

LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN

Funding for Transportation Improvements

Bulletin 10, 2019 Session
March 1, 2019

On Tuesday, March 5, at 11:00 a.m., in LOB Room 301, the House Municipal and County Government Committee will hear testimony on [HB 409](#), an NHMA policy bill that would increase from \$5 to \$10 the maximum fee that a municipality may collect under RSA 261:153, VI. For those unfamiliar with that statute, it allows a municipality, by vote of the legislative body, to establish a transportation improvement fund “to fund, wholly or in part, improvements in the local or regional transportation system, including roads, bridges, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, parking and intermodal facilities and public transportation.” Money for the fund comes from an additional motor vehicle registration fee, established by the legislative body, not to exceed \$5 per vehicle. With local roads and bridges badly in need of repair, and with state funding coming nowhere close to keeping up with the need, allowing municipalities the *option* of increasing this local charge (in most cases by vote of the town meeting) up to \$10 annually is a sensible approach to providing a modest amount of additional funding.

In the past few years similar bills ([HB 1119](#) in 2016 and [HB 121](#) in 2017) received overwhelming support from a variety of constituencies, including city and town officials, regional planning commissions, regional transportation associations, and the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services. Unfortunately, these bills did not pass; [HB 121](#) came very close last year, passing in the House on a voice vote, but it died in the Senate by a vote of 12-11. We hope for a different outcome this year.

[HB 409](#) raises *local* dollars used for *local* projects approved by the *local* legislative body of each municipality that assesses this fee. Voting for this bill is not supporting a “tax increase.” It is supporting the ability of local taxpayers to control their own finances. And with state and municipal budgets struggling to keep up with the maintenance and improvement costs of our aging infrastructure, [HB 409](#) is the perfect method to help supplement the financing of diverse modes of transportation.

For those municipalities that assess this local option fee, or others who may be interested in doing so in the future, please contact members of the [Municipal and County Government Committee](#) and plan to attend the hearing to explain the transportation improvements and services being funded by this fee, and why a modest increase in the maximum amount of the fee is so important!

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Unfunded Mandate for Notice of Changes in Assessed Values

On Tuesday the House Municipal and County Government Committee voted Ought to Pass, 9-7, on an amended version of [HB 144](#), relative to notice of adjustments to the assessed value of property. The original bill required notice to a property owner regarding *any* change to the assessed value, whereas the [amended version](#) requires notice in all cases *except* when the change is the result of an issued building permit or due to the application of the equalization ratio for land assessed under current use.

As we explained in last week's [Bulletin](#), there are a number of issues with this bill, despite the amendment limiting its application:

- There is a cost to provide such notices, as one assessor who already provides these types of notices testified about at the public hearing. In that municipality, funds are appropriated in the operating budget to cover the labor and mailing costs to provide notices of changes in assessments. Voluntarily providing these notices is fine; but the statutory requirement in [HB 144](#) to do so would constitute an unfunded mandate under Part 1, Article 28-a of the New Hampshire Constitution. It's also troubling that the bill did not contain a fiscal analysis when [RSA 14:44](#) requires a fiscal note when the fiscal liability on municipalities exceeds \$10,000, which [HB 144](#) clearly does. Finally, [House Rule 44](#) prohibits a committee from recommending Ought to Pass on a bill that violates any part of the Constitution, including Part 1, Article 28-a.
- The notice under [HB 144](#) must inform property owners of the ability to dispute or appeal the change in value. It is unclear whether this is intended to be a different appeal process than the one provided in current law, an explanation of which is included on all property tax bills. This is likely to cause significant confusion.
- More importantly, this new "dispute or appeal" provision relative to the value of the "change" upends longstanding case law stating that it's the full value of the property, not merely a portion of the assessment, that must be shown to be disproportionate in an appeal. [HB 144](#) requires notice about a process that doesn't exist in practice: the ability to appeal just a portion—(*i.e.*, the change) of an assessed value.
- Not all municipalities issue building permits, so all assessment changes due to building changes in those towns would require notice.
- There is an extensive list of reasons why property assessments change that would require notice under [HB 144](#), such as changes due to current use rates, exemptions, variances, subdivisions, zoning, boundary line adjustments, lot mergers, equalization of utility values, and more.

