

NH Legislature This Week—April 23, 2018
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Quote of the Week

"During his time at the EPA, Scott Pruitt has pursued an anti-environment agenda while misusing taxpayer dollars. This cannot be tolerated. I am joining my colleagues in introducing a resolution calling on Scott Pruitt to resign. Our environment and our people deserve better." **Senator Maggie Hassan** (D-NH).

The House will meet again on Thursday at 10am. The Senate will meet on Thursday at 9am. May 3rd is the last day for the House and Senate to vote on the bills from the other chamber. After this date, the legislature will be dealing only with bills that have been passed by both chambers in some form, but have differences that need to be negotiated. All legislation will be wrapped up by the legislature by May 24th although the legislature may reconvene later to address bills that have been vetoed.

Thank you, Rep. Rosenwald

Rep. Cindy Rosenwald (D-Nashua) attended the April meeting of the Brookline Democrats and gave us a wonderful inside view of what is happening at the Statehouse. As the Deputy Democratic Leader and a member of the Finance Committee, her insight into the workings of the legislature was very much appreciated.

Governor Sununu announces new 10 year energy plan

The Governor has updated the State's 10 year energy plan and the new version places more emphasis on nuclear power and hydro power from Canada while deemphasizing renewable energy, the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), and extending rail service from Lowell up into New Hampshire. The full plan is available here:

<https://www.nh.gov/osi/energy/programs/documents/2018-10-year-state-energy-strategy.pdf>

Family and Medical Leave bill facing Republican opposition

HB628 would set up an insurance like program in which individuals can contribute and then they will be able to use the funds from the program for paid days off in the event of a family medical emergency. Currently, federal law requires employers to provide time off for such emergencies, but for many, these are unpaid days. This reduction in pay check can be very hard on households that are getting by pay check to pay check. The bill was just barely passed by the House 171-162 with 19 Republicans joining Democrats in support. No Democrats joined the remaining Republicans and Libertarians who opposed the bill. The full Senate will be voting on the family medical leave bill on Thursday, but the Senate Finance Committee is opposing the bill 2-4. Republicans Senators are publicly claiming that the insurance fund would somehow lead to an income tax.

Meanwhile, Republican chair of the House Finance committee proposes an actual income tax

A recent court decision on hospital taxation has created a \$36 million hole in budget. Republican House Finance Committee chair **Rep. Neal Kurk** (R-Weare) has proposed a 5.5% income tax on health care providers of specialized services, including nursing homes and community health services. Health care advocates point out that there are already low Medicaid reimbursement rates and workforce shortages that are already taking a toll on the health care system.

Last week, the House voted on the following bills:

SB170 would allow towns to pass bonds to build **broadband Internet** access infrastructure. The bill was passed by the Senate on a voice vote. The House passed the bill on a voice vote. The bill now goes to Governor Sununu.

Last week, the Senate voted on the following bills:

HB1315 would prohibit **University System** funds from being spent to oppose the formation of **unions** and collective bargaining units. The bill passed the House 204-118. The Senate defeated the bill on a party line 8-14. **Sen. Avard** voted against the bill. HB587 would prohibit so called "**conversion therapy**" to change gay people into heterosexuals in "patients" under age 18. The "practice" is universally rejected by the professional medical associations as causing significant psychological damage. The bill was passed by the House 179-171. The Senate passed a considerably watered down version that would only apply to licensed professionals and the only penalty would be that the governing licensing organization would be encouraged to consider the conduct to be "unprofessional". The Senate passed the watered down version 14-10 with Republican Senators **Jeb Bradley** (R-Wolfeboro), **Sen. William Gannon** (R-Sandown), **Sen. Dan Innis** (R-New Castle)), and **Sen. John Reagan** (R-Deerfield) joining all Democrats in support. **Sen. Avard** voted against the bill. The bill now goes back to the House. HB1627 would prohibit the **transmission of images** or sounds of another person who is **on private property** or to conduct surveillance activity. The bill was passed by the House 175-159. The Senate Judiciary Committee recommends that the bill be sent to study, effectively defeating it, 2-1. The Senate did not vote on this bill, but rescheduled it for a vote on May 3rd. HB1283 would **prohibit** police from creating **sobriety checkpoints**. The bill passed the House on a voice vote. The bill was defeated in the Senate 7-15. **Sen. Avard** voted in favor of the bill.

This week, the House will vote on the following bills:

SB593 would repeal the **death penalty** in favor of life without parole. **Sen. Avard** is the primary sponsor. The Senate passed the bill 14-10. The House Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee recommends that the bill be passed 12-6.

CACR22 is a Constitutional Amendment (“**Marcy's Law**”) that would establish constitutional rights for **crime victims**. The Senate passed the amendment 20-3. The House Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee and the House Judiciary Committee jointly recommend that the amendment be defeated 11-24.

This week, the Senate will vote on the following bills:

HB628 would create an insurance program in which citizens could enroll to allow for **paid family and medical leave**. The bill was passed by the House 171-162. The Senate Finance Committee recommends that the bill be defeated 2-4.

Where to find more information

The New Hampshire legislature web site is www.gencourt.state.nh.us. Here, you can find the full text of all bills, find the full list of sponsors of bills and see more detailed status. If you have questions about how to use the state website, we would be glad to help. Just email us at brooklinedemocrats@gmail.com.

