

LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN

Bulletin #4

2015 Session

January 23, 2015

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Restore Funding for Environmental State Aid Grants

Public Hearing Set for Tuesday, January 27

The House Finance Committee will hold a public hearing next week on **HB 376**, an **NHMA policy bill** that seeks to restore funding to the environmental state aid grant program. The hearing is scheduled for **Tuesday, January 27, at 2:30 p.m., in LOB Rooms 210-211.**

Historically, the legislature has supported municipal wastewater, public drinking water and landfill closure projects through the state aid grant (SAG) program administered by the Department of Environmental Services. Pursuant to RSA 486, RSA 486-A, and RSA 149-M, the legislature has, by law, expressly authorized the SAG program to provide grants to municipalities of 20% to 30% of the principal and interest payments on completed and eligible environmental infrastructure projects. However, sufficient funding for the grants has not been included in the state budget in recent years—thus the need for a separate funding bill.

HB 376 calls for an appropriation of approximately \$16.6 million to honor these state infrastructure obligations, which represents slightly over \$9.0 million in fiscal year 2016 and \$7.6 million in fiscal year 2017. There has been no legislative action taken to relieve the state of its statutory responsibility, and this appropriation merely fulfills that responsibility.

Call to Action

We need every member directly affected by the SAG issue to attend this important public hearing and to contact members of the [House Finance Committee](#) and express strong support for **HB 376**.

If you are unable to attend the hearing, we ask that you submit a letter of support addressed to:

NHMA 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



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State Aid Grants - continuedAddress letter of support to:

Honorable Neal Kurk, Chairman
House Finance Committee
Rooms 210-211, Legislative Office Building
Concord, NH 03301

Please copy your letter to the members of the [House Finance Committee](#). It is very important to keep NHMA staff informed about your actions. Please let NHMA's Tim Fortier know of your efforts at governmentaffairs@nhmunicipal.org.

Important Bill on Valuation of Utility Property

The House Municipal and County Government Committee will hear testimony next week on **HB 192**, an **NHMA policy bill** that would prohibit the use of DRA's utility values in appeals of local property tax assessments on utility properties. Many municipalities are dealing with this issue in litigation with the electric utilities. If yours is one of them, you probably know about it; ***please try to attend the hearing or let your representatives and members of the [committee](#) know how important this bill is.***

Briefly, for those unfamiliar with the issue, utility property is subject to local property taxes, and also to a uniform statewide utility property tax (the latter in lieu of the statewide education property tax that all other taxpayers pay). For purposes of the utility property tax, the Department of Revenue Administration determines the value of the utility property. Some municipalities rely on the DRA value for their own local property tax purposes, but most do their own appraisals.

In recent years, the electric utilities have filed many appeals of their local property assessments with the Board of Tax and Land Appeals. In those appeals, they have introduced the DRA values (which are usually lower than the values determined locally, because DRA uses a different valuation method), and the BTLA has begun to allow those values as evidence. This is a serious problem because DRA is not permitted (we're told) to disclose its appraisal to the municipality and is not available for depositions or cross-examination. This leaves municipalities to dispute a valuation with no information about where it came from.

If a utility wants to challenge the municipality's appraisal, it should do its own appraisal that can then be tested in court (or in the BTLA), just as any other taxpayer would do. The utilities have their own appraisal experts who are more than competent, so it is not appropriate for them to rely on the opinion of an absent third party (DRA) that is not able to disclose its method. **HB 192** would solve that problem by prohibiting the use of DRA's values in any appeal.

The hearing is scheduled for **Tuesday, January 27, at 10:00 a.m., in LOB Room 301.**

Bill Seeks 2013 Flood Control Reimbursement

The House Finance Committee will hear testimony next **Tuesday, January 27, 2015 at 1:00 p.m. in LOB Room 210-211** on **HB 176**, relative to the payment in lieu of taxes owed to the 18 municipalities in the Merrimack and Connecticut Rivers flood control compacts for fiscal year 2013. This **NHMA policy bill** seeks an appropriation of \$542,672 for this reimbursement.

This is a bit of unfinished business from last year. The background is this: the two flood control compacts were created several decades ago to protect land in Massachusetts, Connecticut, and southern New Hampshire. Eighteen municipalities gave up land to create that system in exchange for a promise that they would receive payments from Connecticut and Massachusetts, as well as from New Hampshire, to make up for the lost property taxes they would otherwise receive on the surrendered land.