We believe the impetus for this bill was a local issue that can and should be addressed locally. If any municipality wants to provide notice to property owners regarding changes in assessed values, it may already do so. [HB 144](#) will only increase expenses and create confusion in towns where this problem currently doesn't exist. *Please urge your representative to oppose the committee recommendation of Ought to Pass on HB 144, and support a subsequent motion of Inexpedient to Legislate.*

Second Committee Hearing for Local Occupancy Fee

The House this week passed [HB 641](#), the **NHMA policy bill** that authorizes municipalities to collect a local option occupancy fee of up to \$2 per night for hotel room rentals. The [roll call vote](#) was 194-151. *Please thank your representatives who voted “Yea.”*

However, the House is not finished with this bill. It has a second committee hearing in the Ways & Means Committee next **Wednesday, March 6, at 11:30 a.m., in LOB Room 202.**

As we have noted previously, Vermont has a similar local option provision, adopted by about a dozen communities, which has had no negative impact on that state’s tourism industry. With the decline in the percentage of the meals and rooms tax revenue distributed to municipalities over the past decade, along with the suspension of revenue sharing, alternative local option revenue streams need to be identified to allow municipalities to meet their service and infrastructure needs, without relying solely on property taxes. While **HB 641** may not be of interest to most municipalities, it is a high priority for some.

HB 641 will have no impact on state revenues, so there is no reason for the Ways and Means Committee to vary from what the House has already done. *Please attend the hearing if you can, or contact members of the [Ways and Means Committee](#) and ask them to support **HB 641.***

Anti-Lobbying Bill Would Cripple Local Advocacy

The Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee has a hearing scheduled for next **Wednesday, March 6, at 11:00 a.m.,** on [SB 158](#), which would prohibit any recipient of a “grant or appropriation of municipal funds” from using the funds to “lobby or attempt to influence legislation, participate in political activity, or contribute funds to any entity engaged in these activities.” This bill would make it impossible for NHMA to carry on any significant legislative advocacy activities, because almost all of our funding comes from “appropriations of municipal funds.” Although we are not familiar with the finances of other groups, we suspect it would have a similar effect on organizations of clerks, assessors, tax collectors, building officials, police chiefs, and many others.

The bill amends RSA 15:5, which currently states that no recipient of *state* appropriations may use the funds to lobby or attempt to influence legislation. We expect the argument to be that this is just a logical extension of the existing law, but that is an apples-to-oranges comparison. The existing law was enacted to address situations in which the state was making grants to certain nonprofit organizations to provide services to the public, and those organizations were using portions of those funds to lobby the legislature. In other words, the legislature didn’t want its own appropriations being used to lobby itself. That is understandable.

But when a municipality pays dues to NHMA or a similar organization, legislative advocacy is exactly what it *wants*, and the funds are not being used to lobby the government entity that paid them. Of New Hampshire’s 234 municipalities, 232 voluntarily pay dues to NHMA, and we have not heard any of them complain about their dues money being used for legislative advocacy. We believe municipalities should be able to spend money as they see fit, so long as it is for a public purpose, without state interference.

Please let members of the [committee](#) know that you *oppose* **SB 158**, and consider attending the hearing to register your opposition.

COLA for NHRS Retirees

By a vote of 250-91, the House this week passed [HB 616](#), which provides a 1.5 percent cost of living adjustment (COLA) for all New Hampshire Retirement System (NHRS) members who have been retired at least 5 years on or prior to July 1, 2019. This COLA would be a permanent addition to the retirement allowance paid in the future. As we explained in [Bulletin #8](#), this bill adds approximately **\$67.7 million** to the existing **\$5 billion** unfunded liability of the pension system, a liability that employers will be paying for over the next 20 years, and one that is clearly an unfunded mandate under Part 1, Article 28-a of the New Hampshire Constitution.

HB 616 now heads to Division I of the House Finance Committee for consideration of the fiscal impact. As you may recall, we reported last week that Division I recommended to retain [HB 497](#), which would reinstate a portion (15%) of the state contribution toward the retirement costs for teachers, police and firefighter due to concerns about where the money for that bill would come from. We *know* where the money will come from to fund **HB 616**, at least the portion for municipal members—from local property taxes. We hope Division I members will be equally concerned about that.

