

LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN

No Support for SOS Scheduling Takeover

Bulletin 05, 2018 Session
January 19, 2018

On Tuesday the [Senate Election Law and Internal Affairs Committee](#) heard testimony on **SB 438**, the bill that requires towns to ask permission from the Secretary of State to postpone Town Meeting Day voting in the event of a weather emergency. No municipal official testified in support of the bill—not one. Only three people spoke in favor—the prime sponsor, a representative of the Professional Fire Fighters of New Hampshire, and the Secretary of State’s office.

The ten speakers who opposed the bill included several moderators, a town clerk, a selectman, and an attorney with 35 years of municipal practice. These speakers said the bill is not helpful for municipalities and asked: When there is a local decision to postpone voting due to hazardous local weather conditions, what could the Secretary of State’s office possibly add to the process to make it a better decision? What information could the Secretary of State have that the moderator does not have?

There is **no** superior information to be had at the state level; moderators all testified that they consulted with their selectmen, public works departments, and police and fire departments, and joined the state Homeland Security conference call about the approaching blizzard before making their decisions last year. That’s exactly how those decisions should be made. The Secretary’s representatives said they would consult with Homeland Security about local conditions because “they have a lot of eyes and ears out there and have a good handle on local conditions.” And just who are Homeland Security’s “eyes and ears”? Municipal police chiefs and fire chiefs, who in most cases are the local emergency management directors!

In the biggest surprise of the day, the Secretary of State’s office testified that **SB 438** would give them the authority to **order** that whole regions of the state postpone Town Meeting Day voting due to bad weather—whether the towns wanted to postpone or not. Does anyone think *that* is a good idea? We had never heard that blanket postponement option discussed before, and the bill contains no provisions on how that would be accomplished, what sort of notice municipalities would get, or whether they could proceed if they felt it appropriate.

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The decision to postpone is a significant one, and although it has come up very rarely, it is one that is taken very seriously by local officials to protect the voters who will be traveling to and from the polls. One senator asked during the hearing, “Wouldn’t it be extraordinary for a town to ask to postpone and *not* get permission?” The answer from the Secretary of State’s office: if there were only two inches of snow and only one town was calling in, then they would be suspicious and would need to investigate. If “permission will be granted” all the other times when there are blizzard conditions and multiple calls are made, then what is the point of the requirement?

NHMA offered an amendment that would accomplish the legitimate goals of the bill: establish a uniform procedure for postponing elections, a uniform postponement date, clear processes for dealing with absentee ballots, and a method for coordinating postponement decisions in multi-town school districts. While those matters are certainly subject to negotiation, the one major aspect of the bill that is not acceptable to any municipality is the requirement of asking the Secretary of State for permission to make what has always been, and always should be, a local decision.

We do not know when the committee may take action on this bill—it could be as early as next week, so *please continue to contact members of the committee, and your own senator, and urge them to oppose SB 438 so long as it contains any requirement that moderators seek state approval to postpone any part of town meeting.*

Water Quality Standards Bills

On Tuesday, January 23, in State House Room 103, at 9:45 a.m. and 10:00 a.m., respectively, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee will hear testimony on two bills dealing with water quality standards: [SB 454](#) requires the Department of Environmental Services (DES) to review existing scientific studies and implement administrative rules for ambient groundwater quality standards and maximum contaminant level for specific perfluorinated chemicals. [SB 309](#) requires DES to adopt state standards for perfluorinated chemicals in drinking water, ambient groundwater and surface water. The fiscal note to **SB 309** indicates that costs to municipalities are indeterminate, but may be significant.

Representative of municipal water systems should plan to attend these hearing to express concerns about the implications of these two bills.

Commission for Right-to-Know Complaints?

The Senate Judiciary Committee has scheduled a hearing for next Tuesday on [SB 555](#), which would establish an alternative method to resolve complaints under the Right-to-Know Law. The bill is the product of a commission that was formed last year to study the subject. The commission, which included a representative from NHMA, met regularly during the late summer and fall and ultimately adopted a report that led to this legislation.

