

LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN

Local Input Improves Pole Valuation Bill

On Thursday the House passed **HB 1198**, relative to a statutory formula for appraising telephone poles and conduits, but only after rejecting the Ways & Means Committee amendment that was discussed in [last week's Bulletin](#) and instead passing a more reasonable amendment. This was a major victory for municipalities.

The committee amendment.

As we noted last week, the committee amendment was a complete rejection of the approach recommended by the Assessing Standards Board. Many people considered the ASB's recommendation itself a usurpation of local assessing authority, but at least it represented a legitimate effort to assign reasonable values to poles and conduits. The committee amendment, in contrast, was designed to appease the phone companies, without regard to the real value of poles and conduits.

Floor fight.

Three representatives—Susan Almy of Lebanon, Frank Byron of Litchfield, and Mary Cooney of Plymouth—executed a well planned, bipartisan floor fight against the committee amendment, which led to rejection of the amendment by a vote of 151-164. They then proposed a different amendment, which is much closer to what the ASB had recommended. That amendment was approved overwhelmingly.

Next up was the question of when the new law should take effect. For over a year, supporters of the phone companies have assured legislators repeatedly that putting a valuation formula in statute would end all of the lawsuits the phone companies have filed challenging their tax bills. The majority report in [last week's House calendar](#) had represented: "This bill will put an end to all the hundreds of lawsuits that are costing the municipalities and the industry thousands of dollars in legal fees and clogging the courts . . ." Many legislators have relied on that and similar representations over the past year.

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GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS CONTACT INFORMATION

Judy A. Silva, Executive Director

Cordell A. Johnston, Government Affairs Counsel

Barbara T. Reid, Government Finance Advisor

Timothy W. Fortier, Communications & Member Services Coordinator



25 Triangle Park Drive
Concord NH 03301
Tel: 603.224.7447
Fax: 603.415.3090
governmentaffairs@nhmunicipal.org
Website: www.nhmunicipal.org

Oh, *THOSE* lawsuits.

The leaders of Thursday’s floor fight decided to call that bluff. They offered a floor amendment that would make the bill’s application conditional upon the phone companies’ voluntary dismissal of the lawsuits. It seemed like a simple housekeeping matter: if the new law would end the lawsuits, then the phone companies would happily dismiss them once the bill passes.

Apparently not. As it turns out, the bill will not “put an end to all the hundreds of lawsuits.” Pressed on this point, the bill’s supporters acknowledged that, well, of course the *existing* lawsuits would need to “work their way through the courts.” But the bill might prevent *future* lawsuits.

Really. And once the existing lawsuits work their way through the courts, the disputes about valuation will have been answered—without legislation. So what, again, was the point of this bill? (And, by the way, the legislation will not even prevent future lawsuits, because the phone companies’ claims in those suits deal with many issues besides just valuation.)

The floor amendment, unfortunately, was defeated, but the point had been made. If you’re expecting this legislation to result in the wholesale dismissal of lawsuits, you can stop holding your breath.

The net result was positive, although far from perfect. The bill as amended uses a 40-year life for poles and conduits, ten years less than recommended by the ASB, but ten years more than the committee amendment. It also puts the ASB in charge of determining pole values, with an opportunity for public input.

The bill now goes to the Senate. Whether this legislation is needed at all, or will accomplish anything useful, remains an open question; but at the very least, we will continue to work to improve the bill in the Senate.

Thank you.

In the meantime, thank you to all the representatives who resisted the influence of big business and supported municipalities and taxpayers by voting “**nay**” on the committee amendment. (Click [here](#) to see the roll call.) And thank you to all the local officials who lobbied hard on this issue. Although the floor debate was persuasive, we know it was the work of local officials that opened the legislators’ minds to rejecting the committee’s recommendation. ***Please keep up the good work—on this issue and others.*** It is striking to see what a difference it makes when legislators hear from their local officials.

THE EDGE

Imagine this: You’ve applied to fill a vacancy on the local planning board. You go to the selectmen’s meeting where the issue is going to be taken up. As one of the selectmen is entering the meeting room, he stops and whispers to you, “Sorry, but we’re all going to vote for the other guy.”

“What?! How do you know how the others are going to vote?” you ask.

“Oh,” he explains, “we discussed it before the meeting. We all agree.”

