

LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN

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Last Call for Legislative Policy Proposals!

Now that you’ve filed your tax return, the most important deadline on the horizon is **next Friday, April 25**. That is the date by which all legislative policy proposals must be submitted for consideration in NHMA’s biennial policy process.

We know many of you have opinions about laws affecting local government that should be changed, because we hear about them frequently: “There ought to be a law,” or “How are we expected to comply with *that*?” This is your opportunity to do something about it.

Any local official may submit a legislative policy proposal—it does not need to be blessed by your municipality’s governing body. It will, however, get a thorough review by one of NHMA’s legislative policy committees, which are meeting now through May.

[Here is a link](#) to the legislative policy proposal form. For those who receive the *Bulletin* by mail, a copy of the form also appears at the end of this *Bulletin*. You can mail, e-mail, or fax your submission to the address/number indicated at the bottom of the form—or you can hand-deliver it, send it by courier, or use any other mode of delivery that appeals to you.

Thank you in advance for your proposals.

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Bonding for Broadband Infrastructure

HB 286, which allows municipalities to issue bonds for broadband infrastructure, is scheduled for a hearing before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee next **Wednesday, April 23, at 9:15 a.m., in LOB Room 101**.

NHMA supports this bill, which will improve chances for the expansion of broadband service to municipalities where commercial providers have been unwilling to invest. It took two years for the bill to overcome significant opposition and get through the House, and continued opposition is likely in the Senate. If you are interested in this issue, please attend the hearing on Wednesday or contact members of the [committee](#).

Joint Committee Recommends Gas Tax Bill

On Tuesday the joint committee comprising members of the House Public Works and Highways Committee and the House Ways and Means Committee voted 26-11 to recommend Ought to Pass on **SB 367**, which increases the road toll (gas tax) by 4.2 cents beginning July 1, 2014. We have reported extensively on this bill and have provided a [table](#) showing the additional block grant revenue projected for each municipality (starting in state fiscal year 2016, which begins July 1, 2015) and a [summary](#) of how the \$33 million raised annually by this increase will be spent. **All** of the money raised from this 4.2 cent increase goes toward roads and bridges. Specifically, it provides additional funding for

- Local Municipal Block Grants
- Completion of I-93
- Highway betterment program (for rehabilitation and resurfacing of state-owned local roads)
- State aid bridge program (which currently has a 10-year waiting list for state funding).

This is the only legislative proposal that provides any additional funding for roads and bridges in the immediate future.

SB 367 will go to the full House for a vote next week. It is important that the bill pass the House *without any amendments* (we understand there may be floor amendments offered) in order to avoid having to go back to the Senate for further action by that body – a scenario that could well lead to the bill's death. **If you have not yet done so, please contact your representative and urge support of SB 367 exactly as recommended by the joint committee.**

Taxation of Recreational Vehicles

The hoped-for resolution, discussed in [last week's Bulletin](#), on **SB 333**, the bill addressing property taxation of recreational vehicles, hit a bump this week when the draft amendment turned out not to reflect everyone's understanding of the compromise. Another effort will be made when the subcommittee meets again on Tuesday at 11:00 a.m.. We have seen a more recent draft, which provides that:

- 1) an RV is considered personal property, not subject to taxation, if it
 - a. is registered as a motor vehicle,
 - b. is not more than 8'6" wide, and
 - c. either is located on a rented campsite at a recreational campground or camping park, or does not remain in one municipality for more than 45 days except for storage;
- 2) each campground owner will annually provide local assessing authorities with the name and address of each owner of an RV located at the campground; and
- 3) a campground owner will not be responsible for taxes imposed on RVs located at the campground.

We believe (again) this draft is satisfactory to all parties—we will see how things look after Tuesday.

Committee Rejects Condo Notification Bill

The House Municipal and County Government Committee voted 19-1 on Tuesday to recommend killing **SB 237**, the bill that would have re-defined “abutter” for purposes of land use board notices to include all unit owners in an abutting condominium, not just the officers of the association. This is the third time in five years that the committee has heard essentially the same bill, and it is losing ground—it garnered two committee votes on each of the other occasions. We hope the supporters will eventually get the message that the solution is to require more accountability from either the condominium officers or the management company.

DRA Assessment Rules

The Department of Revenue Administration is in the process of amending and re-adopting Rev 600, the administrative rules regarding property assessment contracts. The proposed rule has been filed with the Joint legislative Committee on Administrative Rules and is expected to be on the agenda for an April 25 public hearing before that committee. A copy of the proposed rule is available on the [DRA website](#).

HOUSE CALENDAR

Joint House/Senate Meetings Are Listed Under This Section

MONDAY, APRIL 21

**COMMISSION ON HOUSING POLICY AND REGULATION, (RSA 19-N),
Rooms 302-304, LOB**

10:30 a.m. Regular meeting.

