



REPUBLICAN REVIEW

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER THE NEW HAMPSHIRE HOUSE MAJORITY OFFICE

Election Law Reform Bills Pass

CONCORD- House Majority Leader Richard “Dick” Hinch (R-Merrimack) issued the following statement relative to the passage of election law reform legislation in the House, seeking to strengthen the integrity of our state elections.

“Republicans in the House are proud to contribute to the effort to maintain New Hampshire’s electoral integrity. The passage of several bills today are an important step in making sure our state continues to have open and honest elections by clarifying and enhancing our election laws to prevent drive-by voting. I look forward to working with our colleagues in the Senate to get these and other important bills to the Governor’s desk this year.

“When our statewide elections are being decided by fractions of a percent, and some state legislative elections being decided by single digit margins, it is our duty to make sure every ballot is cast by a duly eligible voter.”

Related bills that passed the New Hampshire House on Wednesday, March 8th:

HB 372, relative to construction of the terms “resident,” “inhabitant,” “residence,” and “residency. Passed by a vote of 188-163. (This bill modifies the general statutory definitions of "resident or inhabitant" and "residence or residency.")

HB 430, relative to recording voters’ out-of-state drivers’ licenses. Passed by a vote of 187-160.

(This bill requires that information on the use of out-of-state drivers' licenses and nondrivers' identification cards be recorded in the statewide centralized voter registration database.)

HB 552-FN, relative to the investigation of undeliverable voter verification letters. Passed by a vote of 181-163. (This bill requires the secretary of state to investigate a letter of identity verification and driver's obligation if the letter is returned as undeliverable or if the recipient fails to respond.)

Democrat Sponsored Election Law bills killed by the New Hampshire House on Wednesday, March 8th:

HB 348-FN, relative to registering to vote. Killed by a vote of 191-159 (This bill authorizes the division of motor vehicles to receive voter registration forms with driver's license applications.)



Rep. Griffin debates Election Law Reform on the floor.

SESSION NOTICE:

The next House session will be Thursday, March 23rd, 2017, at 10:00 a.m.

Please Note: For planning purposes, there will be no legislative activity scheduled on Tuesday, March 14th, Town Meeting Day.

“Popular Vote” Bill Not So Popular in NH House

House Majority Leader Richard “Dick” Hinch (R-Merrimack) issued the following statement relative to the defeat of HB 447, relative to allocating Electoral College electors based on the national popular vote. The bill was defeated by a vote of 234-132

“We’re pleased the House rejected Democrat sponsored legislation that would have diminished New Hampshire’s role in the presidential election process by award our electors based on the national popular vote. We pride ourselves in our ability to vet candidates, and to be among the small number of battleground states that regularly help decide who becomes president. With a popular vote, we’d lose that influence.”

House Approves “Croydon Bill”

3 Democrats joined with 98% of House Republicans to pass HB557, relative to school attendance in towns with no public schools, by a vote of 186-163.

House Education Committee Chair Rick Ladd (R-Haverhill):

“There is no provision in our constitution or on the long line of Claremont cases that only public schools are constitutionally adequate. Private schools which are one of the options that a school district such as Croydon could send their students to are also adequate schools. Private schools provide an opportunity for many students that they have not been able to find in the public schools. But more than that, private schools are supported adamantly by parents, if parents weren’t sending their kids to a private school that would mean it’s not a good school. A lot of public schools that are noted as adequate but are failing as well as private schools and this presents the choice the choice of the school district that doesn’t have certain grade to tuition their students to a school that provides a great education, not just an adequate one. It may be a private school but it may also be a public one. Addressing the issue of access cost, the contract between the sending school and the receiving school is established by the school board. They negotiate the contract for the tuition of the student. That’s the amount of money that is paid to the receiving school by the school district. Parents don’t have to pay for anything.”