Unfortunately, collecting from those other states, especially Massachusetts, proved difficult, but until 2012, New Hampshire ensured that the affected municipalities received their full share, even when Connecticut and Massachusetts did not pay. In 2012 and 2013, however, the state paid only its own share (about 30 percent) of the PILOT, leaving the 18 municipalities “high and dry.” Last year, the legislature partially redressed this wrong by appropriating money to pay the shortfall for 2012; it also included money for the full PILOT for fiscal years 2014 and 2015, leaving only the 2013 bill unpaid. **HB 176** would make the municipalities whole for 2013.

Municipalities involved in these flood control compacts are urged to attend the hearing in support of this bill!

Bill Ensures Tax Payments by Medical Marijuana Centers

A number of municipalities have received expressions of interest in the last several months about opening facilities for the cultivation, manufacture, and sale of medical marijuana, officially known as alternative treatment centers (ATCs). Along the line, rules proposed by the Department of Health and Human Services raised concerns that ATCs might qualify for exemption from property taxes, a disturbing prospect for municipalities that already have doubts about hosting these facilities.

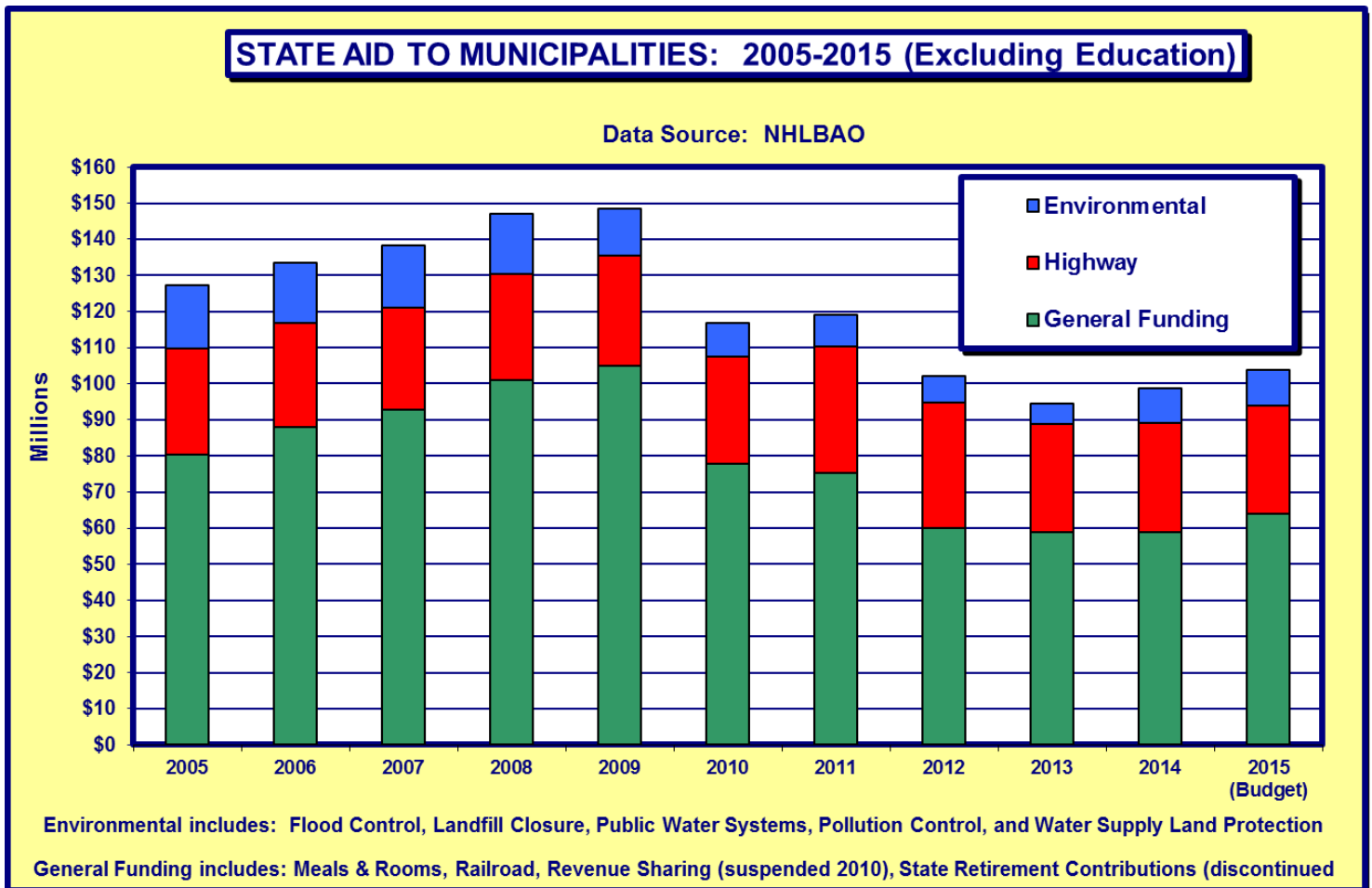
SB 54 addresses that concern by providing that if an ATC is exempt from property taxation under RSA 72:23, the ATC must make payments in lieu of taxes to the municipality in the amount that would be payable if the property were owned by a non-exempt owner. The bill is scheduled for a hearing before the Senate Public and Municipal Affairs Committee next **Wednesday, April 28, at 10:30 a.m., in LOB Room 102**. If your municipality is a prospective host for an ATC, please consider attending the hearing to support the bill.

