

AFSC State House Watch: 2019 Year in Review

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A Guide to the Year in Review

Welcome to the State House Watch Year in Review. In this report we provide information about the outcome of the bills we tracked during the 2019 legislative session. They're broken down by category to make it more manageable.

Each bill is hyperlinked to the “docket” on the General Court webpage. From that site you can find the bill’s text, a report on the path it took from introduction to its ultimate fate, and links to reports on any roll call votes that took place. There’s even a link to [docket abbreviations](#) if some of the jargon is confusing.

A bill originating in the House has the prefix HB before the numbers, and a bill originating in the Senate has SB as the prefix. There are four kinds of resolutions. A joint resolution (HJR) is one that has the force of law and must pass both the House and Senate and be signed by the governor. A concurrent resolution (HCR) is approved by both bodies, but not signed by the governor, and doesn’t have the effect of a law. Generally, concurrent resolutions put the legislature on the record as approving or disapproving of some aspect of state or national policy. A simple resolution is considered only within the body from which it originates and does not have the force of law - something along the lines of “we resolve that today is kazoo day at the House.” A Constitutional Amendment-Concurrent Resolution (CACR) is an amendment to the state constitution. Each body must approve the CACR by a three-fifths vote, and then it may be put on the ballot at the next state election.

For each bill we have indicated whether votes were cast by voice, by roll call, or by “division.” A voice vote means the Speaker of the House or the President of the Senate determined whether “yea” or “nay” was in the majority on any motion based on the voices of the lawmakers; there is no record of who voted which way. A division vote in the House means that a precise vote count was taken, but that the votes of individual members were not recorded. If a roll call was taken, however, you can look up how each member voted (or if they did not vote at all). Be careful in reading these because it can be confusing. For example, a “yea” vote on an ITL (“inexpedient to legislate”) motion is a vote to kill a bill, not a vote in favor of the bill. A vote on a motion to table is not necessarily an indication of how that member would vote if the bill were to come up for an actual vote.

If we have reported a numerical vote, you can assume it was by roll call unless we specified it was a “division.” You can look up roll calls in a number of ways if you want to find out how particular members voted. For one thing, each member has their own page where you can click on <voting record> and see all recorded votes. Alternatively, you can go to the docket for any bill and click on <RC> if it shows up in the docket. Or, you can click on the [voting record page](#) where you can search your way through roll calls on any House or Senate votes by year and bill number (going back to 1999!).

In odd numbered years (the first year of the two-year legislative session) bills can be “retained” (in the House) or “re-referred” (in the Senate) rather than being adopted, tabled, or defeated. This may mean that the committee liked the bill but thought it needed more work than the usual committee schedule permitted. In the House, the decision to retain a bill is made within the committee. Every committee handles the retained bills differently, and each has between now and November 14 to finish working on the bills and file a final report on them. The list of all retained bills is available in the [June 14 House Calendar](#). The scheduled work sessions on retained bills can be found in the most recent [Calendar](#).

On the Senate side, bills are re-referred based on a majority vote by the full Senate. Senators have until December 19 to report their recommendations on any bills that were re-referred this year. Their calendar is generally vaguer than the House version.

Some retained/re-referred bills are similar to bills that have actually been passed. In the event of a veto, a similar bill might come back to life during the 2020 session. In theory, bills that have been tabled could also be revived before the end of the year.

If the House and Senate passed differing versions of the same bill, they might have appointed a Committee of Conference (COC) to attempt to resolve differences. In some cases, the COCs did not reach agreement, which means that the bill died.

Finally, in most cases the final step for a bill to become law is for it to be signed by the governor if it has passed both the House and Senate with the same language. At this time, some bills are still in the pipeline between the General Court and the governor's desk. When it reaches him, he will either sign the bill into law, allow it to become law without his signature, or veto it. If this report indicates the bill is still awaiting action, we advise that you look up its status, which may have changed.

The Representatives and Senators will come back in the fall for a "veto override day" session, where all the vetoed bills (except the one repealing the death penalty) will come up for additional votes. If a two-thirds majority in both chambers votes to override, the bill becomes law. If the vote falls short of two-thirds in either chamber, the veto is sustained.

The House and Senate will publish new calendars every two weeks in the summer when the legislature is not in session. You can find them on the General Court [website](#) in the resources section or use the drop-down House and Senate menus at the top of the page.

And lastly, a reminder about State House lingo:

OTP – "Ought to Pass," the recommendation for approving a bill or amendment.

ITL – "Inexpedient to Legislate," the recommendation for defeating a bill or an amendment. "ITL" can also be used as a verb.

CoC – "Committee of Conference," where House and Senate members seek to resolve differences on bills in which the two chambers have approved different language.

The Bills

The American Friends Service Committee, which publishes State House Watch, is a non-partisan organization, and we strive to be non-partisan in our analysis and presentation of legislative issues. Yet, in the interest of fair reporting on the 2019 legislative session, we cannot fail to note that outcomes were heavily influenced by the fact that both the House and Senate have Democratic majorities and that Governor Chris Sununu is a Republican. Early in the year, the governor threatened to make active use of his authority to veto bills (and later even donated one of his veto messages to be auctioned off at a Republican fundraiser). To date, he has vetoed a record 50 bills, a number which may rise further as paperwork continues

to flow from the General Court to the governor's desk. You can keep up by using the [NH Veto Tracker](#) created by Dan Tuohy at NHPR, which also shows how Governor Sununu's veto record in 2019 stacks up against his predecessors.

One veto, of the bill repealing the death penalty, has already been over-ridden. Other over-ride votes will take place at a special session, probably in September. In other words, the outcome of the session will not really be clear until then.

We grouped the bills into categories, which are somewhat arbitrary. We start with the budget, which was the most important measure considered in 2019, and which is first in alphabetical order.

A bill with a * means that we actively supported it. A ** means that we actively opposed it. A bill that is classified as "actively supported" or "actively opposed" means that AFSC went to hearings, submitted testimony, and closely followed the path of the bill in the newsletter and on our radio show.

The Budget

[HB 1](#) Making appropriations for the expenses of certain departments of the state for fiscal years ending June 30, 2020, and June 30, 2021.

[HB 2](#) Relative to state fees, funds, revenues, and expenditures.

[HB 25](#) Making appropriations for capital improvements.

Five weeks into the new fiscal year, New Hampshire is operating without a new budget. Instead, due to a veto of the budget bills adopted in the House and Senate, departments are functioning with last year's budget and a continuing resolution which keeps the state in business through October 1. The governor and legislative leaders are tangling publicly and negotiating quietly to reach agreement before then. Whether communities and agencies will get needed funds for affordable housing, public schools, mental health, addiction prevention and treatment, developmental services, and more depends on the outcome.

Here's how we got to this point:

The first year of the legislative biennium (the odd numbered year) is when a new budget is crafted. The budget always begins in the House and takes the form of two bills: HB 1, the budget, basically a giant spreadsheet, and HB 2, the "budget trailer bill," which outlines a range of policies tied to specific line items in the budget. At the beginning of the new session, the House Finance Committee begins hearing reports from all of the various state agencies on their needs. Simultaneously, the House Ways and Means Committee considers revenue projections, in order to inform the Finance members how much money they would have to spend. In addition, the Public Works Committee develops the Capital Budget, which takes the form of HB 25.

