 amends the definition of motor vehicle records and clarifies the circumstances under which certain information contained in motor vehicle records may be released to the public. Rep. Sykes of Lebanon; **TRANS-H.**

HB 538-FN-A-LOCAL increases the road toll from the current rate of 22.2 cents per gallon of motor fuel by 6 cents and dedicates the increased revenue to state road and bridge projects. Rep. Abbott of Hinsdale; **PW.**

HB 539-FN requires that the secretary of state provide technical assistance to political subdivisions relating to the implementation of the One4all ballot in municipal elections. Rep. Berrien of Exeter; **M&CG.**

HB 542-FN-A establishes a grant program to support municipalities in adopting or updating their wetlands regulations. Rep. Grassie of Rochester; **RR&D.**

HB 543 identifies and defines different types of wetlands protected under the Wetlands Protection Act. Rep. Grassie of Rochester; **RR&D.**

HB 544 requires the establishment of a charter commission to recommend a procedure to revise, amend, or replace the Manchester school district charter without legislative approval. Rep. Long of Manchester; **EDUC-H.**

HB 553 requires a quorum, equal to 50 percent of voters who voted at the last annual meeting, to be present at the deliberative session of the annual meeting in order to amend a petitioned warrant article in towns that have adopted the official ballot referenda form of meeting. Rep. Verville of Deerfield; **M&CG**.

HB 554 authorizes a moderator to conduct a verification count of machine-counted ballots. Rep. DesMarais of Wolfeboro; **EL**.

HB 556 permits municipalities to process, but not count, absentee ballots prior to election day. Rep. Bergeron of Nashua; **EL**.

HB 559 enables municipalities to prohibit the distribution, sale, and purchase of products that contribute to plastic pollution. Rep. Spang of Durham; **M&CG**.

HB 560-FN restricts the distribution of single-use carryout bags by stores and food service businesses and authorizes municipalities to adopt further restrictions. Rep. Spang of Durham; **COM-H**.

HB 561 grants authority to local legislative bodies to regulate formula businesses. Rep. Vann of Peterborough; **COM-H**.

HB 562 updates the definition of the state building code to include the 2015 editions of the International Building Code, the International Existing Building Code, the International Plumbing Code, the International Mechanical Code, the International Energy Conservation Code, and the International Residential Code. **NHMA Policy**. Rep. McWilliams of Concord; **ED&A-H**.

HB 563-FN clarifies the fine imposed for failing to register a motor vehicle. Rep. Almy of Lebanon; **W&M-H**.

HB 576 requires that a copy of the budget committee “exceptions report” be filed with the town clerk and makes other changes to the municipal budget act. Rep. Aldrich of Gilford; **M&CG**.

HB 579 allows towns and cities to offer a discounted automobile registration for seniors, veterans, and disabled persons. Rep. Desilets of Windham; **M&CG**.

HB 581-FN-LOCAL prohibits the use of taxpayer funds to pay membership dues to any “professional association or organization.” Rep. Verville of Deerfield; **M&CG**.

HB 582-FN requires the energy efficiency and sustainable energy board to provide recommendations to the public utilities commission on the energy efficiency and renewable energy funds; requires rebates from the use of auction proceeds to all commercial and industrial retail energy rate-payers; requires that any funds remaining in the energy efficiency fund at a year’s end be retained for use in subsequent years, and forbids use of the fund for any but its intended purpose; and repeals the contingent repeal of the regional greenhouse gas initiative program. Rep. Mann of Alstead; **ST&E**.

(New House Bills — Continued from Page 9)

HB 592 requires any person operating an OHRV along the traveled portion of a public highway, where permitted, to be licensed to drive. Rep. Moynihan of Dummer; **TRANS-H.**

HB 593 outlines procedures that supervisors of the checklist must follow when they receive information reports that a voter has died or has changed address. Rep. Gay of Salem; **EL.**

HB 596-FN adds certain agriculture/industrial utility vehicles to the list of vehicles that may qualify for agricultural registration rates and number plates. Rep. Stapleton of Claremont; **TRANS-H.**

HB 611-FN allows all voters to vote by absentee ballot. Rep. Rogers of Concord; **EL.**