“This bill is a little different than the bill we had come through here last year that passed both the house and the senate but was then rejected by the Governor. This bill deals with only non-sectarian private schools. This bill has statutory language establishing what approval for attendance is so it can’t be changed. This bill will make it so students can go to an accredited private school that has to pass standards ensuring that the students will get a quality education and teaching to standards.”

“In conclusion this bill provides opportunity, it provides choice, its local control, and it provides kids the right fit for an education. This bill empowers parents and local officials to make the decision and it provides fairness. Where would you choose to send your child to, a failing public school or a successful private school? They’re only going to be this young once let’s provide them with the best educational opportunity possible.”

The Senate version of the bill, SB8, passed the Senate on Feb 23rd and is scheduled for a public hearing in the House Education committee on March 15th.

Gender Identity Bill Remains Tabled

HB478, prohibiting discrimination based on gender identity, also known as the “Bathroom Bill”, was tabled by the House on Thursday by a vote of 187-179. Efforts to remove the bill from the table later in the day proved unsuccessful, failing by a vote of 168-180. With the bill on the table, and the deadline to act on bills not going to a 2nd committee now having passed (March 9), a two-thirds majority vote would be necessary to act on the bill.

Remaining House Deadlines

Thursday marked the last day for the House to act on bills not going to a 2nd committee. Here are the deadlines through the end of the regular session:

Thursday, March 16, 2017

Last day to report all HBs, except budget bills

Last day to report list of retained HBs

Thursday, March 23, 2017

Last day to act on all HBs, except budget bills

Thursday, March 30, 2017

Last day to report budget bills

Thursday, April 6, 2017

BUDGET CROSSOVER

Last day to act on budget bills

Thursday, April 27, 2017

Last day to report Senate Bills going to a 2nd committee

Thursday, May 4, 2017

Last day to act on SBs going to a 2nd committee

Thursday, May 25, 2017

Last day to report all remaining SBs

Last day to report list of retained SBs

Thursday, June 1, 2017

Last day to act on SBs

Thursday, June 8, 2017

Last day to form Committees of Conference

Thursday, June 15, 2017

Last day to sign Committee of Conference reports

Thursday, June 22, 2017

Last day to act on Committee of Conference reports

What does the Repeal and Replace Bill in the US Congress Mean to Medicaid Expansion?

According to a report [by Reuters](#),

“Under Obamacare, more than 30 states, including several Republican states, made the Medicaid government health insurance more accessible to the poor. About half of Obamacare enrollees obtained insurance through the expansion.

The bill would allow the Medicaid expansion to continue until January 1, 2020, providing states that chose not to expand under Obamacare a window to enroll more people. After that date, the expansion would end and Medicaid funding would be capped on a per-person basis.

States that did not expand Medicaid would receive additional funds through a number of changes, including the reinstatement of disproportionate share hospital payments, money that is provided to hospitals that serve a large number of Medicaid and uninsured people.

State Medicaid plans would no longer have to cover the same essential health benefits that health insurers on Obamacare’s exchanges must provide. That fulfills a Republican promise to return more control to the states, as they can decide what their Medicaid plans must cover.”

According to a report by Avik Roy of [The Apothecary on Forbes.com](#):

“First, it phases down Obamacare’s Medicaid expansion. States would retain the option to maintain a larger Medicaid program, but the federal government would only fund around 60 percent of the cost, compared to 90 percent under the ACA. That’s a fair way of balancing the interests of states that expanded Medicaid, and want to maintain that expansion, and states that did not, and don’t want to be punished for their fiscal restraint.”

Second, it overhauls the pre-Obamacare Medicaid program, by converting it into a system of per-capita subsidies, in which states would receive a fixed dollar amount for each Medicaid enrollee resident within their borders, which they could then use to fund a safety-net health insurance program that they would design and administer.”

The size of the per-capita subsidies would be calculated based on average state spending on key Medicaid subpopulations. The per-capita subsidies would grow at rate of the “medical care component of the consumer price index for all urban consumers” (CPI-M) plus one percent; the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services predict that CPI-M will grow at 4.2 percent from 2017 to 2025.”