Election Postponement Update

Readers may recall that the House Election Law Committee had a hearing in January on [HB 408](#), the **NHMA policy bill** that clarifies the town moderator's authority to postpone either session of a town meeting because of a weather emergency. A subcommittee has been working on that bill for the last few weeks and is expected to make a recommendation next week. The full Election Law Committee is expected to take action on the bill on **Tuesday, March 5**.

Meanwhile, the Senate [Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee](#) has a hearing scheduled next week on a competing bill, [SB 104](#). Like the House bill that we support, **SB 104** represents a good effort because it affirms the moderator's authority to postpone, without requiring state permission, in contrast to legislation that was defeated last year. However, we have not supported **SB 104**, because it contains several provisions that we have considered either unnecessary or unhelpful.

Nevertheless, in an effort to compromise and finally resolve this issue, NHMA is supporting an amendment to **HB 408** that includes almost all the elements of **SB 104**. Among the compromises: (1) it requires the moderator to notify the secretary of state of a decision to postpone the official ballot voting session; (2) it allows postponement only when the National Weather Services has issued a winter storm warning or similar storm warning; and (3) it requires the postponement decision to be made by 6:00 p.m. on the day before the official ballot voting session.

The one thing on which we have not been able to agree with supporters of **SB 104** is whether the postponement language should go in RSA 40, the town meeting statute, or in RSA 669, the town election statute. **HB 408** would clarify the moderator's authority under RSA 40 to postpone the "official ballot voting session" of the meeting, while **SB 104** would merely authorize postponement of the town "election" under RSA 669. As local officials know, the official ballot voting session—the first session in a traditional town meeting, and the second session in an SB 2 town meeting—comprises much more than just an election. Merely authorizing postponement of the "election" would seem to enable the moderator to postpone *part* of what is on the official ballot—the election of officers—but not the entire session. That doesn't work.

(Election Postponement— Continued from Page 4)

Thus, in a further compromise, the amendment we are supporting would put the language in *both* statutes. All of the operative language would go in RSA 669—as supporters of **SB 104** have insisted—while RSA 40:4 would include a statement that in the event of a weather emergency “as defined in RSA 669:1,” the moderator could postpone the official ballot session “in accordance with RSA 669:1 and RSA 669:1-a.” In short, the amendment incorporates all the major provisions of **SB 104**, it puts the postponement language where **SB 104**’s supporters want it, and it merely adds the assurance we have requested—that the authorization will include the entire official ballot voting session, not just the election. This avoids the need to settle the dispute about whether the event we are talking about is just an election, or a town meeting session that *includes* an election.

We want to believe this major compromise will allow **HB 408** to move forward without significant opposition. For that reason, we believe **SB 104** is unnecessary, and we do not plan to support it.

The hearing on **SB 104** is scheduled for next **Wednesday, March 6, at 11:30 a.m., in LOB Room 102.**

State Budget Update

Two weeks ago, in [Bulletin #8](#), we reported on the governor’s address regarding the proposed biennial budget for the period July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2021 (noting there was nothing new or additional for roads, bridges, wastewater projects, or general property tax relief). The 873-page budget document has been drafted as **HB 1-A** and is available by [clicking here](#) on the Legislative Budget Assistant’s Office (LBAO) website. Despite the budget bill being available, members of the House Finance Committee were unable to begin any detailed review of the budget since they were eagerly awaiting issuance of **HB 2**, the budget companion bill known as the trailer bill, which provides the statutory changes and parameters necessary to implement the programs and initiatives included in **HB 1-A**. **HB 2** is expected to be available sometime today (Friday).

In the meantime, the LBAO and governor’s staff this week provided House Finance Committee members some additional budget information, including a list of allocations from a proposed “[Capital Infrastructure Revitalization Fund](#).” The 69 items on this list are the governor’s priorities for spending approximately **\$168.4 million** from anticipated surplus funds and reflect the philosophy of spending one-time money (surplus) on one-time expenditures. When asked by committee members why some very specific municipal projects were earmarked on this list for funding instead of providing revenue sharing, increasing the meals and rooms tax distribution (as current law provides), or funding wastewater projects, the governor’s staff answered that it would be “unfair to reinstate those programs” when the money (*i.e.*, surplus) might not be available in future years to continue those payments. While we certainly support the funding to municipalities for important projects, we are asking the same questions on behalf of all towns and cities.