Aid to Municipalities an Easy Target for Some State Agencies

Several state agencies quickly put aid to municipalities on the table for possible cuts as they met with the House Finance Committee this week. While awaiting the presentation of the Governor’s budget next month, House and Senate budget-writing and revenue-estimating committees have begun preliminary work by being briefed on a variety of topics, including high-level overviews of agency budget requests. The House Finance Committee poses a list of standard questions to each agency, one of which asks for “options available to the state to decrease FY 2016-2017 budget appropriations from the FY 2014-2015 levels.”

Surprisingly—or maybe not—the first things offered up were not state agency funds at all, but aid to municipalities contained in agency budgets, including revenue sharing, the meals and rooms tax distribution catch-up funds, and the FEMA match enacted last year in [SB 409](#). The agency-level requests for state aid environmental grants are already budgeted at \$1.1 million less for fiscal year 2016 due to the funding moratorium on those grants enacted in the 2014-2015 biennial state budget.

What we find wrong here is the lack of recognition that these monies represent statutory state aid programs enacted by the legislature that just happen to be “parked” in the agency budgets for accounting purposes. *These are not discretionary department funds* intended to be used to meet operating budget cuts, but that is exactly how some agencies treat them! As we all know, over the past few years municipalities have experienced dramatic reductions in state aid, as illustrated in the graph below. Fortunately, it is very early in the process, and while crafting a balanced state budget is a daunting task for these legislative committees, we will ensure that each committee member recognizes the importance of both the state-local financial partnership and maintaining state aid to municipalities.



Speaker Creates Special Committee on Public Employee Pension Plans

A special House committee has been created to review proposed legislation relative to the New Hampshire Retirement System (NHRS) and to study alternative public pension programs. The organizational meeting of the committee occurred this morning, with presentations by the NHRS and by the Attorney General's Office relative to the recent Supreme Court decisions upholding the statutory pension changes enacted in Chapter 300, Laws of 2008 (HB 1645), and Chapter 224, Laws of 2011 (HB 2). See NHMA's policy regarding the NHRS on page 9 of our [2015-2016 Legislative Policy Positions](#) booklet.

On **Friday, January 30, 2015, at 10:00 a.m., in LOB Room 104**, the committee will hear testimony on **HB 369**, which proposes to establish a defined contribution retirement plan for public employees hired after November 1, 2015.

Clarification on House Executive Sessions

In a recent *Bulletin*, we mentioned that the House seemed to have changed its procedure to allow committees to hold executive sessions on previously heard bills without posting notice of which bills would be taken up during those sessions. We received a clarification this week: committees will hold these "generic" executive sessions only on bills they have heard earlier *the same day*. If a bill seems to be fairly simple and does not require several days or weeks for the committee to consider it and obtain more information, it may "exec" on the bill the same day as the hearing, without previously posting notice that it will do so. However, when a committee is going to take action on one or more bills at a later date, it will identify the specific bills when it posts notice of the executive session.

HOUSE CALENDAR

Joint House/Senate Meetings Are Listed Under This Section

TUESDAY, JANUARY 27

CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY, Room 204, LOB

- 10:00 a.m. **HB 214-FN**, relative to circumstances under which a police officer's certification may be revoked.
- 1:45 p.m. **HB 240**, prohibiting law enforcement agencies from using a drone to collect evidence.
- 2:30 p.m. **HB 287**, allowing citizens to record by audio or video a traffic stop by law enforcement officers.