The process is kicked into gear with the governor's budget proposal, which this year was delivered on February 14. Members of the Finance Committee rolled up their collective sleeves and got to work, with 28 work sessions, three public hearings, and three executive sessions before the budget went to the full House for a vote on April

11. The House voted OTP/A by a roll call vote of 225-159 on HB 1 and 224-160 on HB 2.

The bills were introduced in the Senate on April 18. The Senate Finance Committee held three public hearings. (They don't document their work sessions the way the House does.) HB 1 went to the full Senate for a vote on June 6, where they voted OTP/A by a party line vote of 14-10. The following day, the Senate approved HB 2 by a party line vote of 14-9 (with Senator Reagan absent).

Among the changes enacted by the Senate were the disappearances of the Family and Medical Leave Insurance program and a new tax on capital gains. Both budgets suspended further reductions in business tax rates approved in the previous budget. Otherwise, both budgets increased funds in key areas such as mental health, developmental services, and public education.

To resolve their differences, the next step was a Committee of Conference, which worked from June 12 to June 20, when it approved a new proposal. The following week, the compromise budget was approved in both chambers on the last day of the regular session, June 27. Anticipating a veto, they also approved [HJR 3](#), a continuing resolution that will keep the state running until October 1 or until a new operating budget is signed into law if it happens more quickly.

As expected, the governor vetoed the budget the next day. (Read Governor Sununu's veto statement on HB 1 and HB 2 [here](#).)

Had the budget gone into effect, it would have increased education funding by \$138 million, including full funding of kindergarten, a return to stabilization grants, as well as fiscal disparity aid to communities with low property values. (Whether this level of funding rises to the level called for in a recent court ruling is doubtful.) There's also \$8 million for short-term increases in Medicaid rates for mental health and substance abuse service providers.

The CoC also agreed on a \$17.5 million, 25-bed, secure psychiatric hospital to be built on the grounds of NH Hospital as a partial alternative to the Secure Psychiatric Unit (SPU) at the NH State Prison in Concord. It's smaller than the 60-bed facility proposed by the governor and the 100-bed version that was the subject of an HHS "request for information" issued last year. The new facility would respond to the demand that individuals who are "civilly committed" (i.e. not convicted of a crime) to the SPU be moved out of prison and into an actual hospital. We are pleased to see the firm language stating that the state shall not enter into a contract with a private or for-profit prison company for the construction or operation of the new hospital. We are distressed that severely mentally ill individuals will still be held in a prison unit with a reputation for inhumane treatment.

The budget also includes major investments in affordable housing and homeless services, including an annual deposit of \$5 million from the real estate transfer tax into the Affordable Housing Fund. Homeless services would get \$2 million in funds for eviction prevention, \$1 million to expand case management, \$1 million for rapid rehousing, and \$400,000 for homeless youth outreach. Also included is an amendment directing the Commissioner of Health and Human Services to amend

the state Medicaid plan to create a Medicaid benefit for supportive housing services. The Lead Paint Hazard Remediation Fund has been created and given \$3 million for loans to finance lead removal in low-income homes and child care centers. The proposal to create a statewide housing appeals board was adopted, despite resistance from many local officials. But, in the words of [Housing Action NH](#), “celebrations will need to wait until bills are signed and the budget is finalized.”

All those investments in needed services, however, are on hold due to the governor’s veto. As this report goes to press, the House and Senate Finance Ad Hoc Committee on the Budget is considering the impact of the veto.

The capital budget, HB 25, makes appropriations for improvements or repairs to state property. This year included a new backhoe for the state veteran’s cemetery, fire protection in the State House basement; rebuilding the access road to the state prison in Berlin...you get the idea. This passed with huge margins and no fuss in both the House and Senate and was signed by the governor on June 28.

Children and Families

* [SB 1](#) Relative to family and medical leave. This bill would have established a system of paid family and medical leave insurance. The bill would provide up to 12 weeks of paid leave for the birth, adoption, or fostering of a child, a serious illness, the serious illness of a spouse or of certain other relatives. The insurance would be paid for by a 0.5% payroll tax. The governor vetoed the bill dramatically on May 9. Later, he auctioned off a copy of the veto statement as a benefit for a GOP committee. Read his veto statement [here](#). The provisions of SB 1 were included in the House-passed budget, but dropped by the Senate and excluded from the budget which came out of the CoC.

[HB 111](#) Establishing a committee to study the effect of the opioid crisis, substance misuse, adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and domestic violence as a cause of post-traumatic stress disorder syndrome (PTSD) and other mental health and behavioral problems in New Hampshire children and students. The governor signed the bill into law on May 15, effective immediately.

[HB 163](#) Relative to the definition of child abuse. This bill adds sexual reassignment to the definition of an abused child. Voted ITL by a roll call vote of 309-59.

[SB 6](#) Relative to child protection staffing and making an appropriation therefor. This bill makes an appropriation to the Department of Health and Human Services to hire 27 child protective workers in 2020 and 30 more in 2021. The governor signed the bill into law on June 3, effective immediately.

[HB 712](#) Relative to a family and medical leave insurance program. This is the House version of the Senate bill that was vetoed by the governor. It’s been retained in committee.

[SB 14](#) Relative to child welfare. This bill requires DHHS to establish case management entities as part of the system of care for children’s mental health, expands home and community based behavioral health services to include mobile

crisis response and stabilization services, and requires assessment, discharge, and treatment planning for children in court-ordered placements. The governor signed the bill on June 3. Different sections of the bill go into effect on different dates.

[HB 378](#) Raising the minimum age for marriage. This bill would raise the minimum age for marriage from 16 to 18. It was tabled by a roll call vote of 251-99.

[SB 116](#) Relative to the New Hampshire employment program and family assistance program and making an appropriation therefor. Tabled in the Senate by a voice vote.

[HB 687](#) Relative to extreme risk protection orders. Retained in committee.

[HB 393](#) This bill began life as a committee to study the costs and accessibility of child care in NH. It turned into a Christmas tree in the Senate, who gave it the new title: Establishing a committee to study child care in New Hampshire, relative to tuition waivers for children in state foster care or guardianship, relative to penalties for violations related to obtaining public assistance, relative to designated receiving facilities, relative to the membership of the commission to study the health effects of evolving 5G technology, and relative to the moratorium on health facility licensure. In the CoC, everyone agreed to adopt the Senate amendment. It awaits action by the governor.

Civil Rights

[SB 174](#) Proclaiming an annual observance of Juneteenth. The bill requires the governor to annually issue a proclamation calling for proper observance of June 19th, as Juneteenth, and call on the citizens of New Hampshire to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and activities commemorating the abolition of slavery. Passed both Senate and House with overwhelming support and signed into law by Governor Sununu on Juneteenth.

[HB 221](#) Renaming Columbus Day in Indigenous People's Day. This bill would rename Columbus Day as Indigenous People's Day for the purpose of the state holiday. Retained in committee.

[HB 383](#) Relative to the prohibition on unlawful discrimination in public and non-public schools. The Senate re-referred it to committee.

[HB 608](#) Expanding the law against discrimination based on gender identity to other areas of the law prohibiting discrimination. The bill passed and awaits action by the governor.

[HB 726](#) Relative to the secure psychiatric unit and making an appropriation therefor. It was tabled by the Senate by a vote of 13-10. The provisions of the bill were folded into the budget, and so the bill became unnecessary.