Fortunately, several committee members took exception to that reasoning, explaining that cuts were made to municipal aid in 2010 (revenue sharing, state retirement contributions, state aid grants for water and wastewater projects, and meals and rooms tax distribution) because the state was facing a financial crisis – a situation very different from today. They also explained that the intent back then was to reinstate some of that funding when the state recovered from the recession, which it obviously has. It was further noted that some of that surplus is likely the result of not funding certain obligations to municipalities.

(State Budget Update— Continued from Page 5)

We expect the three divisions of the House Finance Committee to begin detailed review of the budget and trailer bill next week, as the deadline for the House version of the budget is a mere four and a half weeks away. Stay tuned for weekly updates in the *Legislative Bulletin*.

Municipal Bills in the House

The House Municipal & County Government Committee took action this week on a number of bills affecting municipalities. Here are some of the more notable ones:

Incompatible Offices. The committee voted 18-0 to retain [HB 143](#), which would bar one person from serving on two different boards or committees within a municipality if the decisions of one of those boards or committees is appealable to the other. We remain concerned about the effect of this bill, especially on small towns that often struggle to find volunteers to fill these positions.

Planning Board Members Serving on Other Boards. The committee voted Ought to Pass, 11-8, on [HB 370](#). This bill would correct a problem in the statute governing city planning board members' ability to hold other positions in city government.

Adopting SB 2. The committee voted Ought to Pass, 18-1, on [HB 415](#). This **NHMA policy bill** would change the process for a town to adopt the official ballot referendum (SB 2) form of government by having the change discussed during traditional town meeting rather than by vote on the official ballot. As we stated last week, a huge, and likely permanent, change in how town meeting operates should be based on thorough discussion and debate, not on the whims or guesses of voters who have a few seconds to make up their minds about a question they are seeing for the first time. ***Please encourage your representatives to support the committee recommendation when HB 415 goes to the full House for a vote.***

Amendments to Petitioned Warrant Articles. The committee voted that both [HB 469](#) and [HB 553](#) were Inexpedient to Legislate. The vote was 17-2 on [HB 469](#) and 19-0 on [HB 553](#). Both bills would limit the ability of the town meeting to amend a petitioned warrant article in a town with the official ballot referendum (SB 2) form of town meeting. NHMA opposes both bills and therefore supports the committee's ITL recommendations..

Contracts & Default Budgets. The committee voted Ought to Pass, 11-8, on [HB 618](#), which repeals the definition of contracts affecting default budgets that was passed last legislative session. Some towns have complained that if their proposed budgets were not passed and the default budget was enacted, contracts containing escalator clauses would be impossible to fulfill without moving funds from elsewhere, resulting in the default budget providing fewer services than in the prior year. This repeal attempts to address that issue, although we are not certain it solves the problem. NHMA has not taken a position on the bill.

Except for [HB 143](#), all of these bills will go to the full House next week for action on the committee recommendations.

House Kills Bill on Membership Dues

The House this week voted 252-94 to kill [HB 581](#), which would have prohibited the use of taxpayer funds to pay “membership fees to any professional association or organization.” That language was awfully vague, but it appeared likely to prohibit municipalities from paying dues to organizations like the Police Chiefs Association, Building Officials Association, Tax Collectors Association, City and Town Clerks Association, and Association of Assessing Officials. This would have created a direct conflict with RSA 31:8, which expressly *requires* municipalities to pay dues to the latter three organizations “for the encouragement of equitable taxation and the education of public officials in tax problems and other matters pertaining to the proper and efficient discharge of the duties of their respective offices.”

Less clear is whether the bill would have applied to an organization like NHMA, which is an organization of municipalities, not of individuals—but it seemed intended to apply. In any event, it would have seriously limited the ability of local officials to do their jobs effectively, and we are pleased to see it gone.

More House Action

[The House passed HB 418](#) this week, relative to New Hampshire Retirement System (NHRS) retirees working part-time for an NHRS employer. The bill changes the provision of the working-after-retirement legislation enacted last year ([HB 561](#)) by allowing a retiree to continue being grandfathered even when working in a *different* part-time position, but still for the same employer. Grandfathered retirees may work up to 1,664 hour per calendar year instead of being limited to 1,352 hours.