ELECTION LAW, Room 308, LOB

- 10:30 a.m. **HB 328**, relative to delivery of absentee ballots.
- 10:45 a.m. **HB 340**, relative to appointing undeclared voters as inspectors of election.
- 11:00 a.m. **HB 355**, relative to pre-election tests of ballot counting devices.
- 11:15 a.m. **HB 112**, relative to domicile for voting purposes.
- 1:00 p.m. **HB 320**, relative to removal of certain campaign materials at the polling place.
- 1:15 p.m. **HB 312**, relative to registration of voters.

House Calendar - continued**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION, Room 306, LOB**

- 1:45 p.m. **HB 139-FN**, relative to an emergency exception under the New Hampshire retirement system for certain part-time employment.
- 2:15 p.m. **HB 182**, establishing a committee to study alternative public employee retirement plans.

FINANCE, Rooms 210-211, LOB

- 1:00 p.m. **HB 176-FN-A-L**, relative to towns affected by the Merrimack River flood control compact and the Connecticut River flood control compact and making an appropriation therefor. **NHMA Policy.**
- 2:30 p.m. **HB 376-FN-A**, appropriating funds to the department of environmental services for the purpose of funding eligible and completed drinking water, wastewater, and landfill closure projects under the state aid grant program. **NHMA Policy.**

JUDICIARY, Room 208, LOB

- 10:00 a.m. **HB 290**, relative to the acceptance of risk in outdoor recreational activities.
- 11:00 a.m. **HB 292**, expanding the good Samaritan law to engineers and architects.

LABOR, INDUSTRIAL AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES, Room 307, LOB

- 10:15 a.m. **HB 324**, relative to membership in a union.
- 11:00 a.m. **HB 267-FN**, requiring employers to verify an employee's eligibility to work in the United States.
- 1:30 p.m. **HB 365**, prohibiting an employer from using credit history in employment decisions.

MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT, Room 301, LOB

- 10:00 a.m. **HB 192**, relative to the valuation of utility property. **NHMA Policy.**
- 10:20 a.m. **HB 193**, relative to utility assessments for the use of village district roads.
- 10:40 a.m. **HB 186**, enabling the department of environmental services and the town of New Ipswich to negotiate an agreement regarding the encroachment of the town cemetery on state land.
- 11:00 a.m. **HB 275**, relative to the encroachment of a town cemetery on state-owned land.
- 1:45 p.m. **HB 191**, relative to projects which are privately financed in energy efficiency and clean energy districts.

RESOURCES, RECREATION AND DEVELOPMENT, Room 305, LOB

- 11:00 a.m. **HB 254**, relative to exceptions to restrictions on boating.
- 1:45 p.m. **HB 272**, designating the Ham Branch watershed in Easton as a protected river and exempting the Ham Branch watershed from the comprehensive shoreland protection act.

TRANSPORTATION, Room 203, LOB

- 2:00 p.m. **HB 260**, relative to the definition of antique motor vehicle or motorcycle.

House Calendar - continued**WAYS AND MEANS, Room 202, LOB**

- 10:00 a.m. **HB 258-FN-L**, relative to fees for preparing motor vehicle registration documents.
- 10:30 a.m. **HB 278**, relative to town clerk fees for fill and dredge permit applications.
- 11:00 a.m. **HB 359**, allowing municipalities in Carroll county to offer property tax exemptions to foster commercial and industrial construction.
- 11:30 a.m. **CACR 1**, Relating to taxation. Providing that a 3/5 vote is required to pass legislation imposing new or increased taxes or license fees, or to authorize the issuance of state bonds and providing that the general court shall appropriate funds for payment of interest and installments of principal of all state bonds.
- 1:00 p.m. **HB 314**, establishing a commission to study the charitable status of certain nonprofit organizations for purposes of state and local taxation.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29**CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY, Room 204, LOB**

- 11:00 a.m. **HB 263**, prohibiting residency restrictions on sex offenders.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION, Room 306, LOB

- 2:00 p.m. **HB 286**, relative to permits issued by building inspectors.

MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT, Room 301, LOB

- 11:00 a.m. **HB 341**, relative to eligibility in a municipality for the property tax for the disabled.
- 11:20 a.m. **HB 344**, relative to membership on advisory boards for municipal economic development and revitalization districts and relative to the financing plan of such districts.
- 11:40 a.m. **HB 288-L**, relative to the code for energy conservation in new building construction.
- 1:00 p.m. **HB 125-FN-L**, relative to county audits and competitive bidding for county services.

RESOURCES, RECREATION AND DEVELOPMENT, Room 305, LOB

- 10:30 a.m. **HB 306**, relative to membership of the wetlands council and the water council.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 30**SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PENSION PLANS,
Room 104, LOB**

- 10:00 a.m. **HB 369-FN-A-LOCAL**, establishing a defined contribution retirement plan for public employees.

House Calendar - continued**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3****JUDICIARY, Room 208, LOB**

11:00 a.m. **HB 285**, relative to discussion with legal counsel under the right-to-know law. **NHMA Policy**.

WAYS AND MEANS, Room 202, LOB

10:00 a.m. **CACR 2**, Relating to dedicated funds. Providing that funds shall be used solely for the purpose of the fund.

2:00 p.m. **HB 222-FN**, exempting certain homeowners over 80 years of age from the statewide education tax.

SENATE CALENDAR**TUESDAY, JANUARY 27****FINANCE, Room 103, SH**

2:00 p.m. **SB 13**, relative to the disposition of dedicated funds.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28**ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES, Room 100, SH**

9:30 a.m. **SB 196-FN-A-L**, appropriating funds to the department of environmental services for the purpose of funding eligible water supply land protection costs under the state aid grant program.

9:45 a.m. **SB 229-FN-A**, appropriating funds to the department of environmental services for the purpose of restoring and protecting waters of the south-east watershed in accordance with EPA guidelines.

PUBLIC AND MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS, Room 102, LOB

9:45 a.m. **SB 77-L**, authorizing the creation of a special purpose village district within the town of Danbury.

10:00 a.m. **SB 79**, relative to appointment of inspectors of election.

10:15 a.m. **SB 98**, relative to third party review required by the planning board.

10:30 a.m. **SB 54**, relative to property tax payments by therapeutic cannabis alternative treatment centers.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29**JUDICIARY, Representatives' Hall, SH**

1:00 p.m. **SB 116-FN**, repealing the license requirement for carrying a concealed pistol or revolver.

RULES, ENROLLED BILLS AND INTERNAL AFFAIRS, Room 100, SH

12:30 p.m. The committee will meet for the introduction of late bills.

NEW BILLS

House Bills

[HB 285](#) modifies the exclusion for consultations with legal counsel under the right-to-know law. Rep. Bickford of New Durham; **JUD-H. NHMA Policy.**

[HB 286](#) prohibits a building inspector from issuing a building permit that conflicts with deed restrictions. Rep. Bickford of New Durham; **ED&A-H.**

[HB 287](#) allows citizens to record by audio or video a traffic stop by law enforcement officers. Rep. Bickford of New Durham; **CJ&PS.**

[HB 288-LOCAL](#) permits municipalities to decide whether to enforce the code for energy conservation in new building construction and permits an individual to choose to be exempt from the code. Rep. Groen of Rochester; **M&CG.**

[HB 289](#) requires municipalities with populations between 500 and 15,000 to include energy consumption statistics in their annual reports. Rep. Mann of Alstead; **M&CG.**

[HB 290](#) provides that persons who engage in outdoor recreational activities accept the dangers inherent in such activities and shall not maintain a legal action against an owner for resulting injuries. Rep. R. Brown of Sugar Hill; **JUD-H.**

[HB 292](#) grants civil immunity to licensed engineers and architects rendering assistance in an emergency, under the direction of state or local emergency management officials, in the absence of gross negligence or willful misconduct. Rep. Chandler of Bartlett; **JUD-H.**

[HB 295](#) repeals the law authorizing a municipal housing authority to enter into an agreement with the municipality for the construction of parking facilities. Rep. Cheney of Dover; **M&CG.**

[HB 297](#) protects individual customer data from disclosure by a service provider that receives such data as a result of electric, natural gas, or water consumption. Rep. Kurk of Weare; **ST&E.**

[HB 306](#) reduces the membership of the wetlands council and the water council. Rep. Gottling of Sunapee; **RR&D.**

[HB 312](#) establishes a deed or lease as presumptive evidence of domicile for persons registering to vote. Rep. Pitre of Farmington; **EL.**

[HB 313](#) permits cities to hold municipal elections on biennial election day. Rep. Pitre of Farmington; **M&CG.**

New Bills - continued

[HB 314](#) establishes a commission to study the charitable status of certain nonprofit organizations for purposes of state and local taxation. Rep. P. Brown of Nashua; **W&M-H**.