[HB 446](#) Relative to initiating amendments and corrections to birth records. This provides a procedure for an individual to obtain a new birth certificate based on a change of gender identity. It was amended to stipulate that any prior birth record would be retained by the town of birth and indicate on the original that it had been

revised. It passed and was vetoed by Governor Sununu on July 19. His veto statement has not been posted.

[HB 669](#) Relative to gender identity information included on drivers' licenses and nondrivers' identification cards. This bill would allow non-binary residents to opt for an X gender identifier, rather than male or female. The bill became law without the governor's signature and goes into effect on January 1, 2020.

[HB 488](#) Requiring interpreters for the deaf and hard of hearing at the State House campus. Interpreters would be provided to persons who are deaf or hard of hearing wanting to meet with their senator or representative. This bill passed and was signed into law by Governor Sununu on May 15. It went into effect on July 14, 2019.

Criminal Justice

* [HB 455](#) Relative to the penalty for capital murder. This bill changes the penalty for capital murder to life imprisonment without parole. The bill passed smoothly through the House, by a roll call vote of 279-88. The Senate voted OTP by a vote of 17-6. It was vetoed by the governor on May 5. (Read his press release [here](#) and veto message [here](#).) On May 23, in a roll call vote, the House voted 247-123 to override the governor's veto, with one vote more than the necessary two-thirds majority. On May 30, the Senate voted 16-8 to override the governor's veto, with the two-thirds majority. After decades of work, the death penalty was successfully repealed.

[HB 349](#) Permits state and county prisoners to have a second medical opinion from a licensed health care provider. The prisoner would pay for the cost of the consultation. It passed, and the governor vetoed the bill on July 12. Read his veto statement [here](#).

[HB 189](#) This bill exempts juvenile victims of human trafficking from prosecution for certain conduct chargeable as a criminal offense which was committed as a result of being trafficked. It also allows juvenile victims of trafficking to petition to vacate a delinquency adjudication that resulted from conduct that was a direct result of being trafficked. The governor signed it into law on July 1. It goes into effect on January 1, 2020.

[HB 201](#) Increasing penalties for buyers under the law regarding trafficking in persons. The bill changes the law from a Class B to a Class A felony for paying a minor to engage in sexual contact or to observe a sexually explicit performance involving a minor. The bill was retained in committee.

[HB 306](#) Prohibiting the destruction of sexual assault evidence collection kits. They would be preserved in perpetuity. This bill was retained in committee.

[HB 218](#) This bill removes the legal authority for a law enforcement officer to use deadly force in effecting an arrest. It was voted ITL by a roll call vote of 277-62.

[HB 229](#) Removes the rulemaking exemptions for the Department of Corrections. Basically, Corrections would have to follow the same procedures as other departments instead of being able to adopt policies without public scrutiny. The bill was voted ITL by a voice vote.

[HB 399](#) Relative to annulment of arrests or convictions for possession of a certain quantity of marijuana. This bill establishes a procedure for annulment of arrests or convictions for possession of $\frac{3}{4}$ of an ounce or less of marijuana, where the offense occurred before September 16, 2017 (the date that marijuana decriminalization went into effect). Governor Sununu signed the bill into law on July 12. It goes into effect on January 1, 2020.

[HB 486](#) Relative to Department of Corrections procedures concerning the requirement for restoration of voting rights for felons. The bill aims to make it clear that commission of a felony does not bar an offender from voting for the rest of the life. It requires the Commissioner of the Department of Corrections to ensure that probation and parole officers as part of their job training receive instruction on the laws regarding the voting rights of those who have attained final discharge of their sentence. The governor signed the bill into law on July 10. It goes into effect on September 8, 2019.

[HB 732](#) Relative to over-sentencing and racial profiling. Tabled by the House.

[HB 481](#) Relative to the legalization and regulation of cannabis and making appropriations therefor. The bill would establish procedures for the legalization, regulation and taxation of cannabis and the licensing and regulation of cannabis establishments. The Senate re-referred the bill to committee.

[HB 208](#) Relative to the justified use of deadly force upon another person. ITL by a roll call vote of 200-150.

[SB 237](#) Relative to the office of cost containment. This bill amends the procedure for determining an indigent defendant's ability to pay for services rendered by court-appointed counsel in a criminal case and provides that a repayment obligation shall only apply to a defendant who has been convicted or a juvenile who has been found delinquent. The House retained the bill in committee.

[SB 314](#) Relative to the release of a defendant pending trial. This amends the procedure for considering the dangerousness of a defendant for the purpose of determining whether the defendant should be released pending trial; authorizes the position of bail reform coordinator in the judicial branch; re-establishes the commission on pretrial detention, pretrial schedule, and pretrial services; and waives the bail commissioner's fee for indigent defendants. The governor signed the bill on June 25. All sections will be in effect by November 1, 2020.

Education

[HB 123](#) Relative to emergency response plans in schools. This bill requires each school's emergency response plan to include at least one drill to test emergency response to an armed assailant. The bill was amended on the floor to stipulate that the armed assailant drills could be discussion based. It passed and was signed by the governor on May 15. It goes into effect on July 14, 2019.

[HB 289](#) Relative to the recitation of the Lord's prayer in public elementary schools. This repeals the law permitting school districts to authorize the recitation of the

Lord's Prayer in public elementary schools "as an affirmation of the freedom of religion." Tabled.

[HB 678](#) Relative to state funding of the cost of an opportunity for an adequate education for all New Hampshire students. Retained in committee.

[HB 711](#) Relative to funding an adequate education. Voted ITL by a voice vote.

[HB 709](#) Relative to the formula for determining funding for an adequate education. Retained in committee.

[HB 677](#) Relative to the discipline of students, addressing students' behavioral needs and making an appropriation therefor. Retained in committee.

[HB 231](#) Requiring school districts to establish policies related to suspensions and expulsions. Voted ITL by a voice vote.

[SB 82](#) Relative to school food and nutrition programs. This bill requires schools to make at least one free or reduced cost meal available to children who meet federal eligibility guidelines and directs the Department of Education to request an appropriation sufficient to provide a free breakfast to those eligible students. The bill passed and was signed into law, going into effect immediately.

[SB 268](#) Providing in-state tuition rates at any university system of New Hampshire institution for any person registered to vote in this state. Voted ITL by a voice vote.

[SB 265](#) Relative to maintaining stabilization grants at the current level. Tabled.

[SB 303](#) Relative to state aid to school districts. Tabled.

[SB 171](#) Appropriating money to remove lead from drinking water pipes in schools. Re-referred.

[SB 302](#) Relative to suspension and expulsion of pupils. Re-referred.

[SB 280](#) Relative to the cost of an adequate education. This bill changes the formula for determining the education tax rate. It also permits school boards to contract with religiously-affiliated schools to provide education for children who live in the school district. Tabled.

[SB 141](#) Establishing a committee to study violence against school personnel. The bill passed and was signed into law, going into effect immediately.

[SB 309](#) Relative to stabilization grants for education. Tabled.

[SB 199](#) Requiring teachers to have training in suicide and bullying awareness and prevention. ITL by voice vote.

[HB 184](#) Relative to the calculation of kindergarten students in the average daily membership and repealing prorated kindergarten funding based on Keno revenues. Retained in committee.