[The House also passed HB 130](#), relative to the definition of a totally and permanently disabled veteran for property tax exemption purposes.

The House concurred with the majority recommendation of the Municipal and County Government Committee and voted Inexpedient to Legislate on [HB 579](#), relative to local control of optional automobile registration discounts for certain residents. The House also upheld the Committee’s recommendations of Inexpedient to Legislate on the following bills dealing with property tax exemptions and credits:

[HB 129](#), relative to a cap on property taxes for elderly residents with no school aged children;

[HB 142](#), relative to liability for deferred property taxes;

[HB 207](#), relative to local option property tax credits for education taxes;

[HB 266](#), relative to elderly property tax exemptions.

Marijuana—The Municipal Angle

The House this week passed [HB 481](#), which would legalize the cultivation, sale, possession, and use of marijuana. NHMA has no position on this issue, but local officials should be aware that there are a number of potential municipal impacts, which may be considered good or bad, depending on one’s perspective.

(Marijuana— Continued from Page 7)

Local prohibition. First, it should be understood that a “cannabis establishment”—essentially, a facility where marijuana is grown, produced, or sold—would be permitted in any municipality *unless* the municipality enacts an ordinance prohibiting or limiting such facilities. The bill does give municipalities full authority to prohibit or limit cannabis establishments, including a limit on the number and type of establishments within the municipality. Also, the facilities presumably would be subject to general zoning provisions regarding allowance and placement of commercial uses.

Municipal review of applications. Anyone proposing to operate a cannabis establishment would have to obtain a registration from a newly established state cannabis control commission. As part of the registration process, the municipality would review the application to ensure that it complies with municipal requirements. The applicant would pay a \$500 application fee to the municipality.

Revenue from cannabis tax. The bill imposes a tax on the sale of cannabis. A percentage of the revenue from the cannabis tax would be distributed to municipalities based on the percentage of statewide retail sales made in each municipality and the percentage of total statewide cannabis establishments operating in each municipality. A percentage would also be distributed to public safety agencies for the hiring and training of additional drug recognition experts, for advanced roadside impaired driving enforcement training, and to assist in responding to drug overdoses.

There is a lot to think about there. If the bill does become law, towns may want to start considering ordinances for the 2020 town meeting season, because under the timetable established in the bill, applications for registration could start being processed in the spring of 2020.

But don’t rush—there is a long way to go. After its passage this week, the bill was referred to the House Ways and Means Committee to address revenue matters, and it will come back to the full House after that. Assuming the House passes it again, it then must go to the Senate, and, if it survives there, to the governor. The governor has stated that he will veto the bill, and the House vote this week was well short of the two-thirds vote that would be needed to override a veto. The likelihood that marijuana will become legal by 2020 thus appears rather slim at the moment.

HOUSE CALENDAR

TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2019

COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS, Room 302, LOB

10:15 a.m. **HB 685-FN**, relative to ambulance billing, payment for reasonable value of services, and prohibition on balance billing

MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT, Room 301, LOB

10:00 a.m. **HB 576**, relative to municipal and district budget committees.

10:30 a.m. **HB 434**, relative to removal of a town clerk.

11:00 a.m. **HB 409**, relative to the maximum optional fee for transportation improvements charged by municipalities when collecting motor vehicle registration fees. **NHMA Policy.**

1:30 p.m. **HB 499**, relative to revenue surpluses in unincorporated towns and unorganized places.

2:00 p.m. **HB 423**, relative to budget committee membership.

2:30 p.m. **HB 655**, regulating disorderly houses.

3:00 p.m. **HB 539-FN**, relating to the provision of technical assistance for municipal implementation of the One4all ballot.

(House Calendar— Continued from Page 8)

PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS, Room 201, LOB

10:15 a.m. **HB 25-A**, making appropriations for capital improvements.

RESOURCES, RECREATION AND DEVELOPMENT, Room 305, LOB

10:00 a.m. **HB 475**, establishing a shoreland septic system study commission.

11:15 a.m. **HB 737**, establishing a commission to investigate and analyze the environmental and public health impacts relating to releases of perfluorinated chemicals in the air, soil, and groundwater in Merrimack, Bedford and Litchfield.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, 2019

COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS, Room 302, LOB

11:30 a.m. **HB 560-FN**, relative to single-use carryout bags.

MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT, Rooms 301-303, LOB

10:00 a.m. **HB 102**, relative to municipal ordinances regarding the use of plastics.

10:30 a.m. **HB 559**, enabling municipalities to ban single-use sources of plastic pollution.

11:00 a.m. **HB 312**, relative to municipal regulation of tiny houses.

2:30 p.m. **CACR 4**, relating to right to govern. Providing that the people of the state may enact local laws that protect health, safety, and welfare.

2:40 p.m. **CACR 8**, relating to the right to govern. Providing that the people of the state may enact local laws that protect health.

WAYS AND MEANS, Room 202, LOB

10:30 a.m. **HB 407-FN**, clarifying the non taxability of certain telecommunications devices and equipment.

11:30 a.m. **HB 641-L**, allowing municipalities to collect an occupancy fee from operators of local room rentals.

SENATE CALENDAR

MONDAY, MARCH 4, 2019

JUDICIARY, Room 103, SH

2:00 p.m. **SB 317-FN**, prohibiting sanctuary jurisdictions in New Hampshire.

TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2019

COMMERCE, Room 100, SH

1:00 p.m. **SB 10**, establishing the state minimum hourly rate based on whether an employer offers paid sick days to an employee.

1:45 p.m. **SB 100**, relative to discrimination in employment based on criminal background checks.

ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES, Room 103, SH

9:00 a.m. **SB 74-FN-A**, relative to register of deeds fees used to support the land and community heritage investment program (LCHIP).

10:00 a.m. **SB 204**, relative to distributed energy resources and consumer energy storage.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, 2019

ELECTION LAW AND MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS, Room 102, LOB

- 10:00 a.m. **SB 157**, making undeclared voters eligible to be inspectors.
10:30 a.m. **SB 154**, allowing municipalities to adopt a credit against property taxes for certain workforce housing.
11:00 a.m. **SB 158**, relative to town and city membership in a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization and prohibiting recipients of municipal or county funds from using such funds for lobbying.
11:30 a.m. **SB 104-L**, relative to the postponement of city, town, village, and school district elections.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 2019

ELECTION LAW AND MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS, Room 102, LOB

- 10:00 a.m. **SB 152**, relative to third party inspections conducted pursuant to a planning board approval.
11:00 a.m. **SB 67**, relative to the definitions of resident and residency.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION, Room 101, LOB

- 9:00 a.m. **SB 49**, relative to the state fire code.
9:30 a.m. **SB 113**, relative to municipal authority regarding the state building code.
10:10 a.m. **SB 97**, relative to licensure of health facilities near a critical access hospital.

New 2019 House Bills

HB 1 -A makes appropriations for the expenses of certain departments of the state for fiscal years ending June 30, 2020 and June 30, 2021. Rep. Wallner of Concord; **F-H**.

HB 25 -A makes appropriations for capital improvements. Rep. Cloutier of Claremont; **PW-H**.

HOUSE FLOOR ACTION

Wednesday, February 27, 2019

Thursday, February 28, 2019

HB 101, regulating possession of firearms in a school district. **Laid on Table**.

HB 103-FN-A, establishing the office of right-to-know ombudsman. **Inexpedient to Legislate**.

HB 129, relative to property taxes for residents 65 years of age and older. **Inexpedient to Legislate**.

HB 130-LOCAL, relative to property tax relief for totally and permanently disabled veterans. **Passed with Amendment**.

HB 142, relative to liability for deferred property taxes. **Inexpedient to Legislate**.