[HB 320](#) authorizes the moderator to remove vulgar, sexual, or disturbing campaign materials at the polling places. Rep. Infantine of Manchester; **EL**.

[HB 324](#) permits the members of a union to vote to decertify the union if membership falls below 50 percent, and permits an employer to require such a vote. Rep. Pitre of Farmington; **LABOR**.

[HB 328](#) allows an absentee voter to have a family member deliver the marked ballot to the city or town clerk. Rep. Marston of Manchester; **EL**.

[HB 331](#) allows appointment of selectmen pro tem to perform the duties of absent selectmen on election day. Rep. D. McGuire of Epsom; **M&CG**.

[HB 335](#) provides for the disposition of rangeways and establishes a committee to study the issue. Rep. Wright of Moultonborough; **M&CG**.

[HB 339](#) allows the governing body of a municipality to transfer surplus funds from the town reclamation trust fund to one or more capital reserve funds, and allows the governing body to expend such funds. Rep. Pitre of Farmington; **M&CG**.

[HB 340](#) authorizes selectmen to appoint undeclared voters as inspectors of election if the full complement of appointments cannot be made from party members. Rep. P. Long of Manchester; **EL**.

[HB 341](#) allows a town or city to require that an applicant for the property tax exemption for the disabled be a resident of the town or city for 5 years. Rep. P. Long of Manchester; **M&CG**.

[HB 344](#) permits the legislative body of a municipality to increase or decrease appropriations in a tax increment financing (TIF) plan, and modifies the requirement that a majority of members of a TIF district advisory board be owners or occupants of real property within or adjacent to the district. Rep. Sterling of Jaffrey; **M&CG**.

[HB 348](#) enables municipalities to adopt a property tax credit for persons age 65 and older to the extent the taxpayer's tax bill exceeds 10 percent of the taxpayer's income, subject to maximum income and asset amounts. Rep. Myler of Hopkinton; **M&CG**.

[HB 349](#) requires the department of environmental services to consider impacts to wetland buffers before granting permits for filling and dredging in wetlands. Rep. Spang of Durham; **RR&D**.

New Bills - continued

[HB 350](#) establishes a commission to study the impacts of the property tax on New Hampshire's residents, businesses, municipalities, and economy. Rep. Spang of Durham; **W&M-H**.

[HB 355](#) requires that pre-election tests of ballot counting devices be completed 2 weeks prior to the election. Rep. P. Long of Manchester; **EL**.

[HB 359](#) extends the optional commercial and industrial construction property tax exemption in Coos county to municipalities in Carroll county for 5 years. Rep. F. McCarthy of Conway; **W&M-H**.

[HB 362](#) modifies requirements for the removal of hazardous trees. Rep. Murotake of Nashua; **ST&E**.

[HB 365](#) prohibits employers from using credit history in employment decisions, with an exemption for state and local government agencies. Rep. Cushing of Hampton; **LABOR**.

[HB 368](#) allows a land use applicant to select a professional engineer for review and consultation to the planning board as a condition of the applicant's liability for the professional engineer's expenses. Rep. Butler of Hart's Location; **M&CG**.

[HB 369-FN-A-LOCAL](#) establishes a defined contribution retirement plan for public employees and requires the issuance of a request for proposals for plan administration. Rep. C. McGuire of Epsom; **Special Committee on Public Employee Pension Plans**.

[HB 370-LOCAL](#) enables counties and municipalities to establish minimum wage rates for all individuals employed within such county or town. Rep. Robertson of Keene; **LABOR**.

[HB 374](#) permits motor-driven cycles and bicycles to turn left or proceed straight through an intersection after stopping for a red light when a detection device does not detect the vehicle. Rep. Beaudoin of Rochester; **TRANS-H**.

[HB 376-FN-A](#) appropriates funds to the department of environmental services for the purpose of funding state aid grant programs for water pollution control and public water systems. Rep. Buco of Conway; **F-H. NHMA Policy**.