[HB 449](#) Relative to safe school zones and chartered public schools. This would include chartered public schools in the definition of "school" for the purpose of safe school zones. ITL by a voice vote.

[SB 266](#) Relative to funding for kindergarten pupils, keno revenues, and school building aid. Tabled.

[SB 282](#) Relative to suicide prevention education in schools. This would require school districts and chartered public schools to develop a policy for preventing, assessing the risk of, and responding to student suicide, as well as providing training for faculty, staff, and school volunteers on suicide prevention. The bill passed and was signed into law on August 5, effective July 1, 2020.

[SB 139](#) Establishing a committee to study options for lowering student debt. The bill became law without the governor's signature on June 8, effective immediately.

[HB 175](#) Relative to the requirements for school building aid grants. This bill establishes a timeline for school districts to apply for building aid grants, clarifies the information required for building aid applications, and provides for emergency projects. The bill passed and was signed into law, going into effect on September 27, 2019.

[HB 631](#) Establishing a deaf child's bill of rights and an advisory council on the education of deaf children. Governor Sununu signed the bill into law on July 12, effective immediately.

Elections and Voting

[HB 345](#) This bill requires the ballot law commission to approve new secure electronic ballot counting devices at regular intervals. The bill stipulates that the commission examines any device upon request, and approves a new, secure device every five years. The governor signed the bill into law on June 25, and it goes into effect on August 24, 2019.

[HB 152](#) Increases the dollar threshold for reporting by political committees. ITL in a division vote of 197-124.

[HB 297](#) Requires any political advertisements made on behalf of political action committees or political advocacy organizations contain the same name and address on the advertisement as is registered with the Secretary of State. The governor signed the bill into law on June 5. It goes into effect on August 4, 2019.

[HB 106](#) Relative to the terms "resident," "inhabitant," "residence," and "residency." This amends the statutory definition of these terms to include the intent to maintain a principal place of physical presence for the indefinite future. This bill removes a number of the requirements that were added by last year's [HB 1264](#), aimed at preventing student voting. The bill passed but was vetoed by the governor. His veto message is [here](#).

[HB 105](#) Relative to domicile residency, voter registration, and investigation of verification letters. This bill modifies the definition of domicile for voting purposes, modifies forms and procedures for voter registration, and removes the requirement that the Secretary of State conduct post-election voter registration inquiries. This is a repeal of 2017's [SB 3](#), which is currently tied up in court. The bill passed and but was vetoed by the governor. His veto message is [here](#).

[CACR 5](#) Relating to the right to vote. Providing that 17-year-olds who will be eligible to vote in the general election be permitted to vote in that election's primary election. Tabled by a voice vote.

[CACR 6](#) Relating to elections. Providing that any inhabitant who so desires may vote by absentee ballot in primary and general elections. Tabled by a division vote of 222-146.

[CACR 9](#) Relating to redistricting. Providing that an independent redistricting commission shall be established to draw boundaries for state and federal boundaries. Retained in committee.

[HB 706](#) Establishing an independent redistricting commission. The Senate amended the bill to give the legislature more of a voice in the selection of commission members. The House concurred with the Senate amendment. The governor vetoed the bill on August 9. Read his veto statement [here](#).

[HB 728](#) Relative to ranked-choice voting. This bill would establish procedures for ranked-choice voting for federal and state offices. Retained in committee.

[HB 611](#) Allowing voters to vote by absentee ballot. This would eliminate the current requirements for obtaining an absentee ballot and create "no excuses" absentee voting. The bill passed and awaits action by the governor.

[HB 603](#) Relative to procedures for apportioning electoral districts. Retained in committee.

[HB 541](#) Relative to allocating electoral college electors based on the national popular vote. Retained in committee.

[SB 304](#) Relative to campaign contributions and expenditures and making appropriations therefor. This bill establishes a fund to provide campaign financing for eligible candidates for governor and councilor. Re-referred to committee by a voice vote.

[SB 230](#) Requiring the Attorney General to hire staff to supervise election law, campaign finance law, and lobbying matters. Tabled by a voice vote.

[HB 315](#) Repealing the authority to share voter information with other sites. This would eliminate New Hampshire's participation in the Interstate Voter Registration Crosscheck Program. The House voted OTP/A by a voice vote. The Senate added an amendment stipulating that the Secretary of State become a member of another group whose purpose is to exchange information to improve the accuracy and efficiency of voter registration systems. The bill passed and awaits action by the governor.

[SB 8](#) Establishing an independent redistricting commission. The Senate voted OTP/A by a roll call vote of 14-10. The House retained the bill in committee.

[SB 105](#) Relative to contributions to inaugural committees. Limits contributions to inaugural committees to no more than \$10,000 and requires the treasurer to report

individual contributions of more than \$1,000. The bill passed and was signed into law by the governor on July 10. It goes into effect on January 1, 2020.

[HB 408](#) Relative to postponement of town meetings and local elections. The governor signed the Senate version of this bill, [SB 104](#), so in November HB 408 will most likely be reported as unnecessary.

[HB 539](#) Establishing a committee to study the implementation of Accessible Ballots. The role of the committee is to study the feasibility of using existing technology to implement accessible ballots. It passed and was signed by the governor on July 19, effective immediately.

[SB 7](#) Establishing the secure modern accurate registration act (SMART ACT). This would allow for voter registration at the Division of Motor Vehicles. The House retained the bill in committee.

[SB 304](#) Relative to campaign contributions and expenditures and making an appropriation therefor. This bill establishes a fund to provide campaign financing for eligible candidates for governor and councilor and makes an appropriation to that fund. Re-referred to committee by a voice vote.

[SB 305](#) Relative to voter registrations accepted by other state agencies. This would allow the DMV to accept voter registration forms as part of the drivers' license issuance or renewal process. Re-referred by a voice vote.

[SB 106](#) Relative to the definition of political advocacy organization and expenditure. This revises the definition of political expenditure and political advocacy organization. This would be defined as an organization that spent \$2,500 or more in a calendar year on communications distributed within 60 days before an election, that focused on a candidate or a measure (pro or con). Despite the overwhelming approval of both bodies, the governor vetoed the bill on July 10. Read his veto statement [here](#).

[SB 66](#) Relative to political contributions by candidates for certain offices. This bill prohibits candidates for any office elected by a joint session of the general court from making contributions to any political committee, political party, political advocacy organization, or candidate for state representative, speaker of the house of representatives, or state senator. The House voted ITL by a division vote of 224-125.

[SB 206](#) Excluding the cost of lobbying and political activity from the rates of public utilities. It passed and was signed into law on July 12. It goes into effect on September 10, 2019.

[SB 230](#) Requiring the Attorney General to hire staff to supervise election law, campaign finance law, and lobbying matters. Tabled by a voice vote.

[SB 104](#) Relative to the postponement of city, town, village, and school district elections. This bill would allow cities, towns, and villages to make their own decisions about postponing elections in the event of winter storm warnings, blizzard warnings, or ice storm warnings. The bill also allows people to vote absentee in the

event of such warnings, if they have safety concerns. The governor signed the bill into law on July 10, effective immediately.

[SB 155](#) Relative to permissible campaign contributions by business organizations. This bill would prohibit them. Voted ITL by a voice vote.