Outrageous, right? They can’t have that discussion in private! Maybe you’ll even file a lawsuit under the Right to Know Law. This is not how government is supposed to work in the 21st century.

Fortunately, most local officials know better. However, there are different rules at the state level, which allow something similar to happen every day. The legislature has the benefit of a convenient provision of the law (passed by the legislature!) that exempts party caucuses from all open-meeting requirements. Thus, the majority of the House or Senate, or of any legislative committee, may meet and discuss anything in private, as long as all those present are members of the same party.

Continued on next page

No to Municipal Broadband

Municipalities did not fare as well in their other fight against the big telecommunications companies. By a vote of 188-142, the House killed **HB 1180**, which would have made it easier for municipalities to issue bonds for the construction of broadband infrastructure in areas where high-speed internet access is not available.

The argument against the bill followed this puzzling logic: (1) Municipalities don't have the expertise or resources to manage broadband networks; and (2) they already have the legal authority to do so. The other concern, equally hard to follow, was that towns should not be allowed to "compete" with the telecommunications companies—the very companies that are not providing service in the areas where the towns want to build infrastructure.

Needless to say, logic doesn't win every legislative debate, and in this case the pressure and misinformation from big business obviously had an effect. Thus, it appears that for at least another year, companies like Comcast, AT&T, and Time Warner will be protected from the competitive "threat" posed by towns like Temple and Sharon. And unfortunately, in this age of data, too many New Hampshire residents will be without sufficient access to the internet.

A Pleasant Development

On Thursday the House passed [HB 2016](#), dealing with the state 10-year transportation improvement plan, with an amendment that, among other provisions, provides an additional \$2.5 million for the municipal state bridge aid program in the current fiscal year. This money comes from anticipated savings at the Department of Transportation due to the light winter. The bill as amended passed on a voice vote, so we don't know exactly which representatives to thank, but continual harping on municipal bridge aid funding evidently struck a chord with many. The bill will now head to the Senate for its consideration.

Committee Recommends Agritourism Bill

The Senate Public and Municipal Affairs Committee on Wednesday recommended passage of **SB 345**, the "agritourism" bill mentioned in [Legislative Bulletin #9](#). The committee recommended a minor amendment to the bill at the request of the New Hampshire Farm Bureau. It is believed that this amendment will satisfy the House members who have supported **HB 1141**, the House bill dealing with the same subject. This would avoid a conflict between the two bodies; **SB 345** would become the operative bill, and **HB 1141** likely would be killed or tabled in the Senate.

SB 345 will go to the full Senate next week, and assuming it is approved there, it will move next to the House.

THE EDGE *(Continued)*

That is why we often know in advance how a committee vote, or a vote in the full Senate, will go. They've already met and counted the votes. (Votes in the full House, with 400 members, are less predictable, even after the caucuses meet.)

To be clear, this is perfectly legal, and has been accepted practice for, presumably, hundreds of years. We do not presume to question the legislature's procedure.

However, it does leave us a bit rankled when we hear constant criticism of local boards—especially by some legislators—for their "secretive" practices, while the legislature allows itself to operate that way. Decisions about the state's \$11 billion budget are made in private before a public vote is taken, and no eyebrow is raised. But just *try* hiring someone to fix the town hall roof without a duly noticed public meeting!

We are not (necessarily) suggesting that the law should be changed. As Sunshine Week begins, we are merely suggesting some recognition that the operation of the Right-to-Know Law is far from uniform.



Senate Passes Perplexing Photo ID Bill

The Senate this week passed a bill that, if enacted, is likely to cause bewilderment for municipal clerks and supervisors of the checklist. The bill, **SB 509**, rewrites RSA 659:13, IV(b).

Currently, subparagraph IV(a) provides that after an election, the Secretary of State will mail a letter of identity verification to each voter who obtained a ballot by executing a challenged voter affidavit or religious affidavit in lieu of showing a photo ID, with instructions to the voter to return the letter with a confirmation that he or she was in fact the person who voted. Subparagraph IV(b) provides that the Attorney General will investigate any person whose letter is returned by the post office as undeliverable, and any person who fails to confirm that he or she voted.