SB 555 provides for the appointment of a “right-to-know ombudsman,” who would hear complaints under RSA 91-A. Any “aggrieved person” claiming a violation of the law could file a complaint with the ombudsman as an alternative to filing suit in superior court, which currently is the only process for resolving complaints. Filing suit in superior court would still be permitted; a party would have the choice, and by choosing one option would waive the right to pursue the other.

The ombudsman would be a New Hampshire attorney with at least ten years of experience who is knowledgeable about the Right-to-Know Law. He or she would have authority to compel attendance at hearings, compel disclosure of documents for *in camera* review, and issue any order that a court could issue to remedy a violation of the law. Decisions by the ombudsman could be appealed to the superior court by either party, and review in the superior court would be *de novo*.

The bill also provides for the appointment of a 17-person Citizens' Right-to-Know Appeals Commission. The commission would establish rules of procedure, interview and hire an ombudsman, review the ombudsman's performance, make recommendations to the legislature for changes to the law, and create and update educational materials about the law.

NHMA generally supports the goals of the bill. The ombudsman process promises to be faster and less expensive--for both parties--than a lawsuit in superior court, and the minimum qualifications for the ombudsman provide some assurance that his or her decisions will be credible. The option to appeal to superior court is important.

However, we do have some reservations. We are less convinced of the need for a 17-person commission (with ten alternates!) to establish rules and hire the ombudsman. We suggested to the study committee that the ombudsman be appointed by the supreme court, since he or she would essentially be serving in a judicial role--just as members of the Board of Tax and Land Appeals are appointed by the supreme court. We are also a bit concerned that, unlike the ombudsman, commission members are not required to know anything about the Right-to-Know Law.

The hearing on **SB 555** is scheduled for **Tuesday, January 23, at 10:15 a.m., in State House Room 100**. If you have comments about the bill, please consider attending the hearing. You can also contact members of the [Judiciary Committee](#) or share your comments with NHMA's Government Affairs staff.

Appeals Board for Land Use Decisions?

Alternative appeals processes seem to be all the rage this year—and especially next Tuesday in the Senate Judiciary Committee. Also on Tuesday, the committee has a hearing on **SB 557**, which would establish a “housing appeals board.” The board would be modeled closely on the Board of Tax and Land Appeals, comprising three members “learned and experienced in questions of land use law or housing development or both,” appointed by the supreme court. (Hey, that sounds familiar.)

The board would have concurrent jurisdiction with the superior court to hear and decide appeals from local land use boards on “questions of housing and housing development.” An applicant (but not an abutter or other affected party) who is dissatisfied with a ruling by a local board could appeal the decision to the housing appeals board, or could appeal to the superior court, as is the current practice. Choosing one appeal route would act as a waiver of the right to the other. Decisions of the housing appeals board could be appealed to the supreme court.

As of this writing, NHMA does not have a formal position on the bill, but we do have some questions. First, the board's jurisdiction over “questions of housing and housing development” is rather vague. Does this include all issues involving residential property, or just the development and building of housing? For example, would it include an appeal from the denial of a variance for a

garage or a patio? Would home businesses be covered? If an applicant appeals to the board and the board determines that it does not have jurisdiction, will the applicant have lost the right to appeal to the superior court? To avoid these questions, should the board's jurisdiction be expanded to include all land use appeals?

Second, abutters have the right to appeal to the superior court under RSA 677, but would not be able to appeal to the housing appeals board under this bill (although they could file as intervenors). That seems wrong. We understand that the bill is intended to help housing applicants, but surely any appeals process ought to treat all affected parties equally. Further, it is not uncommon for both the applicant and an abutter to appeal a local land use board decision. If the applicant appeals to the housing appeals board and the abutter has no right to cross-appeal, he will have to file a separate appeal in the superior court, and the appeals would proceed separately. That doesn't serve anyone's interests.

Finally, a general comment: the purpose of the bill, as we understand it, is to make appeals faster and less expensive. By providing additional appellate capacity, it presumably will accomplish the former, but we are less convinced of the latter. If cases before the Board of Tax and Land Appeals are any indicator, all parties are just as likely to "lawyer up" for cases before this board as they would for a court trial.