HB 616-FN grants a cost of living adjustment to members of the New Hampshire Retirement System who have been retired for at least 60 months. Rep. Schuett of Pembroke; **ED&A-H.**

HB 618-LOCAL repeals the definition of contracts relative to official ballot default budgets. Rep. Gilman of Exeter; **M&CG.**

HB 622-FN prohibits collective bargaining agreements that require employees to join or contribute to a labor union. Rep. Forsythe of Boscawen; **LABOR.**

HB 629-FN-LOCAL establishes a state retirement plan for new members of the New Hampshire Retirement System who begin service on or after July 1, 2019, which is structured as a defined contribution plan. Rep. McGuire of Epsom; **ED&A-H.**

HB 635-LOCAL authorizes a municipality to enter into a voluntary agreement with a combined heat and power agricultural facility to make a payment in lieu of taxes. Rep. Laflamme of Berlin; **ST&E.**

HB 636-FN-A-LOCAL requires the state to reimburse municipalities for the value of property tax credits and exemptions granted in the prior tax year. Rep. J. Schmidt of Nashua; **M&CG.**

HB 637-FN requires the division of state police to maintain an electronic database containing public criminal history record information which would be accessible to an individual, and to a state agency to obtain public criminal history record information about applicants for positions or as a condition for occupational licensure. Rep. Hennessey of Littleton; **CJ&PS.**

HB 639 provides that the speed limit in the compact part of a city or town shall not be less than 20 miles per hour. Rep. Cali-Pitts of Portsmouth; **TRANS-H.**

HB 641-LOCAL enables a municipality to collect an occupancy fee from room rentals for the purpose of establishing a municipal capital fund, revolving fund, or tourism support fund. **NHMA Policy.** Rep. Edgar of Hampton; **M&CG.**

HB 643 changes the date of the state primary election to the second Tuesday in June. Rep. Schultz of Concord; **EL.**

HB 655 permits a town to make bylaws regulating disorderly houses. Rep. Butler of Hart's Location; **M&CG.**

(New House Bills — Continued from Page 10)

HB 661 establishes a private right of action for equitable or declaratory relief for violation of any solid waste or hazardous waste permit, strict liability for the release of toxic substances, and a private right of action for medical monitoring damages. Rep. Cushing of Hampton; **JUD-H**.

HB 663 makes changes to the definitions of agriculture and existing agricultural activities and uses in zoning and planning statutes. Rep. Pearl of Loudon; **E&A**.

HB 667-FN requires that well water meet water quality standards before a person may receive a certificate of occupancy for new construction. Rep. Stack of Merrimack; **ED&A-H**.

HB 675-FN modifies the calculation methodologies for the cost of the purchase of service credit in the retirement system for active service in the armed forces and in cases of employer fault. Rep. Schultz of Concord; **ED&A-H**.

HB 676-FN-A-LOCAL repeals the statewide education property tax and transfers funding of adequate education costs to state general funds. Rep. Schamberg of Wilmot; **W&M-H**.

HB 678-FN raises the cost per pupil of providing the opportunity for an adequate education for the purpose of determining state funding. Rep. Porter of Hillsborough; **EDUC-H**.

HB 683-FN establishes additional notice and procedural requirements prior to authorizing certain roads or portions of roads for OHRV use. Rep. Moynihan of Dummer; **RR&D**.

HB 685-FN clarifies ambulance billing under the law governing emergency and medical trauma services. Rep. Luneau of Hopkinton; **COM-H**.

HB 686-FN-A-LOCAL extends the interest and dividends tax to capital gains, increases exemptions for the tax, and revises the per pupil rates for the formula for determining adequate education grants to school districts. Rep. Ames of Jaffrey; **W&M-H**.

HB 694-FN authorizes municipalities, governmental entities, and private entities to establish take-back programs for illegal drugs. Rep. Dolan of Londonderry; **HHS&EA**.

HB 700 establishes a methodology for the valuation for property tax purposes of electric, gas and water utility company distribution assets within each town or city. Rep. Abrami of Stratham; **W&M-H**.