SB 509 leaves subparagraph (a) intact, but changes subparagraph (b) so that the Attorney General will not investigate the voters; instead, “The secretary of state shall work with city and town clerks and supervisors of the checklist to determine which names on the list belong to legal voters.” The stated purpose of this change is to relieve the burden on the Attorney General’s office, which says it does not have the resources to conduct these investigations.

One might ask whether the appropriate solution is to shift that burden onto local officials, but let’s set that aside for a moment. The first problem is that the bill makes no sense.

The bill requires the Secretary of State to work with local officials “to determine which names on the list belong to legal voters.” The “list” referred to here is a list of voters who received letters because someone voted using their name and without showing a photo ID. Here’s the thing: in order to have voted, the person obviously had to give the name of a voter registered in that town or ward, and that is the name that will be on the list—therefore, *every* name on the “list” is the name of a legal voter.

This will make the task of the clerk/supervisors quite easy, but pointless. When presented with a list by the Secretary of State and asked “which names on the list belong to legal voters,” they can immediately answer, “All of them.” That ends the inquiry, but it’s difficult to see how it does anything to combat voter fraud.

We pointed this out at the committee hearing, and the Secretary of State’s office and the Attorney General’s office were asked to produce an amendment to fix the problem. For some reason, they didn’t. Nevertheless, the Senate passed the bill. We’ll see what happens when the bill gets to the House.

House Plows Through Bills at Deadline

Thursday was the last day for the House to act on all bills that had not been sent to a second committee. This led to marathon sessions on Wednesday and Thursday, in which the body attempted to dispose of over 200 bills. (They didn’t quite make it. At 9:23 p.m. on Thursday, the House voted to suspend the rules to special order a number of bills to the March 23 calendar.) In addition to those mentioned above, the House took action on the following bills of significant interest to municipalities:

- **HB 1687** and **HB 1688**. The House overwhelmingly approved the Judiciary Committee’s recommendation of Inexpedient to Legislate on both bills, which would have expanded municipal liability for personal injuries resulting from negligence. We have discussed these in several recent *Bulletins*. **Thank you again to all the local officials who worked hard to defeat these bills.**
- **CACR 23** would have amended the constitution by eliminating the existing provision that requires selectmen to be present during voting at state general elections. It got a slim majority, 169-164, but that was not sufficient to pass it, as constitutional amendments need a 60 percent vote of the entire House (239 votes) to pass. It was laid on the table, where it will likely die.
- **HB 1686** would have repealed the Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP), a program that NHMA strongly supports. Happily, the Finance Committee had voted 23-1 to recommend killing the bill, and the House adopted that recommendation.
- **HB 1417** would have amended the Right-to-Know Law to require public bodies to keep a record every time they have a consultation with legal counsel or a collective bargaining session. NHMA opposed the bill, and the House killed it, although by a vote that was closer than it should have been, 189-135.
- **HB 1293** amends the statute that governs the procedure for amending municipal charters. Some of the changes are good, and some not so good. There is too much to describe here; we have been in contact with local officials who have expressed interest (it currently affects only the thirteen cities and eight towns that have charters), but if you haven’t been part of the discussion and would like to be, please let us know.
- **HB 1322** requires every public employer of a certified collective bargaining unit to “calculate and report semiannually . . . to the [Public Employee Relations Board], the board of the public employer, and each employee within the public employee’s bargaining unit by email and a notice posted in a place accessible to the employee, the total number of public employees within the bargaining unit paying union dues, the total number of public employees within the bargaining unit paying agency fees, and the ratio, expressed as a percentage, of the number of those public employees paying union dues to the total number of public employees in the bargaining unit.”
- This is such a bad bill (not to mention an unfunded mandate) that, frankly, we never imagined it would pass—but it did, by a vote of 173-146. We will give it more attention in the Senate. Please contact your senator and explain how burdensome and unwieldy this requirement will be.
- **HB 1428** provides funding for eight projects on the Department of Environmental Services delayed and deferred list. The bill passed the House on a voice vote. **NHMA policy.**
- **SB 380** creates a drinking water and ground water trust fund using proceeds (estimated in the \$300 million range) from the state’s lawsuit against Exxon Mobil Corporation regarding MTBE contamination. The House passed the bill on a voice vote with an amendment regarding Legislative Fiscal Committee oversight over administrative costs. After the House vote, the amended bill was immediately sent back to the Senate, which concurred with the House amendment. The bill now heads to the Governor for final action.