(House Floor Action— Continued from Page 10)

HB 148, relative to electric bicycles. **Passed with Amendment.**

HB 184-FN, relative to the calculation of kindergarten students in the average daily membership and repealing prorated kindergarten funding based on Keno revenues. **Passed; referred to F-H.**

HB 207, allowing towns and cities to adopt a property tax credit against education taxes for certain persons over 55 years of age. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

HB 218, relative to the use of deadly force by a law enforcement officer. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

HB 232-FN-LOCAL, relative to enforcement of immigration laws and the prohibition of sanctuary policies. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

HB 235, relative to foreclosure proceedings and pre-foreclosure notices. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

HB 254-FN-A, relative to the provision allowing operators to retain a portion of meals and rooms taxes collected and the appropriation of meals and rooms tax revenues to school building aid. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

HB 266-LOCAL, relative to the elderly property tax exemption. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

HB 301-FN-LOCAL, relative to funeral and burial or cremation expenses for assisted persons. **Passed with Amendment.**

HB 345, relative to certification of devices for the electronic counting of ballots. **Passed with Amendment.**

HB 384, relative to access to historic burial sites on state-owned land. **Passed with Amendment.**

HB 418-FN, relative to the limitations on part-time employment under the New Hampshire retirement system. **Passed with Amendment.**

HB 479-FN, relative to eligibility for the low and moderate income homeowners property tax relief. **Passed.**

HB 481-FN-A-LOCAL, relative to the legalization and regulation of cannabis and making appropriations therefor. **Passed; referred to W&M-H.**

HB 491, relative to questioning and detaining suspects. **Passed with Amendment.**

HB 505, allowing voters to vote for multiple candidate for an office. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

HB 542-FN-A, establishing a grant program to support municipalities in updating their wetlands regulations. **Passed with Amendment; referred to F-H.**

(House Floor Action— Continued from Page 11)

HB 544, relative to the governance of the Manchester school district. **Passed.**

HB 561, relative to zoning ordinances for formula businesses. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

HB 579, relative to local control of optional automobile registration discounts for seniors, veterans, and disabled persons. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

HB 581-FN-LOCAL, relative to payment of membership dues for professional organizations on behalf of employees of municipalities and school districts. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

HB 616-FN, relative to a cost of living adjustment for retirees in the state retirement system. **Passed with Amendment; referred to F-H.**

HB 637-FN, relative to criminal history background checks by employers and public agencies. **Passed with Amendment.**

HB 639, relative to speed limits in cities and towns. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

HB 641-LOCAL, allowing municipalities to collect an occupancy fee from operators of local room rentals. **Passed with Amendment; referred to W&M-H.**

HB 674-FN, relative to the impoundment of motor vehicles. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

HB 675-FN, relative to the purchase of service credit in the state retirement system. **Passed.**

HB 686-FN-A-LOCAL, relative to calculating and funding the interim cost of an opportunity for an adequate education and extending the interest and dividends tax to capital gains. **Passed with Amendment; referred to F-H.**

HB 706-FN-A, establishing an independent redistricting commission. **Passed with Amendment.**

HB 709-FN-A-LOCAL, relative to the formula for determining funding for an adequate education. **Passed with Amendment; referred to F-H.**

HB 711-FN-LOCAL, relative to funding an adequate education. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

HB 713-FN-LOCAL, relative to education funding. **Passed with Amendment; referred to F-H.**

HB 718-FN-LOCAL, relative to instant voting in elections. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

HB 729-FN-A, establishing a citizen's right-to-know appeals commission and a right-to-know law ombudsman and making an appropriation therefor. **Passed with Amendment; referred to F-H.**

FREE Legislative Breakfast - Water's Worth It

The annual Water's Worth It! legislative breakfast starts with a complimentary breakfast buffet at 7:00 am this Wednesday March 6, 2019 at the Holiday Inn on Main Street in Concord. This event is free for all legislators and staff!

Water quality professionals will present on current drinking water and wastewater treatment challenges facing New Hampshire. **Keynote speaker is Rebecca Rule, a wonderful New Hampshire storyteller and author.** NHDES Commissioner Robert Scott will also address the audience. All legislators and staff are invited to enjoy a hearty breakfast and learn more about New Hampshire's water and wastewater infrastructure.

Please contact Dee Rainville at info.nhwpca@gmail.com or 603-228-1231 to reserve your seat at this event. Sponsored by the New Hampshire Water Pollution Control Association in conjunction with a wide-ranging coalition of other local non-profit water organizations.

2019 NHMA UPCOMING EVENTS FOR MEMBERS	
Mar. 13	Webinar: The Right-to-Know Law and Governmental Meetings
Mar. 20	Webinar: Rethinking Recycling
Mar. 26	Regional Workshop: Right-to-Know Law and Governmental Meetings
Apr. 10	2019 Local Officials Workshop (All day), Rochester
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.	