We're not saying **SB 557** is a bad idea, but it certainly represents a dramatic change, and it requires careful consideration so that as many questions as possible can be answered before enactment, rather than after. The last thing we need is to adopt a new process and then have municipalities and applicants spend months or years litigating about what it all means. We urge the legislature to move slowly and carefully on this.

The hearing on **SB 557** is scheduled for **Tuesday, January 23, at 10:00 a.m., in State House Room 100.**

Right-to-Know Law Marathon

The House Judiciary Committee will hold hearings next **Tuesday, January 23**, on seven bills, almost all of them bad, seeking to amend the Right-to-Know Law. Here are the most notable:

10:00 a.m. -- **HB 1344** would eliminate the public meeting exemption for collective bargaining negotiations, forcing all such negotiations to be held in public, at least if a quorum of a public body is present. We understand the motivation for this, but the results could be disastrous. Requiring all negotiating to be done in public could lead to grandstanding and refusals to compromise by either side. This seems to be, as the saying goes, a solution in search of a problem.

10:30 a.m. -- **HB 1579** requires that records be kept of certain "non-meetings" of a public body--specifically, strategy or negotiations with respect to collective bargaining, and consultations with legal counsel. The records to be kept would include the specific exemption under RSA 91-A:2 that is relied upon, the names of members present, names of persons appearing before the body, meeting place, and times that the gathering began and ended.

(RTK Law— Continued from Page 4)

We don't see what purpose is served by this requirement. Another administrative burden would be placed on the public body, and the public would be informed that something happened, but would have no idea what. This fails a basic cost-benefit analysis.

Notably, the bill exempts the one other type of “non-meeting” that occurs regularly--political caucuses in the legislature. This is the biggest loophole in the Right-to-Know Law, enabling a majority of the House or Senate, or of any committee, to discuss and make decisions on whatever they want, as long as they are all members of the same political party. Relying on that loophole, legislators are able to circumvent the law with impunity, while they continue to tighten the screws on local officials. We might not object to **HB 1579** if it applied to political caucuses--requiring that a record be kept of everyone who attended a caucus of the House or Senate or any committee, and that those records be made public. We will suggest that as an amendment.

11:00 a.m. -- **HB 1323** excludes discussions about “chief executive officers” from the provision that allows a public body to enter non-public session to discuss the hiring, dismissal, promotion, compensation, or disciplining of, or investigation of charges against, a public employee. Any such discussions about a “chief executive officer” would need to be held in public session. A “chief executive officer” is defined as any public employee who is directly supervised by a public body, including a police chief or fire chief.

The problems with this are almost endless. Setting aside the privacy of the chief executive officer, these discussions frequently involve other employees or non-employees, whose privacy rights could be severely affected. If a police department employee has accused the police chief of sexual harassment, that discussion would have to be held in public. If a teacher is accused of inappropriate conduct with a student, the discussion would have to be held in public.

Further, what police chief, town administrator, or school superintendent would ever consider applying for a job in another town if he knew that his current employer would find out about it because the process would be entirely public?

As for the definition of “chief executive officer,” in many small towns almost all of the employees are directly supervised by the board of selectmen--so everyone is a chief executive officer. On the other hand, in many municipalities the police chief and fire chief are not supervised directly by a public body, so the bill is internally inconsistent.

Not that any of these bills are good, but this one is especially deserving of a quick death.

All of these hearings will be held in **LOB Room 208**.

Interest Charged on Delinquent Taxes

On Tuesday the House Ways and Means Committee heard testimony on **HB 1673**, which would lower the amount of interest that municipalities may charge on delinquent property and other taxes. Supporters of the bill argued that the current interest rates of 12 percent (pre-lien) and 18 percent (post-lien) are excessive and should be the same as the interest rate charged by the Department of Revenue Administration (DRA) on delinquent state taxes, which is adjusted each year

based upon the IRS rate pursuant to RSA 21-J:28, II. For calendar year 2018, the DRA interest rate is 6 percent. Supporters also stated that the municipal interest rate should reflect the “cost of borrowing money” incurred by cities and towns due to revenue shortfalls from delinquent taxes.