[SB 156](#) Relative to political contributions made by limited liability companies (LLCs). This bill would require that a political contribution made by an LLC be allocated to the members for purposes of determining whether a member has exceeded the contribution limits. Governor Sununu vetoed the bill on July 10. Read his veto statement [here](#). (Spoiler alert – money is speech.)

Energy and the Environment (in that order)

[HB 365](#) Relative to net energy metering limits for customer generators. This bill increases the electric generating capacity of customer generators who may participate in net energy metering and modifies the transition of tariffs applicable to certain customer-generators. The bill also clarifies the definition of eligible customer-generator for purposes of the utility property tax. Despite the overwhelming approval of both bodies, the governor vetoed the bill on June 3. Read his veto message [here](#).

[HB 466](#) Relative to the capacity of electricity customer generators for eligibility for net energy metering. The Senate re-referred the bill to committee.

[HB 568](#) Relative to the New Hampshire energy strategy. This bill would require the energy strategy of the state to include consideration of the effects of climate change. It passed the House on a 217-129 division vote. The Senate re-referred the bill to committee.

[HB 477](#) Relative to allowance sales under the New Hampshire regional greenhouse gas initiatives (RGGI) program. This bill proposes taking all funding from RGGI and distributing all but the defined administrative fees back to ratepayers. The House voted ITL by a roll call vote of 198-131.

[HB 582](#) Relative to the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative cap and trade program for controlling carbon dioxide emissions. The bill makes changes to strengthen funding for energy efficiency programs while reducing rates for commercial and industrial customers. The bill passed and awaits action by the governor.

[HJR 1](#) Supporting efforts to develop wind power off the New Hampshire coast. Tabled by the House in a division vote of 310-10.

[HB 156](#) Establishing a commission to study the establishment of a state department of energy. The bill passed and was signed into law on July 1. The bill has two parts that go into effect on different dates.

[HB 496](#) Establishing a committee to identify the requirements needed to commit New Hampshire to a goal of 50 percent renewable energy for electricity by 2040. The Senate re-referred the bill to committee.

[HB 704](#) Relative to the storage of nuclear waste. The bill was retained in committee.

[HB 412](#) Establishing a committee to study the long-term consequences of decommissioning nuclear power plants. The bill was retained in committee.

[SB 76](#) Relative to the prohibition of offshore oil and natural gas exploration. This bill would prohibit both. The bill passed and awaits action by the governor.

[SB 165](#) Relative to net energy metering by low-moderate income community solar projects. This modifies the method for calculating net energy metering credits for low-moderate income community solar group host projects. It passed and was signed by the governor on July 19. Effective immediately.

[SB 168](#) Relative to Class 2 obligations under the electric renewable portfolio standards. This bill increases the renewable portfolio standard requirements for new solar energy from 2019 – 2025. The bill passed, and the governor vetoed it on July 19, [calling it](#) “crony capitalism at its worst.”

[SB 124](#) Relative to renewable portfolio standards after 2025. The House retained the bill in committee.

[SB 13](#) Relative to limited electrical energy producers and net energy metering. Re-referred to committee by a voice vote.

[SB 159](#) Relative to net energy metering limits for customer generators. The House retained the bill in committee.

[SB 166](#) Relative to competitive electricity supplier requirements under net energy metering. The House retained the bill in committee.

[SB 75](#) Establishing a commission to study the economic impact of national carbon pricing in New Hampshire. Re-referred to committee by a voice vote.

[SB 73](#) Requiring the public utilities commission to quantify and consider environmental and socioeconomic costs in state energy plans of electric utilities. Re-referred to committee.

[HB 204](#) Establishing a committee to review and update the penalties for contaminating drinking water and groundwater. Tabled by a roll call vote of 241-3.

[HB 261](#) Requiring the commissioner of the Department of Environmental Services to revise rules relative to arsenic contamination of drinking water. The bill passed and was signed by the governor on July 12. The bill goes into effect on October 10, 2019.

[HB 558](#) Restricting the distribution of plastic straws. It passed the House 196-146 but was voted ITL in the Senate by a voice vote.

[HB 560](#) Relative to single use carryout bags. This bill restricts the distribution of single-use carryout bags by stores and food service businesses. The Senate amended the bill to change the bill to one requiring municipalities to report yearly on their goals of reducing solid waste sent to landfills. The House did not concur, and did not request a CoC, thereby killing the bill.

[HB 102](#) Relative to municipal ordinances regarding the use of plastics. This would allow towns to adopt bylaws to regulate the distribution of single use plastics. Retained in committee.

[HB 559](#) Enabling municipalities to ban single-use sources of plastic pollution. Retained in committee.

[HB 358](#) Relative to combustion of wood residue at municipal waste combustors. This restores the ban on combustion of construction and demolition debris and waste-derived fuel. It passed the House on a 204-137 division vote. The Senate voted ITL by a roll call vote of 16-8.

[SB 181](#) Requiring monitoring of certain radioactive air pollutants. Re-referred to committee by a voice vote.

[HB 614](#) Increasing penalties for air pollution. This bill would allow the Department of Environmental Services the ability to impose enhanced fines on air and water polluters, in keeping with the current rates of inflation. It passed and was signed by the governor on July 19, effective January 1.

[SB 164](#) Establishing a committee to study unprotected drinking water sources and estimating the costs of protecting such sources. It passed and the governor signed the bill into law on July 12, effective immediately.

[HB 737](#) Establishing a commission to investigate and analyze the environmental and public health impacts relating to releases of perfluorinated chemicals in the air, soil, and groundwater in Merrimack, Bedford, and Litchfield. The bill passed and awaits action by the governor.

[HB 494](#) Relative to removal or containment of contaminants from the Coakley Landfill. The Senate added an amendment that dramatically changed and watered down the original bill. The House requested a CoC. Both parties agreed to a revision of the language of the Senate amendment. Both the House and Senate adopted the CoC report. The bill awaits action by the governor.

[SB 257](#) Prohibiting foams containing perfluoroalkyl chemicals for use in fighting fires. It passed, and now awaits action by the governor.

[HB 661](#) Relative to a private right of action for toxin exposures. Retained in committee.

Gambling

[SB 310](#) Relative to casino gambling. This was the annual attempt to create two casinos in NH. It passed the Senate 13-11, but the House voted ITL by a roll call vote of 289-63.

Guns

[HB 109](#) Requiring background checks for commercial firearms sales. The bill requires commercial firearms sales or transfers in this state to be subject to a criminal background check and provides a criminal penalty for a violation. The bill excludes private, non-commercial sales or transfers between individuals, as long as neither are prohibited from possessing a firearm under state or federal law. The governor vetoed it on August 9. Read his veto message [here](#).

[HB 514](#) Imposing a three-day waiting period between the purchase and delivery of a firearm. The bill began with a seven-day waiting period after purchasing a firearm or ammunition from a licensed dealer. The House concurred with the Senate amendment. Governor Sununu vetoed it on August 9. Read his veto message [here](#).

[HB 101](#) Relative to regulating possession of firearms in a school district. Tabled, by a roll call vote of 232-109.

[HB 564](#) Relative to possession of firearms in safe school zones. With exceptions for law enforcement and for people dropping off students (as long as the firearm remains in the vehicle), this bill prohibits carrying a firearm in a safe school zone. Violations would result in a Class A misdemeanor. The version which emerged from a CoC provides that school districts can make exceptions for individuals following a public hearing. Both bodies adopted the CoC report. The governor vetoed the bill on August 9. Read his veto message [here](#).