SENATE CALENDAR

TUESDAY, APRIL 22

FINANCE, Room 103, SH

1:15 p.m. **HB 1403-FN**, establishing a state minimum hourly wage.

JUDICIARY, Room 100, SH

9:45 a.m. **HB 1248**, relative to the acceptance of risk in outdoor recreational activities.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23

ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES, Room 101, LOB

9:15 a.m. **HB 286**, relative to broadband infrastructure.

9:45 a.m. **HB 1258**, relative to fill and dredge permitting applications.

PUBLIC AND MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS, Room 102, LOB

9:30 a.m. Hearing on proposed non-germane amendment #2014-1386s to HB 1350, relative to prior public hearings for acceptance of unanticipated funds.

Senate Calendar - continued**TUESDAY, APRIL 29****WAYS AND MEANS, Room 103, SH**

9:15 a.m. **HB 1549**, relative to assessment of renewable generation facility property subject to a voluntary payment in lieu of taxes agreement.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30**ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES, Room 101, LOB**

9:00 a.m. **HB 532**, relative to energy efficiency and clean energy districts.

9:15 a.m. **HB 1383**, relative to municipal monitoring of large groundwater withdrawals.

HOUSE FLOOR ACTION

Wednesday, April 16, 2014

SB 201, relative to marriage registration forms. **Ought to Pass.**

SB 220-FN, relative to the regulation of electricians by the electricians' board. **Ought to Pass; referred to W&M.**

SB 295, prohibiting an employer from using credit history in employment decisions. **Ought to Pass with Amendment.**

SB 376, requiring pooled risk management governing board members to comply with financial disclosure requirements. **Ought to Pass.**

SB 390, (New Title) prohibiting discrimination against employees who are victims of domestic violence and establishing a committee to study the protection of employees from domestic violence. **Ought to Pass; referred to CJ&PS.**

SENATE FLOOR ACTION

Thursday, April 17, 2014

HB 114, relative to abutter access over subdivided land. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

HB 350, prohibiting discrimination against the unemployed. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

HB 466-FN, relative to determining qualifications of voters. **Ought to Pass with Amendment.**

HB 1102, relative to membership of the police standards and training council. **Ought to Pass.**

Senate Floor Action - continued

HB 1109, relative to providing notice to abutters of a petitioned warrant article to discontinue a class VI road. **Ought to Pass.**

HB 1121, repealing the duty of assessors to compile a list of dogs in the town. **Ought to Pass.**

HB 1124, relative to the adoption of zoning ordinances in towns that use official ballot voting. **Ought to Pass with Amendment.**

HB 1130-FN, relative to the Northeastern Interstate Forest Fire Protection Compact. **Ought to Pass.**

HB 1152-FN, terminating the benefit program for call, substitute or volunteer firemen administered by the New Hampshire retirement system. **Ought to Pass.**

HB 1195, establishing a committee to study the impacts of the property tax on New Hampshire's residents, businesses, municipalities, and the economy. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

HB 1229-FN, relative to the oil discharge and gasoline ether cleanup fund. **Ought to Pass.**

HB 1295, relative to the definition of livestock. **Ought to Pass with Amendment.**

HB 1371, relative to grading and improving subdivision streets. **Ought to Pass with Amendment.**

HB 1398-FN, allowing the retirement system to make payments in lieu of payments to estates in certain instances. **Ought to Pass.**

HB 1405, prohibiting an employer from using credit history in employment decisions. **Laid on Table.**

HB 1466, relative to modification of a tax increment financing plan. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

HB 1489-FN-A-L, establishing a committee to study the establishment of a fund to reimburse costs associated with firefighters who have cancer. **Ought to Pass with Amendment.**

HB 1498-FN, relative to wages lost when an employee submits to a medical examination required under workers' compensation law. **Laid on Table.**

HB 1572-FN, establishing a permanent subcommittee of the health and human services oversight committee relative to Alzheimer's disease and other related dementia and requiring certain training and education programs regarding Alzheimer's disease and other related dementia. **Ought to Pass.**

2014 Local Officials Workshops

Presented by NHMA's Legal Services attorneys, the 2014 *Local Officials Workshops* provide elected and appointed municipal officials with the tools and information needed to effectively serve their communities.

This workshop is **for NHMA members only**. Although there is no registration fee, online pre-registration is required one week prior to the event date. Attendees will receive a copy of NHMA's 2014 edition of *Knowing the Territory*. Continental breakfast and lunch will also be provided.

Wednesday, April 23: Veteran's Hall, 937 Route 103, Newbury

Thursday, May 1: Littleton Opera House, 2 Union Street
Littleton

Saturday, May 10: NHMA Offices, 25 Triangle Park
Drive, Concord



Each workshop runs from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm. For more information, or to register online, please visit www.nhmunicipal.org and click on Calendar of Events. If you have other questions, please contact us at 800.852.3358, ext. 3350, or email nhmaregistrations@nhmunicipal.org.