To view the weekly Legislative Bulletin from the NH School Boards Association, please click [here](#).

HOUSE CALENDAR

Joint House/Senate Meetings Are Listed Under This Section

TUESDAY, MARCH 15

CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY, Room 204, LOB

10:30 a.m. **HB 602-FN**, relative to the use of drones.

EDUCATION, Room 207, LOB

1:00 p.m. **SB 328-L**, relative to school districts and school administrative units exercising joint powers with other public agencies.

JUDICIARY, Room 208, LOB

10:00 a.m. **HB 1243-FN-L**, relative to storm water or sewage penalties.

10:30 a.m. **HB 1298**, relative to damage to private property.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENERGY, Room 304, LOB

1:00 p.m. **SB 377**, relative to emission levels of municipal waste combustion units.

THURSDAY, MARCH 17

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION, Room 306, LOB

10:00 a.m. **SB 319-FN**, relative to survivor benefits for families of police officers and firefighters killed in the line of duty.

10:30 a.m. **SB 129-FN**, allowing retired members of the retirement system to change an optional allowance election in certain circumstances.

11:00 a.m. **SB 390-FN**, relative to the procedure in retirement system hearings concerning qualification for disability retirement benefits.

SENATE CALENDAR

TUESDAY, MARCH 15

TRANSPORTATION, Room 103, LOB

1:00 p.m. **HB 1438-FN-L**, relative to the registration of antique trailers.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION, Room 101, LOB

9:15 a.m. **HB 1352-FN**, relative to the penalty for retirement system employers' noncompliance with reporting requirements for retirees.

PUBLIC AND MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS, Room 102, LOB

10:00 a.m. **HB 110**, relative to placement of political advertising.

10:15 a.m. **HB 183**, relative to voter registration forms.

10:30 a.m. **HB 659-FN-L**, relative to eligibility for an absentee ballot.

11:00 a.m. **HB 1375**, relative to charter commissions for budgets in official ballot jurisdictions.

HOUSE FLOOR ACTION

Wednesday, March 9, 2016

Thursday, March 10, 2016

CACR 22, relating to the right to privacy. Providing that an individual's right to live free from governmental interference is fundamental and shall not be restricted unless the government demonstrates a compelling state interest. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

HB 1108, relative to inquiries by employers into the criminal history of applicants for employment. **Referred to Interim Study.**

HB 1109, relative to notice of offer for property in eminent domain cases and making the condemning entity liable for reasonable attorney's fees in certain cases. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

HB 1112, relative to subdivision of land. **Tabled.**

HB 1114, relative to the number of inspectors of election. **Passed.**

HB 1115, relative to the laws governing the citizens of New Hampshire. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

HB 1116, relative to net metering. **Passed with Amendment.**

HB 1125, requiring law enforcement officers to return stolen property. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

HB 1141, defining "agritourism." **Passed with Amendment.**

HB 1154-FN, authorizing and regulating the use of license plate scanning devices. **Passed with Amendment.**

HB 1156, relative to interference with traffic devices. **Passed with Amendment.**

HB 1161, relative to the traffic safety commission. **Passed with Amendment.**

HB 1164, relative to contributions by a city to the county or state. **Passed.**

HB 1167-FN, repealing the administrative procedure act. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

HB 1179-LOCAL, relative to the taxation of manufactured housing on the land of another. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

HB 1180-LOCAL, relative to the authority of towns to issue bonds for the expansion of Internet service. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

HB 1181, relative to designating an alternate cemetery trustee. **Passed.**

HB 1187-FN-LOCAL, repealing licensure of showmen. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

HB 1198-FN-LOCAL, relative to the valuation of poles and conduits owned by telephone utilities. **Passed with Amendment.**

(House Floor Action — Continued from Page 7)

HB 1202, relative to applications submitted to a planning board. **Passed.**

HB 1203, relative to voting on variances. **Passed.**

HB 1205, including libraries that provide children's programming in the definition of drug-free school zone. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

HB 1216-FN, requiring public bodies and agencies to provide information which is not regularly kept or reported upon payment by the requestor. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

HB 1252, permitting employers to pay wages to employees weekly or biweekly. **Passed with Amendment.**