Several municipal officials were there, along with representatives of the New Hampshire Tax Collectors Association, to speak in opposition to the bill, highlighting the fact that the interest rates are not about the cost of borrowing but about the incentive for taxpayers to prioritize payment of delinquent taxes over other payments. One official stated that upon issuance of the notice of lien (which is required before the increase to 18 percent interest), two-thirds of the delinquent taxes were paid. Another spoke of bond rating implications when delinquency rates are high because of low interest rates, a situation that occurred before the interest rates were set at 12 percent and 18 percent. NHMA pointed out that while the state interest rate is only 6 percent, the state also assesses a 5 percent penalty for the failure to file on time and a 10 percent penalty for failure to pay on time.

Municipal officials were questioned about tax relief for the elderly and in hardship cases. Property tax exemptions/credits for the elderly, disabled, and veterans, were explained as well as the elderly deferral program and the ability of the selectmen to abate taxes and/or interest in hardship situations on a case-by-case basis. While one municipal official acknowledged that some municipalities could probably do a better job of informing their citizens of the tax relief options that are available, that is not a sufficient reason to lower the interest rates on delinquent taxes.

A full committee work session is scheduled for **Wednesday, January 24 at 11:00 a.m. in LOB room 202**. Please urge members of the [Ways and Means Committee](#) to recommend **Inexpedient to Legislate** on **HB 1673**.

HB 561 Working After Retirement Passes Senate

By a vote of 17 to 7, on Thursday the Senate passed [HB 561 with amendment 2018-0110s](#), dealing with New Hampshire Retirement System (NHRS) retirees returning to work for NHRS employers in part-time positions. As we explained in last week’s [Bulletin](#), the bill grandfathers retirees currently working in part-time positions, and allows other retirees to work up to 1,300 hours per year (average 25 hours per week) without penalty. For those retirees working more than 1,300 but less than 1,600 hours per year, the retiree and employer will pay into the system a 3 percent and 5 percent surcharge, respectively, on the total compensation paid. The bill also establishes a 28-day grace period between the date of retirement and the date a retiree can return to work for his or her former or another NHRS employer, and enacts a significant penalty on the retiree for exceeding 1,600 hours per year.

A floor amendment that proposed to raise the 1,300-hour limit to 1,560 (average 30 hours per week) and remove the surcharge was defeated by a vote of 4 to 20. **HB 561** as amended by the Senate will now go to the [Senate Finance Committee](#) for further discussion and debate.

Get Involved in NHMA's Legislative Policy Process

NHMA's biennial legislative policy process is getting underway. As a first step, we are recruiting volunteers to serve on our three legislative policy committees. These committees will review legislative policy proposals submitted by local officials and NHMA affiliate groups and make recommendations on those policies, which will go to the NHMA Legislative Policy Conference in September.

If you are a local official in an NHMA member municipality and are interested in serving on one of the policy committees, please contact the Government Affairs staff at 800-852-3358, ext. 3408, or governmentaffairs@nhmunicipal.org.

Each of the committees deals with a different set of municipal issues. The committees and their subject areas are as follows:

- Finance and Revenue – budgeting, revenue, tax exemptions, current use, assessing, tax collection, retirement issues, education funding.
- General Administration and Governance – elections, Right-to-Know Law, labor, town meeting, charters, welfare, public safety.
- Infrastructure, Development, and Land Use – solid/hazardous waste, transportation, land use, environmental regulation, housing, utilities, code enforcement, economic development.

When you contact us, please indicate your first and second choices for a committee assignment. We will do our best to accommodate everyone's first choice, but we do need to achieve approximately equal membership among the committees. We hope to have 15-20 members on each committee.

There will be an organizational meeting for all committees on **Friday, April 6**. After that, each committee will meet separately as many times as necessary to review the policy proposals assigned to it—typically three to five meetings, all held on either a Monday or Friday, between early April and the end of May.