Duly Noted: House Rule 63

With the exception of devices for the hearing impaired, no member shall operate audible electronic transmitting and/or receiving devices nor shall any member operate a video camera or a camera utilizing flash bulbs on the floor of the House, while the House is in session.

You can review the full list of House Rules, as approved by the House, on the web at:

<http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/house/abouthouse/houserules.htm>

Minimum Wage Hike Receives Minimal Support

HB115, establishing a state minimum wage and providing for adjustments to the minimum wage, was killed by the House in a 193-169 vote. The bill would have raised New Hampshire’s minimum wage by 30%, and raised in by an additional 26% in 2019. Additional increases were possible from 2020 forward as the rate would then be tied to the Consumer Price Index. This is the latest of many defeats to increase the minimum wage in New Hampshire. Data suggests about 3% of the state’s workforce earns minimum wage, which is set at the federal rate of \$7.25 per hour.

New Hampshire State Library Turns 300

Have you ever wondered what the giant stone building is that can be seen out the Majority Office window located right next to the Upham-Walker House? Well that building is the New Hampshire State Library and it just so happens that the library is celebrating its 300th year, making it the oldest state library in the country. The current library was constructed in 1896 after having been located in the statehouse since it was originally created by the legislature in 1717. When the structure was first built it served a dual purpose functioning as both the State Library and the State Supreme Court before the courts relocated to their current location off of Hazen Drive. The state library among their large collection of books also offers some great exhibits on NH history as well as a collection of rare historical maps. On your next trip up to the State House make time to take a trip over the library and take in its 300 years of history.



Other House Bill Outcomes

HB 349-FN, relative to out-of-home placements under the child protection act. *OTP/A 186-154*

HB 279, relative to smoking on private property. *Tabled on Voice Vote*

HB 385, relative to notice for foreclosures. *ITL 175-181*

HB 284, relative to jury instructions in sexual assault cases. *ITL on Voice Vote*

HB 293, relative to the requirements for filing a chartered public school application. *ITL Voice Vote*

HB 494, relative to eligibility for a chartered public school charter. *ITL on Voice Vote*

HB 557-FN, relative to school attendance in towns with no public schools. *OTP/A 188-163*

HB 620, relative to compliance with state and federal education mandates. *OTP/A 335-18*

HB 519, establishing a commission to study the feasibility of implementing a clearinghouse model for tracking political expenditures and contributions. *ITL 192-158*

HB 552-FN, relative to the investigation of undeliverable voter verification letters. *OTP/A 181-163*

HB 622-FN-LOCAL, allowing all voters to vote by absentee ballot. *ITL 200-145*

HB 85, relative to the installation requirements for arc-fault circuit interrupters and relative to the state building code review board. *OTP/A on Voice Vote*

HB 294-FN-A, relative to the cost of fiscal analysis of legislation relating to the retirement system. *OTP 191-152*

HB 472, permitting qualifying patients to cultivate cannabis for their own therapeutic use. *OTP on Voice Vote OTP on Voice Vote*

HB 130, prohibiting an employer from using credit history in employment decisions. *ITL 190-170*

HB 442, relative to criminal records checks in the employee application process. *ITL on Voice Vote*

HB 481, relative to the use of small capacity, light weight plastic bags by retailers. *ITL 189-147*

HB 179, relative to financing the construction of high pressure gas pipelines. *ITL 176-157*

HB 535, relative to community net metering. *Tabled on Voice Vote*

HB 466, relative to the selection of delegates to an article V convention. *Tabled on Voice Vote*

HB 417-FN, expanding the right-to-know law to certain motor vehicle records. *OTP/A on Voice Vote*

HB 424-FN, relative to the documentation required for registration of certain title exempted vehicles and modifying the requirements for removal and sale of certain vehicles. *OTP on Voice Vote*

HB 332, relative to dedicated funds with no activity in the financial system for at least the most recent fiscal year. *OTP/A on Voice Vote*