HB 1219-FN-LOCAL, relative to the repurchase of tax-deeded property by the former owner and the costs therefor. **Passed with Amendment.**

HB 1220, relative to disqualification of election officers. **Passed.**

HB 1222, relative to procedures for appraisals by assessing officials. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

HB 1223, relative to changes of address on election day. **Passed.**

HB 1242, relative to rules of the department of transportation on driveway permits. **Referred to Interim Study.**

HB 1244-LOCAL, relative to municipal cemeteries. **Passed with Amendment.**

HB 1252, permitting employers to pay wages to employees weekly or biweekly. **Passed with Amendment.**

HB 1253-LOCAL, relative to the removal of land use board members and municipal officers. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

HB 1259, relative to liability for third party review of site plans. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

HB 1260, repealing the authority of assessing officials to obtain administrative inspection warrants to complete property appraisals. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

HB 1262, relative to the application of zoning ordinances to home-based businesses. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

HB 1265, permitting municipalities to adopt a system of approval voting. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

HB 1275, relative to net energy metering capacity. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

HB 1276, relative to a taxpayer's application for a property tax abatement. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

(House Floor Action — Continued from Page 8)

HB 1282, relative to the state building code. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

HB 1284, relative to highway agents. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

HB 1293, relative to the procedure for charter amendments. **Passed with Amendment.**

HB 1296, requiring the legislative body to approve the appointment of town managers and prohibiting town managers from hiring contractors to perform the duties of town managers. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

HB 1297, relative to harm to unalienable rights of inhabitants. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

HB 1299, relative to the frequency of background checks for camp employees. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

HB 1304, relative to town maintenance of a road designated as a highway to summer cottages. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

HB 1308, allowing motorcycles to pass a vehicle in the same lane or travel between lanes of traffic in certain instances. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

HB 1313-FN, relative to eligibility to vote and relative to availability of voter information. **Passed.**

HB 1322, relative to reports to the public employee labor relations board. **Passed with Amendment.**

HB 1335-FN, relative to state testing of law enforcement officers for steroid use. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

HB 1336-FN-LOCAL, relative to interest on abatements of taxes. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

HB 1341, relative to employee payments to unions. **Referred to Interim Study.**

HB 1349, relative to the location of the Merrimack county superior court. **Passed with Amendment.**

HB 1353, relative to the notice required of a law enforcement officer prior to making an audio recording of a routine stop. **Passed with Amendment.**

HB 1356 (new title), relative to construction of the terms “resident,” “inhabitant,” “residence,” and “residency.” **Passed with Amendment.**

HB 1362, requiring telephone notice where an electrical outage is expected to exceed 4 hours. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

HB 1363, relative to filling of vacancies in town offices. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

HB 1374, relative to rebates to ratepayers from the renewable energy fund. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

(House Floor Action — Continued from Page 9)

HB 1376, relative to temporary workers. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

HB 1377, relative to receipt of absentee ballots. **Passed with Amendment.**

HB 1378, relative to disabled voters requiring assistance. **Passed with Amendment.**

HB 1380, relative to duties of police commissions. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

HB 1382, relative to the referendum procedure for public water systems. **Passed.**

HB 1390, relative to municipal authority to restrict where registered sex offenders live. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

HB 1392-LOCAL, relative to notice of land use violations and court costs in cases brought by a municipality. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

HB 1395, relative to municipal electronic records. **NHMA Policy. Passed with Amendment.**

HB 1398, establishing a commission to study septic sludge spreading. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

HB 1400, defining suitable person for the purpose of obtaining a license to carry a firearm and extending the term of the license. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

HB 1401, relative to public libraries. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

HB 1407, establishing a property tax credit for persons providing certain home health care services for a family member. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

HB 1413, establishing a commission to study processes to resolve right-to-know complaints. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

HB 1417, relative to records of convenings of public bodies. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

HB 1418-LOCAL, relative to the minutes of nonpublic sessions of public bodies. **Passed.**

HB 1419, relative to voting records in nonpublic sessions of public bodies. **Passed.**

HB 1424-FN, establishing an office of program evaluation and government accountability. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

HB 1428-FN-A-LOCAL, making appropriations to the department of environmental services for the purpose of funding eligible and completed drinking water and wastewater projects under the state aid grant program. **Passed with Amendment.**