HOUSE CALENDAR

TUESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2018

ELECTION LAW, Room 308, LOB

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| 10:00 a.m. | HB 1520 , relative to access to ballots and relative to verification counts of machine-counted ballots. |
| 10:30 a.m. | HB 1582 , relative to the authority of the moderator to verify the device count. |
| 11:00 a.m. | HB 1486 , relative to "over voted" ballots. |
| 1:00 p.m. | HB 1540-FN , relative to ranked-choice voting. |
| 1:30 p.m. | HB 1240 , allowing voters to vote for multiple candidates for an office. |

ENVIRONMENT AND AGRICULTURE, Room 303, LOB

- 10:00 a.m. **HB 1212**, establishing a local option for commercial buildings with environmental liability that are delinquent on property taxes.
- 11:00 a.m. **HB 1238**, relative to animal cruelty and costs of care for such animals.
- 1:00 p.m. **HB 1231-FN-L**, relative to dog licenses.
- 2:00 p.m. **HB 1233**, preempting local regulation of seeds and fertilizer.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION, Room 306, LOB

- 1:30 p.m. **HB 1676-FN**, repealing the licensing requirement for open-air shows and repealing the Laws related to the keeping of billiard tables.

FISH AND GAME AND MARINE RESOURCES, Room 307, LOB

- 1:00 p.m. **HB 1726-FN**, relative to reimbursement to municipalities for certain search and rescue operations.

JUDICIARY, Room 208, LOB

- 10:00 a.m. **HB 1344**, relative to collective bargaining under the right-to-know law.
- 10:30 a.m. **HB 1579-FN**, requiring records to be kept for certain exempt convenings under the right-to-know law.
- 11:00 a.m. **HB 1323**, relative to employment of chief executive officers under the right-to-know law.
- 1:00 p.m. **HB 1347**, relative to information to be included in the minutes under the right-to-know law.
- 1:30 p.m. **HB 1786-L**, prohibiting costs for inspection of governmental records under the right-to-know law.
- 2:00 p.m. **HB 1788-FN-L**, relative to costs charged under the right-to-know law.
- 2:30 p.m. **HB 1789-FN-L**, relative to costs of requests which are in electronic format under the right-to-know law.

MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT, Room 301, LOB

- 9:30 a.m. **HB 1202-L**, relative to town revolving funds for group net metering.
- 10:00 a.m. **HB 1431**, prohibiting the state and political subdivisions from acquiring military-equipped vehicles or equipment which are not readily available in an open national commercial market.
- 10:30 a.m. **HB 1655-L**, relative to fines for violations of town or city code violations.

RESOURCES, RECREATION AND DEVELOPMENT, Room 305, LOB

- 10:00 a.m. **HB 1436**, relative to lakes with shared borders with 2 or more towns.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENERGY, Room 304, LOB

- 1:45 p.m. **HB 1563-L**, relative to taxation of solar energy systems.

WAYS AND MEANS, Room 202, LOB

- 10:00 a.m. **HB 1502**, adding the tax exemption for water and air pollution control facilities to the tax expenditure review.
- 11:30 a.m. **HB 1619**, adding the rehabilitation of tourist lodging to qualifying structures under the community revitalization tax relief incentive program.
- 2:30 p.m. **HB 1381**, relative to determining the taxable value of utility property for local property taxation.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2018

LABOR, INDUSTRIAL AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES, Room 307, LOB

- 10:00 a.m. **HB 1393**, relative to compensation for vacation time and personal time earned.
11:30 a.m. **HB 1417-FN**, relative to failure to make workers' compensation payments.
1:00 p.m. **HB 1451**, relative to employee work schedules and rest periods.

MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT, Room 301, LOB

- 1:00 p.m. **HB 1303**, relative to the purposes of revolving funds in towns.
1:30 p.m. **HB 1366**, authorizing the town meeting to fund capital reserve funds through the operating budget.
2:00 p.m. **HB 1616**, requiring legislative approval for regional planning commissions to accept money from governmental sources other than the state of New Hampshire or its political subdivisions.
2:30 p.m. **HB 1402**, relative to ordinances regarding forestry activities.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 25, 2018

ELECTION LAW, Room 308, LOB

- 10:00 a.m. **HB 1220**, relative to valid identification to obtain a ballot.
10:30 a.m. **HB 1510-FN**, relative to voters using out-of-state drivers' licenses as identification.
11:00 a.m. **HB 1264**, relative to construction of the terms "resident," "inhabitant," "residence," and "residency."
1:00 p.m. **HB 1543**, relative to domicile of students for voting purposes.
2:00 p.m. **HB 1772-FN**, permitting online voting registration.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION, Room 306, LOB

- 1:00 p.m. **HB 1755-FN**, establishing an office of the inspector general.

JUDICIARY, Room 208, LOB

- 10:00 a.m. **HB 1701**, making the Coakley Landfill Group subject to the provisions of RSA 91-A.
1:30 p.m. **HB 1627-FN**, prohibiting the transmission of images or sounds of another person who is on private property or to conduct surveillance activity.
2:00 p.m. **HB 1750-FN**, relative to an expectation of privacy in personal information.
2:30 p.m. **HB 1760-FN**, establishing an expectation of privacy in personal materials.

MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT, Room 301, LOB

- 1:00 p.m. **HB 1307**, relative to the default budget in certain towns.
1:30 p.m. **HB 1396-L**, relative to requirements for a default budget.
2:00 p.m. **HB 1547**, requiring review of default budgets by the department of revenue administration.
2:30 p.m. **HB 1652**, relative to default budgets.

MONDAY, JANUARY 29, 2018

COMMITTEE TO STUDY CERTAIN INVESTMENTS BY MUNICIPALITIES (SB 72, Chapter 37:1, Laws of 2017), Room 102, LOB

- 1:00 p.m. Regular meeting.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 30, 2018

JUDICIARY, Room 208, LOB

10:30 a.m. **CACR 15**, relating to legal actions. Providing that taxpayers have standing to bring actions against the government.

MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT, Room 301, LOB

2:30 p.m. **HB 1533**, relative to expiration of variances and special exceptions.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2018

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION, Room 306, LOB

10:00 a.m. **HB 1427-FN**, relative to membership in the retirement system for certain officials.

10:30 a.m. **HB 1603**, relative to employee representation on the independent investment committee in the New Hampshire retirement system.

2:00 p.m. **HB 1754-FN-L**, establishing a state defined contribution retirement plan for state and political subdivision members of the retirement system.

LABOR, INDUSTRIAL AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES, Room 307, LOB

10:00 a.m. **HB 1462-FN**, relative to health and dental benefits under the workers' compensation law.

10:30 a.m. **HB 1500-FN**, relative to workplace violence, workplace injuries and death in the workplace.

11:00 a.m. **HB 1508-FN**, relative to wage compensation under workers' compensation.

1:00 p.m. **HB 1711-FN**, relative to rehabilitation under the workers' compensation law.

MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT, Room 301, LOB

1:00 p.m. **HB 1211**, relative to presite built housing.

1:30 p.m. **HB 1318**, relative to permits required for certain fires.

2:00 p.m. **HB 1414-FN**, relative to forfeiture fees regarding dog licenses.

2:30 p.m. **HB 1561**, relative to the use of recycled tire rubber at village, town, municipal, and school playgrounds.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2018

MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT, Room 301, LOB

1:00 p.m. **HB 1210**, establishing a committee to study the effect of current use taxation on small and rural municipalities.

1:30 p.m. **HB 1391**, relative to municipal retention of employment files. **NHMA Policy.**

2:00 p.m. **HB 1450**, relative to retention of job applications and personnel files. **NHMA Policy.**

2:30 p.m. **HB 1608**, prohibiting a municipality or school district from compensating an employee on leave of absence.

SENATE CALENDAR

TUESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2018

COMMERCE, Room 100, SH

1:30 p.m. **SB 554-FN**, relative to the minimum hourly rate and employer-sponsored health benefits.

(Senate Calendar— Continued from Page 10)

ELECTION LAW AND INTERNAL AFFAIRS, Room 102, LOB

9:30 a.m. **SB 527-FN-L**, relative to absentee voting.

ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES, Room 103, SH

9:15 a.m. **SB 446**, relative to net energy metering limits for customer-generators.

9:45 a.m. **SB 454**, relative to ambient water quality standards and maximum contaminant levels
For certain perfluorinated chemicals.

10:00 a.m. **SB 309-FN**, relative to standards for perfluorochemicals in drinking water, ambient
groundwater, and surface water.

JUDICIARY, Room 100, SH

10:00 a.m. **SB 557-FN**, establishing a board of housing development appeals.

10:15 a.m. **SB 555-FN-A**, establishing a citizens' right-to-know appeals commission and a right-to-
know law ombudsman and making an appropriation therefor.

TRANSPORTATION, Room 103, LOB

2:00 p.m. **SB 561-FN**, relative to the installation of a traffic light or beacon.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2018

PUBLIC AND MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS, Room 102, LOB

9:00 a.m. **SB 339**, relative to voting by zoning boards of adjustment.

9:40 a.m. **SB 430**, relative to priority of liens for liability for support of assisted persons.

10:00 a.m. **SB 503**, relative to increasing the maximum amount of the optional veterans' tax credit.

10:20 a.m. **SB 506**, limiting amendments to warrant articles.

WAYS AND MEANS, Room 100, SH

9:00 a.m. **SB 403-L**, relative to the exemption for recreational vehicles from property taxation.

10:00 a.m. **SB 405**, enabling municipalities to adopt a separate exemption against the statewide prop-
erty tax for certain long-term residents.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 30, 2018

ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES, Room 103, SH

9:45 a.m. **SB 529-FN**, authorizing river maintenance in the town of Warren.

10:00 a.m. **SB 450-FN-A**, establishing an advisory commission for the department of environ-mental
services relative to the delegation of authority of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimina-
tion System Program.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2018

PUBLIC AND MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS, Room 102, LOB

9:20 a.m. **SB 512**, relative to compact sections of towns.

9:40 a.m. **SB 511**, establishing an optional tax credit for deployed military personnel.

10:00 a.m. **SB 509**, allowing municipalities to require income and expense information of business
properties for tax appraisals.

10:20 a.m. **SB 510**, relative to municipal notice of leases on tax-exempt property.

NEW BILLS

SB 579-FN increases the statutory damage amounts for welfare fraud to align the statute with other felony and misdemeanor crimes involving fraud. Sen. Gray of Rochester; **F-S**.

SB 586-FN-A-LOCAL allows the licensing and operation of 2 video lottery and table gaming facilities. Sen. D'Allesandro of Manchester; **W&M-S**.

SB 587-LOCAL lowers the population requirement from 50,000 to 40,000 for a city or town to collect an additional motor vehicle registration permit fee for the construction, operation, and maintenance of parking facilities. Sen. Feltes of Concord; **W&M-S**.

SENATE FLOOR ACTION

Thursday, January 18, 2018

SB 321, relative to group host net energy metering. **Passed.**


SB 324-FN, allowing an optional retirement system allowance to include a subsequent remarriage of a divorced retiree. **Passed with Amendment.**

SB 328, relative to attorney general membership on certain committees and repealing the criminal justice information system. **Passed.**

SB 336, relative to the judicial district for the towns of Waterville and Livermore. **Passed with Amendment.**

SB 369-FN, relative to the publication of the rulemaking register. **Passed.**

HB 561-FN, relative to contributions by retirement system employers for certain full-time positions changed to part-time or interim employment and relative to enforcement of provisions concerning retired members working part-time after retirement. **Passed with Amendment; referred to F-S.**



<u>2018</u>	<u>Upcoming NHMA Workshops and Webinars</u>
Jan. 24	NHMA Webinar—Preparing for Town Meeting
Feb. 17	2018 Moderators Workshop for Traditional Town Meeting
Feb. 21	NHMA Webinar—Election Law Changes in 2018

Please register online through our website www.nhmunicipal.org. (Scroll down on left to Calendar of Events and click View the Full Calendar)

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