Health

*[SB 290](#) Relative to the New Hampshire Granite Advantage health care program. This bill would allow general funds to be used for the program and clarifies which beneficiaries may be subject to the federal work and community engagement requirements that were added last year, when the expanded Medicaid program was reauthorized. Those enrolled in the program would be required to prove they are completing 100 hours of paid work or “community engagement” (aka unpaid work) or prove that they should be exempt from the requirement. It ultimately went to a CoC, where a compromise amendment was developed that is very specific about whom the work requirements apply to, as well as who can be considered exempt. Coverage may be suspended for noncompliance, but not terminated. There’s also a provision that allows the state to waive requirements for a year if the state is unable to contact all participants to explain the rules. Both the House and the Senate voted to adopt the CoC report. The governor signed the bill into law on July 8, effective immediately.

[HB 366](#) Adding opioid addiction, misuse, and abuse to qualifying medical conditions under therapeutic use of cannabis. Retained in committee.

[HB 350](#) Relative to licensed health care providers authorized to certify that criteria have been met for the use of therapeutic cannabis. This bill would add physician assistants as prescribing providers. It passed and was signed by the governor on June 20. It goes into effect on August 20, 2019.

[HB 359](#) Relative to warning labels on prescription drugs containing opiates. This would require any prescription drug containing an opiate to come in a bottle with a red cap and a warning label regarding the risks of the drug. The bill passed and was signed by the governor on July 12. It goes into effect on January 1, 2020.

[HB 179](#) Establishing a New Hampshire health access corporation. ITL by a voice vote.

[HB 180](#) Establishing a commission to examine the feasibility of the New England states entering into a compact for a single payer health care program. ITL by a voice vote.

[HB 277](#) Relative to establishing mental health parity under the insurance laws. The House did not concur with a Senate amendment and requested a CoC. The Senate refused to accede to the request, so the bill died.

[SB 11](#) Relative to mental health services and making appropriations therefor. The bill passed and was signed by Governor Sununu on May 21, effective on July 1, 2019.

[SB 5](#) Making an appropriation to the Department of Health and Human Services for Medicaid provider rates for mental health and substance use disorder and emergency shelter and stabilization services. The bill passed and was vetoed by the governor on June 7, on the grounds that the budget would make it redundant. Read his statement [here](#). (He went on to veto the budget as well.)

[HB 604](#) Establishing a commission to assess benefits and costs of a “health care for all” program for New Hampshire. The House voted OTP/A by voice vote. The Senate voted ITL, also by voice vote.

[HB 697](#) Relative to Medicare for All. This bill establishes a single payer health care system that would be funded by the newly created New Hampshire Health Services Trust Fund. ITL by a voice vote.

[HB 610](#) Relative to treatment alternatives to opioids. Voted ITL by a voice vote.

[HB 693](#) Relative to aid to persons funded by Medicaid and for persons who are uninsured and establishing a special fund. Voted ITL by a voice vote.

[HB 736](#) Re-establishing the commission to study environmentally triggered chronic illness. The House voted OTP/A by a voice vote. The Senate added an amendment that completely rewrote the bill and voted OTP/A by a voice vote. The House refused to concur with the amendment, so the bill died.

[HB 691](#) Relative to blood testing for individuals exposed to perfluorinated chemicals in private or public water supplies. This bill requires that testing. Voted ITL by a roll call vote of 241-117.

[HB 694](#) Establishing a take-back program for illegal controlled drugs. Tabled by a voice vote.

[HB 690](#) Removing the work requirement of the New Hampshire Granite Advantage health care program. Retained in committee.

[SB 272](#) Relative to mental health parity under the insurance laws. This bill authorizes the insurance commissioner to enforce the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008 and requires the commissioner to examine and evaluate health insurers, health service corporations, and health maintenance organizations for compliance. The bill passed, and was signed by the governor on July 19, effective January 1, 2020.

[SB 292](#) Relative to implementation of the new mental health 10-year plan. Passed and signed by the governor on July 12, effective immediately.

[HB 692](#) Relative to dental care for Medicaid recipients. This bill requires the Medicaid managed care program to provide dental benefits for the people they cover. Passed and signed by the governor on July 19, effective immediately.

[SB 259](#) Expanding eligibility for the Medicaid employed adults with disabilities (MEAD) program. This program would be expanded to include people with disabilities who are age 65 and older. Tabled by a voice vote.

[SB 236](#) Making an appropriation to the Department of Health and Human Services for the purpose of upgrades to substance use disorder treatment facilities. The sum of \$5,00,000 has been appropriated. Tabled by a voice vote. This was added in to the budget (which was vetoed).

[SB 291](#) Relative to the construction of new mental health facilities. Tabled by a voice vote. This was folded in to the budget (which was vetoed).

[SB 308](#) Relative to the health care workforce and making appropriations therefor. Tabled by a voice vote.

[HB 726](#) Establishing a secure forensic psychiatric hospital advisory council. The House voted OTP/A by a voice vote. The Senate voted OTP/A by a voice vote. The bill was then tabled. The provisions of this bill were folded into the budget (which was vetoed).

[SB 51](#) Establishing a commission to study expanding mental health courts statewide. Mental health courts provide sentencing alternatives to individuals who have mental illness who are involved in criminal matters. It passed and was signed by the governor on July 12. All sections will be in effect by November 1, 2020.

[SB 293](#) Relative to federally-qualified health care centers and rural health centers reimbursement. Retained in House Finance.

Housing

[SB 15](#) Making an appropriation to the affordable housing fund. The House retained the bill in committee.

[SB 84](#) Making appropriations to the Department of Health and Human Services for homeless services expansion. Senate voted OTP/A by a voice vote, then tabled the bill. Funds for homeless services were included in the budget (which was vetoed).

[HB 173](#) Relative to requirements for residential tenants evicted for non-payment of rent. This bill would require tenants contesting a landlord's eviction action for nonpayment of rent to pay the unpaid rent to the court prior to a hearing. Voted ITL by a division vote of 215-152.

[SB 306](#) Establishing the housing appeals board. This bill establishes a housing appeals board to hear appeals of municipal boards, committees, and commissions regarding questions of housing and housing development. Voted OTP/A by a roll call

vote of 18-5. Tabled immediately afterward by a voice vote but included in the budget trailer bill (which was vetoed).

Immigrants' Rights

**[HB 232](#) Relative to enforcement of immigration laws and the prohibition of sanctuary cities. This bill establishes the New Hampshire Anti-Sanctuary Act, which requires state and local government entities to comply with federal immigration detainer requests. This also prohibits state and local governments from adopting policies that prohibit, restrict, or discourage the enforcement of federal law. Voted ITL by a roll call vote of 211- 132.

**[SB 317](#) Prohibiting sanctuary jurisdictions in New Hampshire. This bill goes much further than the House bill did – into the land of enforcement, civil penalties, and fink protection provisions. We took issue with the demeaning and racist language contained within the bill. Tabled by a roll call vote of 14-10.

* [HCR 3](#) A resolution relative to welcoming communities. This bill designates March as diversity month and an opportunity to celebrate cultural diversity in New Hampshire. The House voted OTP/A by a roll call vote of 251-56.