HB 1433-FN, establishing the office of ombudsman in the department of state. **Referred to Interim Study.**

HB 1439-LOCAL, requiring regional planning commissions to file an annual report. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

HB 1440-FN, relative to certification for solid waste operators. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

HB 1449-FN, relative to additional temporary supplemental allowances for retired members of the retirement system. **Referred to Interim Study.**

HB 1455, relative to membership of a municipal budget committee. **Passed with Amendment.**

HB 1460, relative to perambulation of town boundaries. **NHMA Policy. Inexpedient to Legislate.**

HB 1463, relative to mandatory vaccines. **Referred to Interim Study.**

HB 1467, relative to notice of village district elections. **Passed with Amendment.**

HB 1468, relative to sessions for correction of the checklist. **Passed with Amendment.**

HB 1470-FN, permitting additional site evaluation committee membership from towns or cities affected by an application. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

HB 1479, establishing a broadband study committee. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

HB 1480-FN, establishing a state minimum wage. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

HB 1482 (new title), relative to the Interstate Voter Registration Crosscheck Program.. **Passed with Amendment.**

HB 1483, relative to community renewable energy. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

HB 1489, establishing a committee to study the rates of employer contributions in the retirement system. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

HB 1491, relative to trust fund interest. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

HB 1492, regarding individual privacy when law enforcement agencies use body-worn cameras. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

HB 1494, relative to the expectation of privacy in personal information. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

HB 1496, relative to the expectation of privacy in personal materials. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

HB 1499-FN, relative to certificates for rabies vaccination of dogs, cats, or ferrets. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

HB 1500, relative to default budgets for the purpose of setting tax rates. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

HB 1502, establishing a committee to study odor emissions from landfills. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

(House Floor Action — Continued from Page 11)

HB 1503, relative to distributing campaign materials at the polling place. **Passed.**

HB 1504-FN-LOCAL, relative to the execution of a real estate tax lien on a primary residence. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

HB 1508, allowing public libraries to run certain privacy software. **Passed with Amendment**

HB 1510, relative to the review of minutes of nonpublic sessions. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

HB 1511-FN-LOCAL, relative to hours of polling. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

HB 1518, relative to village district members of budget committees. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

HB 1521, allowing voters to vote for multiple candidates for an office. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

HB 1523, relative to government construction contracts. **Referred to Interim Study.**

HB 1529-FN, relative to reporting of felony convictions for voter checklist updates. **Passed with Amendment.**

HB 1530-FN-LOCAL, relative to mail-in voting. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

HB 1532, permitting state or county prisoners to vote by absentee ballot. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

HB 1533, relative to noise level limitations for permanent machinery. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

HB 1534, relative to reports of death of voters. **Passed.**

HB 1535-FN, relative to liability for payment of criminal record background checks and drug tests. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

HB 1539-FN, relative to procedures for resolving ties in legislative races. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

HB 1543-FN, relative to prosecutorial misconduct. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

HB 1544-FN-A-LOCAL, establishing a tax on revenues from natural gas transmission. **NHMA Policy. Inexpedient to Legislate.**

HB 1546-FN, permitting the audio recording of a public servant performing a public function. **Tabled.**

HB 1549-FN, requiring the department of safety to establish a database cataloging certain law enforcement activities. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

HB 1555-FN, relative to the manner in which New Hampshire takes possession of land. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

HB 1559-FN, relative to property taxes paid by education facilities leasing property. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

HB 1572-FN, establishing a broadband deployment tax credit incentive program against the business profits tax and the business enterprise tax. **Referred to Interim Study.**

HB 1578, relative to the maintenance of private roads. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

HB 1596-FN-LOCAL, changing the marriage license requirement to a requirement that couples obtain a certificate of notice of intent to marry and a certificate of marriage. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

HB 1603-FN, requiring the registration of drug dealers. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

HB 1624-FN, relative to electioneering by public employees. **Passed.**

HB 1626-FN, relative to drug take-back programs. **Passed with Amendment.**

HB 1633-FN, relative to the use of the Family and Medical Leave Act time as it applies to workers' compensation. **Passed with Amendment.**

HB 1642-FN-LOCAL, relative to persons executing election affidavits. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