[HB 392-FN](#) establishes a state minimum hourly wage to be adjusted by the cost of living index. Rep. White of Lebanon; **LABOR**.

[HB 396-FN](#) increases the annual hourly limit on part-time employment of a retired member of the New Hampshire retirement system from 1,300 to 1,664 hours and removes the weekly limit. Rep. Tholl of Whitefield; **ED&A-H**.

[HB 397](#) prohibits municipal officers and employees from delegating their duties and obligations. Rep. Marple of Hooksett; **M&CG**.

New Bills - continued

[HB 402-FN](#) prohibits collective bargaining agreements that require employees to join or pay dues or fees to a labor union. Rep. W. O'Brien of New Boston; **LABOR**.

[HB 406](#) changes the date of the state primary election to the first Tuesday in June. Rep. J. Sweeney of Salem; **EL**.

[HB 407](#) prohibits state agencies and political subdivisions from acquiring military-equipped vehicles that are not readily available in an open national commercial market. Rep. Hoell of Bow; **M&CG**.

[HB 414-FN](#) prohibits the idling of a commuter rail locomotive, and authorizes local law enforcement agencies to enforce the prohibition, with fines of up to \$2,000 to be paid to the enforcing municipality. Rep. Major of Plaistow; **TRANS-H**.

[HB 415](#) limits the liability of out-of-state emergency services entities responding to incidents in New Hampshire. Rep. White of Lebanon; **JUD-H. NHMA Policy**.

[HB 427](#) updates the statutory definition of the New Hampshire fire code by adopting the 2015 editions of the Life Safety Code and the Uniform Fire Code NFPA1. Rep. Ladd of Haverhill; **ED&A-H**.

[HB 430](#) extends eligibility for the veteran's property tax credit to all veterans who have been honorably discharged or officers honorably separated from service. Rep. F. Rice of Hampton; **M&CG**.

[HB 432](#) establishes guidelines for determining which marks on a ballot constitute a vote and requires an instruction on ballots regarding requesting a new ballot. Rep. D. McGuire of Epsom; **EL**.

[HB 436](#) provides that a law enforcement officer who makes a false statement in a criminal complaint may be prosecuted for false swearing. Rep. Itse of Fremont; **CJ&PS**.

[HB 444-LOCAL](#) exempts from the assessment of school district taxes any person who has paid school taxes and resided at a principal place of residence in this state for at least 36 consecutive years. Rep. Hansen of Amherst; **M&CG**.

[HB 451](#) requires certain exempt mining activities to receive local approval for such activities. Rep. Sterling of Jaffrey; **M&CG. NHMA Policy**.

[HB 460](#) establishes a commission to study revenue alternatives to the road toll for the funding of the state's highways and bridges. Rep. Cloutier of Claremont; **PW**.

[HB 463](#) prohibits state agencies and political subdivisions from asserting the attorney-client privilege in response to a request for information by the legislative budget assistant. Rep. Leishman of Peterborough; **F-H**.

New Bills - continued

[HB 464](#) establishes the fishing family protection act, prohibiting local governments from adopting ordinances declaring commercial or recreational operations of fishing families as nuisances or which unreasonably force the closure of such operations. Rep. Cushing of Hampton; **M&CG**.

[HB 468-FN](#) regulates the governmental use of electronic devices to obtain location information. Rep. Kurk of Weare; **ED&A-H**.

[HB 469](#) limits the use of data obtained through highway surveillance. Rep. Kurk of Weare; **TRANS-H**.

[HB 475](#) prohibits public servants from engaging in acts of civil forfeiture. Rep. Marple of Hooksett; **ED&A-H**.

[HB 486](#) allows a town or city to establish one or more special assessment districts to provide public facilities and services and for which special assessments and charges may be levied and collected to pay for those public facilities and services. Rep. Carson of Warner; **M&CG**.

[HB 487](#) requires that planning board and zoning board of adjustment members be elected. Rep. Comeau of Brookfield; **M&CG**.

[HB 492](#) requires military and historic re-enactors to obtain permission from the fire department and comply with the state fire code for re-enactments, military commemorations, and similar activities within the compact area of a city or town. Rep. Welch of Kingston; **CJ&PS**.

[HB 493](#) establishes separate minimum voting booth requirements for state elections and for municipal elections. Rep. Hansberry of Nashua; **EL**.

[HB 496-FN-LOCAL](#) prohibits employers from inquiring into or considering the criminal record of an applicant for employment during the initial application process. Rep. Heffron of Exeter; **LABOR**.