* * [HB 471](#) Relative to indicating citizenship on drivers' licenses and nondrivers' identification cards. This bill would require that applicants be required to furnish proof of citizenship, and all licenses and non-driver ID cards would be marked either US Citizen or non-US Citizen. Voted ITL by a roll call vote of 220-121.

* [HB 397](#) Relative to drivers' licenses for New Hampshire residents who do not possess a Social Security card. This would authorize the issuance of drivers' licenses for residents of NH who do not have a Social Security card, including unauthorized immigrants. It passed the House 204-137. The Senate re-referred the bill to committee by a roll call vote of 16-8.

Taxes

[HB 182](#) Establishing a commission to study adaptation of the tax structure of the state to economic and demographic change. Voted ITL by voice.

[HB 185](#) Relative to contingently reducing the rate of the interest and dividends tax and repealing the tax in five years. Voted ITL by a roll call vote of 207-134.

[HB 623](#) Relative to the rates of the business profits tax and the business enterprise tax. Retained in committee.

[HB 686](#) Relative to calculating and funding the interim cost of an opportunity for an adequate education and extending the interest and dividends tax to capital gains. Retained in House Finance.

[SB 223](#) Increasing the minimum gross business income required for filing a business tax profits tax return. Re-referred to committee by voice vote.

[SB 15](#), which calls for making an annual transfer of \$5,000,000 from the real estate transfer tax revenue to the affordable housing fund. The House retained it in committee, but it was included in the budget (which was vetoed).

[SB 135](#) Relative to the rates of the business profits tax and the business enterprise tax. The bill amends rate changes to the BPT and the BET. The bill retains the 2018 rate and postpones the rate changes to those taxes that were made in 2017. Voted OTP and tabled immediately afterward by a voice vote. These provisions went into the budget (which was vetoed).

[SB 301](#) Relative to the rates of the business profits tax and the business enterprise tax, and relative with revenue sharing with cities and towns. Voted OTP by a roll call vote of 14-10, then tabled by a voice vote.

[SB 95](#) Establishing a working families property tax refund program. Re-referred to committee by a voice vote.

[SB 243](#) Relative to the low and moderate-income homeowners property tax relief program. Voted OTP by a voice vote, then tabled by a voice vote.

[SB 191](#) Relative to exemptions for the tax on interest and dividends. Voted ITL by a roll call vote of 14-9.

[HB 676](#) Repealing the collection of the state education property tax. Voted ITL by a division vote of 231-32.

[CACR 12](#) Relating to taxes. Providing that an income tax on personal income shall be prohibited. Voted ITL by a roll call vote of 206-143.

[SB 223](#), increasing the minimum gross business income required for filing a business profits tax return. The current threshold of \$50,000 would increase to \$100,000. Re-referred to committee by a voice vote.

[HB 632](#) Relative to the education tax credit. Tabled by a roll call vote of 332-19.

[SB 318](#) Relative to donations to the education tax credit program. (ETC) The bill, as amended, extends the ETC tax credit to include donations to public school programs. Tabled by a roll call vote of 15-8.

War

* [HR 6](#) Urging the United States to lead a global effort to prevent nuclear war. Tabled by a voice vote.

* [HCR 7](#) A Resolution urging the president and Congress to adopt a policy renouncing the first use of nuclear weapons. Voted OTP by a roll call vote of 192-162. The Senate declined to consider it.

[HCR 2](#) Requesting an investigation on whether opioids, benzodiazepines, and exposure to Agent Orange contribute to suicides by veterans. OTP/A by a voice vote.

Women

[HB 124](#) Repealing the law relative to the buffer zones at reproductive health care facilities. Voted ITL by a roll call vote of 228-141.

[SB 142](#) Requiring feminine hygiene products in school restrooms. This bill would require school boards to make feminine hygiene products available, free of charge, in girl's and gender-neutral restrooms in middle and high schools. It passed and was signed into law on July 17, effective immediately.

Workers

[HB 255](#) Relative to shift differential pay for employees who work overnight. Employers would be required to pay a shift differential for employees working an overnight shift. ITL by a voice vote.

[HB 227](#) Relative to the length of time an employer may lease an employee through an employee leasing company. ITL by a voice vote.

[HB 211](#) Relative to inquiries by prospective employers concerning salary history. This bill prohibits an employer from requiring a prospective employee to disclose her/his salary history prior to an offer of employment. It passed but was vetoed by Governor Sununu on July 10. Read his veto statement [here](#).

[HB 223](#) Relative to night work. Limits the number of night work hours a youth may work in a 24-hour period. The bill passed and was signed into law on May 15, effective July 14, 2019.

[SB 18](#) Relative to authorized employee wage deductions. This bill allows a public employee to specify voluntary deductions from wages for any insurance or employee benefit. The bill passed but was vetoed by the governor on July 10. Read his veto statement [here](#).

[SB 19](#) Relative to the privacy of certain information concerning public employees. The House retained the bill in committee.

[SB 29](#) Establishing a commission to study incidents of workplace violence against state employees. Senate voted OTP/A by a voice vote. House voted OTP by a voice vote. The governor signed the bill into law on June 25. All parts of the bill will be in effect on November 1, 2019.

[HB 616](#) Relative to a cost of living adjustment for retirees in the state retirement system. This bill grants a cost of living adjustment to retirees who have been retired for at least 60 months. The bill passed and awaits action by the governor.

[HB 253](#) Relative to criminal records checks in the employee application process. This bill prohibits employers from asking a job applicant about his or her criminal history prior to an interview. The Senate re-referred it to committee by a voice vote.

*[HB 272](#) Relative to temporary workers. This bill would establish notification and disclosure provisions for the hiring of temporary workers. It passed the House 204-140. The Senate re-referred the bill to committee by a voice vote.

[HB 363](#) Including the legislature as a public employer under the public employee labor relations act and relative to the duties of the joint committee on legislative facilities. Retained in committee.

[SB 2](#) Relative to funding for job training programs in the Department of Business and Economic Affairs. The bill passed but was vetoed on August 9. Read the governor's veto statement [here](#).

[HB 622](#) Prohibiting collective bargaining agreements that require employees to join or contribute to a labor union. The latest "right to work for less" bill was voted ITL by a roll call vote of 214-135.

[HB 738](#) Relative to protection from an abusive work environment for state employees. Retained in committee.

[SB 249](#) Including the legislature as a public employer under the public employee labor relations act. It passed the Senate but was declared ITL by the House on a voice vote. This is the Senate version of [HB 363](#), which was retained.

[SB 146](#) Relative to eliminating the waiting period before eligibility to receive unemployment benefits. This would repeal the one-week waiting period that currently exists. The bill passed and was vetoed by Governor Sununu on June 25. Read his veto statement [here](#).

[SB 151](#) Establishing an administrative hearing procedure and penalty for an employer who fails to make payment of wages or who fails to secure workers' compensation coverage. The bill passed and was vetoed by the governor on June 25. Read his veto statement [here](#).

[SB 271](#) Relative to requiring prevailing wages on state funded public works projects. This bill requires that workers employed in the construction of public works projects in the state would be paid the prevailing minimum hourly wage and benefits. The bill passed. Governor Sununu vetoed the bill on July 20. Read the veto message [here](#).