HB 1649-FN, relative to state inspection of new motor vehicles. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

HB 1654-FN, relative to flying drones near correctional facilities. **Passed with Amendment.**

HB 1657-FN, prohibiting firearms in certain public places. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

HB 1660-FN-LOCAL, relative to eminent domain for gas pipelines and relative to assessment of the land use change tax for eminent domain takings for energy infrastructure. **Passed with Amendment.**

HB 1678-FN, relative to the information statement contained on a property tax bill. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

HB 1679-FN, relative to electioneering by a public official. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

HB 1682-FN, relative to electioneering by public servants and relative to warrant articles. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

HB 1686-FN, repealing the community heritage investment program. **NHMA Policy. Inexpedient to Legislate.**

HB 1687-LOCAL, relative to governmental liability for personal injury on playground structures. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

HB 1688-FN-LOCAL, relative to governmental liability for negligence claims. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

(House Floor Action — Continued from Page 13)

HB 1689, relative to operator requirements under the meals and rooms tax. **Passed.**

HB 1690-FN, extending the New Hampshire health protection program. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

HB 1696-FN, requesting a modification of the New Hampshire health protection program. **Passed with Amendment.**

HB 1697-FN, relative to the operation and insurance of transportation network companies. **Passed with Amendment.**

HB 2016, relative to the state 10-year transportation improvement program. **Passed with Amendment.**

SB 380, establishing the drinking water and groundwater trust fund and establishing the New Hampshire drinking water and groundwater advisory commission. **Passed with Amendment.**

SENATE FLOOR ACTION

Thursday, March 10, 2016

SB 346-FN-L, relative to hours of polling. **Tabled.**

SB 348, allowing municipalities to adopt a property tax exemption for certain disabled veterans. **Tabled.**

HB 359, allowing all municipalities to adopt the property tax exemption to foster commercial and industrial construction. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

SB 433, relative to exclusions from seasonal highway weight limit regulation. **Passed.**

SB 446, relative to requirements of the state building code. **Passed.**

SB 507-FN, authorizing online voter registration. **Passed with Amendment.**

SB 509-FN, relative to voter registration forms and relative to voter identity verification. **Passed with Amendment.**

SB 531-FN, extending the New Hampshire health protection act. **Tabled.**

SB 538, relative to children taken into custody under the child protection act and relative to the commission to review child abuse fatalities. **Passed.**

SB 550-FN, relative to the maximum gross weight for dump trailers. **Passed with Amendment.**

NHMA Workshops

2016 Local Officials Workshops

Workshops for seasoned and new municipal officials and employees of member municipalities.

AGENDA

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Continental breakfast and lunch will be provided.

DATES & LOCATIONS

Saturday, April 9: Jaffrey Civic Center, 40 Main Street, Jaffrey

Wednesday, April 13: Grantham Town Hall, 300 Route 10 South, Grantham
*Sponsored by Primex3

Wednesday, April 27: Hudson Community Center, 12 Lions Ave., Hudson

Thursday, May 19: McIntyre Building, Auditorium, 16 Highland Street, Whitefield

Wednesday, May 25: Carroll County Complex, Delegation/Commissioner Conference Room, 95 Water Village Rd., Ossipee *Sponsored by Primex3

Saturday, June 4: 25 Triangle Park Drive, Concord

For more information please access our website: www.nhmunicipal.org and scroll down on the left to CAL ENDAR OF EVENTS and Click *View the Full Calendar*.

Contact us by phone at 1-800-852-3358 x3350 or email us at NHMAregistrations@nhmunicipal.org

NHMA Webinar

March 30, 2016

Half-Time: A Mid-Session Legislative Update

Time: 12:00—1:00 p.m.

Click [here](#) to register by noon on March 29, 2016.

Join Government Affairs Counsel Cordell Johnston and Government Finance Advisor Barbara Reid for a look at the status of legislation affecting municipalities after "Crossover." Crossover is the date (March 24 this year) by which a bill must pass either the House or the Senate in order to "cross over" to the other chamber for consideration.

This webinar will discuss the prospects for bills still alive at the State House, and offer a postmortem on a few that have been killed. The discussion will include, among others, local option fees, the Right-to-Know law, the retirement system, highway funding, planning and zoning issues, assessing municipal tort liability, and other legal matters.