[HB 497](#) makes changes to the law on interference with a cemetery burial plot. Rep. Jones of Rochester; **M&CG**.

Senate Bills

[SB 107-FN](#) prohibits collective bargaining agreements that require employees to join or contribute to a labor union. Sen. Reagan of Deerfield; **COM-S**.

[SB 116-FN](#) increases the length of time for which a license to carry a pistol or revolver is valid, and allows a person to carry a loaded, concealed pistol or revolver without a license unless the person is otherwise prohibited by New Hampshire statute. Sen. Bradley of Wolfeboro; **JUD-S**.

New Bills - continued

[SB 126-FN](#) prohibits the placement of political signs in public rights-of-way. Sen. Soucy of Manchester; **PMA**.

[SB 129-FN](#) allows a retired member of the retirement system to change an optional allowance after the 120-day grace period and redesignate the nonelection or election of an optional allowance where the executive director finds that circumstances require the change. Sen. Cataldo of Farmington; **ED&A-S**.

[SB 164](#) establishes three-year terms for the retirement system's independent investment committee members and requires one member of the investment committee to be an active member trustee. Sen. Watters of Dover; **ED&A-S**.

[SB 175](#) authorizes municipalities to enact ordinances that address blighted property. Sen. Boutin of Hooksett; **PMA**.

[SB 179](#) requires that a voter be a resident of the state and county for at least 30 days. Sen. Carson of Londonderry; **PMA**.

[SB 186](#) reestablishes the commission to study soft tissue injuries for purposes of workers' compensation and to study the feasibility of developing a first responder's critical injury fund, and extends the first responder's critical injury benefit to make awards of additional workers' compensation for group II retirement system members who suffer certain medical conditions until June 30, 2017. Sen. Soucy of Manchester; **COM-S**.

[SB 191-FN](#) provides for expansion of the state's procurement card services to include municipalities, and provides for a portion of any rebates from contracts for procurement card services to be deposited into a fund to reduce the state retirement system's unfunded liability. Sen. Stiles of Hampton; **ED&A-S**.

[SB 196-FN-A-LOCAL](#) appropriates funds to the department of environmental services for the purpose of funding eligible public water supply land protection costs under the state aid grant program. Sen. Fuller Clark of Portsmouth; **ENR. NHMA Policy**.

[SB 207-FN](#) eliminates the requirement that moderators at state and local elections take photographs of voters who do not present photo identification. Sen. Pierce of Hanover; **PMA**.

[SB 229-FN-A](#) appropriates funds to the department of environmental services for the purpose of restoring and protecting waters of the southeast watershed in accordance with EPA guidelines. Sen. Fuller Clark of Portsmouth; **ENR**.

[SB 230-FN-LOCAL](#) permits the department of transportation to establish seasonal speed limits on state roads under certain conditions, subject to implementation by the local governing body. Sen. Stiles of Hampton; **TRANS-S**.

2015 Town & School Moderators Workshops

SB 2 Meeting

Saturday, January 17

(Snow date: Saturday, January 24)

Traditional Meeting

Saturday, February 21

(Snow date: Saturday, February 28)

9 a.m.—12:30 p.m. 25 Triangle Park Drive, Concord, NH

Cost: \$40

Registration and continental breakfast begin at 8:30 a.m.

Attendees will receive a copy of NHMA's 2014 edition Town Meeting and School Meeting Handbook and a copy of the 2015 supplement.

Topics include:

The Basic Law of Town, Village District and School District Meeting

Statutes governing the moderator's duties at town, village district and school district meetings will be discussed along with issues related to warrant articles, the operating budget, secret ballot voting and other town meeting issues. These topics will be addressed in two concurrent sessions tailored for new and experienced moderators. Ample time will be devoted to questions and answers.

Strategies for Running a Smooth Meeting

Moderators are faced with a challenging task: keeping meetings focused and fair to all participants, while effectively facilitating the flow of debate. This session will highlight suggested strategies for running respectful and efficient meetings.

Sample Scenarios

A series of sample scenarios will help attendees prepare for a wide range of meeting challenges.



Register online at www.nhmunicipal.org under CALENDAR OF EVENTS. Online pre-registration required one week prior to each date. *Space is limited.*

Questions? Call 800.852.3358, ext. 3350 or email NHMAregistrations@nhmunicipal.org