Watch and listen to House and Senate sessions live and archived

<http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/media/default.htm>

Terms and Abbreviations

ITL means “**Inexpedient To Legislate**”. If the full House or full Senate votes to ITL a bill, then the bill is defeated.

OTP means “**Ought to Pass**” meaning that a committee is recommending that a bill be passed.

Consent Calendar: If a bill receives a unanimous recommendation from a committee, the committee may place the bill on the Consent Calendar. When full House meets, the first vote taken is to approve all recommendations on all bills in the consent calendar. This allows the House to quickly dispense with non-controversial bills and move on to topics that need discussion. If any legislator requests that a bill be removed from the consent calendar, then it will be removed and it will be brought up for discussion and a vote along with the other non-consent calendar bills.

Resolutions: Sometimes the House, the Senate or both will pass resolutions. These are just public statements of opinion or interest, but they have no legal standing. It is similar to issuing a press release. HCR is a House resolution. HJR is a joint resolution (both House and Senate) that originates in the House.

LOB refers to the **Legislative Office Building**, which is immediately behind the statehouse. Most committee hearings are held in this building.

Reps Hall refers to **Representatives Hall** in the Statehouse where the House of Representatives meetings. This room is used for hearings that are expected to be very large.

“**Retained**” means that a Committee has voted to keep a bill until next year. Next year, any bills that have been retained must be sent to the full House/Senate for a vote. Any

bill that does not get retained must be sent to the full House/Senate for vote by Crossover or the end of the session.

“**Crossover**” is March 31st. The House will vote on all bills introduced in the House by this date except for bills that have been retained until next year. Similarly, the Senate will vote on all bills introduced into the Senate by this date except for bills that are being retained until next year.

“**Tabled**”: The full House or full Senate can “table” a bill which means that the bill is kept in “limbo” without being passed or defeated. For tabled bill to be brought back up for a vote again (to pass it) requires a 2/3 majority. If the bill has not been passed when the legislature adjourns at the end of the year, it is defeated. Tabling a bill usually happens when the legislature wants to defeat a bill but doesn’t want to directly oppose it. It can also sometimes happen if there are not enough votes to pass, but leadership hopes to be able to come up with enough votes later—but this then requires a 2/3 majority.

A brief guide to how legislation becomes law

Bills introduced in the House:

1. The bill is assigned to a committee and the committee holds a public hearing.
2. The committee either retains the bill or votes to recommend that the bill be passed (OTP), changed (OTPA), or defeated (ITL).
3. Except for retained bills, all other bills go to the full House which can pass, defeat, change a bill or send it to a second committee.
4. If sent to a second committee, the committee must then retain or recommend to pass, change or defeat the bill. It then goes back to the full House for a second vote.
5. If passed by the House, the bill goes to the Senate
6. The bill is assigned to a Senate committee which then holds a public hearing
7. The Senate committee either retains the bill or votes to recommend that the bill be passed (OTP), changed (OTPA), or defeated (ITL).
8. Except for retained bills, all other bills go to the full Senate which can pass, defeat, change a bill or send it to a second committee.
9. If sent to a second committee, the committee must then retain or recommend to pass, change or defeat the bill. It then goes back to the full Senate for a second vote.
10. If passed by the Senate, the bill goes to the Governor who may sign the bill into law or veto it.
11. If the Governor vetoes the bill, it goes back to the House
12. If 2/3 of the House votes to override the veto then the bill goes back to the Senate
13. If 2/3 of the Senate votes to override the veto then the bill becomes law.

For Senate bills, the process is the same except that it goes through the Senate before it goes to the House.

For Constitutional Amendments (CACRs) the process is slightly different.

CACRs introduced in the House:

1. Assigned to a committee and the committee holds a public hearing.
2. The committee votes to recommend that the CACR be passed, changed, killed or sent to study
3. Regardless of the committee recommendation, all CACRs go to the full House which can pass, kill or change a bill or send it to study. Passing a CACR requires 60% of the House members present to vote in favor.
4. If passed by the House, the bill goes to the Senate
5. Assigned to a Senate committee which then holds a public hearing
6. The Senate committee votes to recommend that the bill be passed, changed, killed or sent to study
7. Regardless of the committee recommendation, all bills go to the full Senate which can pass, kill or change a bill or send it to study. Passing a CACR requires 60% of the Senate members present to vote in favor.
8. If passed by the Senate, the CACR will put on the ballot at the next election (November 2012). If 2/3 of the voters vote in favor of it, then it becomes part of the NH Constitution.

Where to Send Letters to the Editor:

Nashua Telegraph

letters@nashuatelegraph.com

Hollis Brookline Journal

cabnews@cabinet.com

The Journal welcomes letters from its readers that are exclusive to this newspaper. Letters must be 400 words or fewer and are subject to editing either for content or for length. Letters must be received no later than noon on Monday. The Journal does not publish anonymous letters, those written under an assumed name or containing only the writer's initials. Nor does it publish form letters, or those written as part of an orchestrated campaign. Letters must be in good taste and free of libel or personal attacks. Important: Letters must contain the writer's name, home address and day/night telephone numbers and e-mail for confirmation purposes. Only the writer's name and hometown will be published. The deadline for submitting letters is noon on Monday. The Journal is published every Friday.

The Mason Grapevine

Residents of Mason can submit letters to the Mason Grapevine at

TheMasonGrapevine@yahoo.com

Hollis, Brookline, Mason Reps:

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