New 2019 Senate Bills

SB 18 allows a public employee to specify voluntary deductions from wages for any insurance or employee benefit. Sen. Cavanaugh of Manchester; **COM-S**.

SB 19 requires that an employee's home address, personal email address, and home or mobile telephone numbers shall not be disclosed except to an employee organization for the purpose of collective bargaining. Sen. Cavanaugh of Manchester; **COM-S**.

SB 20 amends certain workplace notification and posting requirements; amends certain provisions of the youth employment law; amends the requirements for employer retention of hour and wage records; and establishes prima facie evidence of a violation of the youth employment laws. Sen. Cavanaugh of Manchester; **COM-S**.

SB 21 provides that public notice of intent to cut timber is only required when the intent to cut is signed by the assessing officials outside a public meeting. Sen. Starr of Franconia; **EL&MA**.

SB 22 provides that any municipality that has adopted the commercial and industrial construction property tax exemption under RSA 72:81 shall determine the rate and duration of the exemption on a per case basis, based on the public benefit generated by the project. Sen. Bradley of Wolfeboro; **EL&MA**.

SB 23-LOCAL prohibits towns from establishing a minimum age to purchase a product that is higher than that required by state law. Sen. French of Franklin; **EL&MA**.

SB 28 requires that one of the members on the independent investment committee of the retirement system be an active member employee appointed from a list of nominations. Sen. Cavanaugh of Manchester; **ED&A-S**.

SB 36 creates a cause of action for deprivations of constitutional rights. Sen. French of Franklin; **JUD-S**.

SB 37 modifies the length of time a nonresident must garage a vehicle in this state to qualify the vehicle for nonresident registration. Sen. French of Franklin; **TRANS-S**.

SB 39 provides that, in the absence of an express agreement or requirement governing maintenance of a private road, each residential owner who enjoys a common benefit from the road shall contribute to the cost of its maintenance. Sen. Cavanaugh of Manchester; **TRANS-S**.

SB 43 establishes a commission to study barriers to increased density of land development in New Hampshire. Sen. Fuller Clark of Portsmouth; **ENR**.

SB 44 clarifies that unused absentee ballots shall be used as election day ballots if the supply of election day ballots becomes exhausted; provides that anyone in line to register to vote or to vote before the closing of the polls shall be entitled to vote; and establishes the number of votes needed to award a nomination in the case of a disqualification of a write-in candidate in state primary elections. Sen. Birdsell of Hampstead; **EL&MA**.

SB 45 defines electioneering, clarifies restrictions on electioneering at the polling place, and grants authority to the moderator to impose restrictions on parking and travel at the polling place. Sen. Birdsell of Hampstead; **EL&MA**.

SB 46 requires that inspectors of election be registered to vote in the city or town where they serve. Sen. Morgan of Brentwood; **EL&MA**.

(New Senate Bills — Continued from Page 12)

SB 48 repeals the position of city chief elections officer and places the duties thereof with the city clerk. Sen. Gray of Rochester; **EL&MA**.

SB 49 updates the state fire code to include the 2015 edition of the Uniform Fire Code NFPA I. Sen. Carson of Londonderry; **ED&A-S**.

SB 53-LOCAL permits the legislative body of a town to extend the exemption period for the maintenance of highways to summer cottages. Sen. Ward of Stoddard; **TRANS-S**.

SB 57-FN lowers the rate of the utility property tax and repeals the tax effective April 1, 2023. Sen. Bradley of Wolfeboro; **W&M-S**.

2019 NHMA UPCOMING EVENTS FOR MEMBERS	
Jan 23	Webinar: Municipal Trustees Training 101
Feb 13	Webinar: Something's in the Air: Outdoor Wood Boilers and Open Burning Regulations
Feb 16	2019 Moderators Workshop for Traditional Town Meeting
Mar 13	Webinar: The Right-to-Know Law and Governmental Records
To register for an upcoming event, go to our website: www.nhmunicipal.org and scroll down on the left under CALENDAR OF EVENTS. Click on the green bar <i>View the Full Calendar</i> and go to the workshop or webinar you are interested in. For more information, please call NHMA's Workshop registration line: (603) 230-3350.	