[SB 60](#) Relative to advance notice to hourly employees of work schedules. This bill requires employers with more than 15 employees to provide advance notice of the work schedule, at least 14 days in advance of any pay period. Re-referred to committee by a voice vote.

[HB 406](#) Relative to reporting and investigation of serious injuries and death in the workplace. This bill requires the Commissioner of the Department of Labor to inspect a place of employment where a serious injury or death has occurred and requires an employer to report such an injury or death to the Department of Labor. The governor signed the bill into law on May 15. Effective July 14, 2019.

[HB 293](#) Relative to employee credit privacy. This bill prohibits employers from using credit history in employment decisions. The bill passed and was vetoed by the governor on July 10. Read his veto statement [here](#).

[HB 178](#) Establishing a minimum wage. This bill would re-establish the option of setting a state minimum wage and set that minimum at \$10.00 per hour. Voted ITL by a voice vote.

[HB 186](#) Establishing a state minimum wage and providing for adjustments to the minimum wage, raising it in 3 steps to \$12 an hour by 2022. After defeating a floor amendment adding a 4th step of \$15 by 2024, the House adopted it 210-145. The Senate, favoring SB 10, re-referred the bill to committee by a voice vote.

* [HB 731](#) Relative to the minimum hourly rate. This bill would have re-established the minimum wage, set it at \$12 in 2020 and raised it in 4 steps to \$15 in 2024. Retained in committee.

[HB 724](#) Relative to certain rights of employees. This bill bans credit checks for any employment related decisions, requires employers to allow a certain amount of rest between work shifts, gives employees advance notice of work schedules, and increases the minimum hourly rate of tipped employees to the minimum hourly rate for all employees. Voted ITL by a voice vote.

[SB 100](#) Relative to discrimination in employment based on criminal background checks. This prohibits employers from asking about criminal history on an employment application and prohibits employers from conducting criminal background checks before an initial interview with a potential employee. It passed but was vetoed on July 19. Read the veto message [here](#).

[SB 20](#) Relative to notification requirements for employees, workplace inspections, and the youth employment law. This bill amends certain workplace notification; amends certain provisions of the youth employment law; amends the requirements for employer retention of hour and wage records; and establishes prima facie evidence of a violation of youth employment laws. Despite strong bipartisan support, the bill was vetoed by the governor on June 25. Read his veto message [here](#).

* [SB 10](#) Relative to the state minimum hourly rate. The bill re-establishes a state minimum wage, sets it at \$10 in 2020 and raises it to \$12 in 2022. As introduced, it included an option for employers to pay \$1 an hour less if they offered paid sick days and set the minimum wage for tipped workers at \$4/hour. A House amendment eliminated the sick day provision and set the minimum for tipped workers at 50% of the standard rate. When the Senate declined to concur, a CoC approved a new version without the sick day provision and setting the wage for tipped workers at 45%. If a tipped employee did not earn at least \$12 an hour, the employer must make up the difference. Both the Senate and the House adopted the CoC report by a voice vote. Following passage, members of Raise Up NH visited the governor's office daily for six weeks to deliver black pens reading, "raise the minimum wage." Governor Sununu vetoed the bill on August 9. Read his veto message [here](#).

[HB 148](#) Relative to notification to public employees regarding their right to join or not join a union. This would require an employer to provide written notice to a public employee regarding their constitutional right to decide whether or not to join

a union, and the estimated annual cost of joining a union. It began as a thinly-veiled attempt to discourage public employees from joining a union. It was amended to include educating new employees on their rights under collective bargaining in the public sector and it also clarifies how union representatives can meet with new employees in a timely manner. The House further amended the bill to stipulate that new hires would be given even more helpful information about union membership. This was a rare case of a bad bill being made good. The governor vetoed it on July 12. Read his veto statement [here](#).

[SB 59](#) Adding post-traumatic stress disorder and acute stress disorder to the definition of “injury” for the purposes of workers’ compensation and reestablishing the commission to study the incidence of post-traumatic stress disorder in first responders. It passed and the governor signed the bill into law on July 17. It will be fully in effect on January 1, 2021.

[HB 252](#) Establishing a committee to study certain labor statutes. The statutes are RSA 275, which relates to union membership; RSA 276-A, which covers youth employment; and RSA 279, minimum wage law. The committee will be tasked with identifying which statutes should be repealed, amended, or remain in current form. Passed both the House and the Senate and signed into law by the governor on June 7, effective immediately. We advise worker justice advocates to keep an eye on this study committee.

Miscellaneous

[HB 441](#) Relative to disclosure of the source of legislative bill proposals and the disclosure of certain information by lobbyists. This would require the identification of a private organization responsible for distributing a model act used by a legislator to propose legislation. It also requires lobbyists to disclose their affiliation when contacting legislators. Retained in committee.

[HCR 5](#) Requesting the United States Congress to propose a constitutional amendment to reverse the ruling of the United States Supreme Court in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*. Voted OTP/A by a roll call vote of 198-132.

[HB 462](#) Relative to digital electronic product repair. The bill requires manufacturers of digital electronic products to provide independent repair facilities with diagnostic and repair information for such products. This is also known as “right to repair.” When we buy products, we should be able to fix them. Retained in committee.

[SB 288](#) Relative to privatization contracts by state agencies. This bill regulates privatization contracts entered into by state agencies. Re-referred to committee by a voice vote.

[HB 367](#) Establishing a state bank. Voted ITL by a voice vote.

[SB 235](#) Relative to sexual harassment complaints in the general court and authorizing an independent human resources professional. After a House amendment, the Senate asked for a CoC. The CoC crafted an agreeable amendment providing that all complaints will be confidential and not subject to disclosure by a third party, provided the complainant may waive those protections. The effective

date of January 1, 2020 was also agreed upon. Both bodies adopted the CoC report by a voice vote. The governor signed it on August 2, effective January 1.

[HB 520](#) Relative to availability of diaper changing stations in public restrooms. It passed the House 206-142. The Senate re-referred the bill to committee by a voice vote.

[HB 132](#) Relative to net neutrality. This would require a certification process for an Internet Service Providers (ISP) to be eligible for a service contract with a state agency. Voted ITL by a voice vote.

[HB 628](#) Relative to universal changing stations in certain places of public accommodation. This bill requires universal changing stations for use by persons with disabilities to be installed in places with the capacity to serve 1,500 or more persons per day. The bill passed and awaits action by the governor.

[HB 665](#) Relative to New Hampshire cost-of-living information. This bill would require the Office of Strategic Initiatives to annually report cost of living data. Voted ITL by a voice vote.

[HB 291](#) The original title of the bill was: Establishing a committee to study certain findings and other initiatives regarding end-of-life care. The Senate added an amendment that changed the intent of the bill and the title to: Establishing a committee to study certain findings regarding hospice and palliative care. The House did not concur with the amendment, thereby killing the bill.

[CACR 4](#) Relating to the right to govern. Provides that the people of the state have the right of local, community self-government. Voted ITL by a voice vote.

[CACR 8](#) Relating to the right to govern. This provides that the people of the state may enact local laws that protect health, safety, and welfare. Voted ITL by a division vote of 282-74.

[HB 457](#) This bill began as an act requiring meetings and sessions of committees of the House be recorded and made available on the Internet. It was amended to instead create a committee to study the making, preservation, and Internet availability of audio and video recordings of proceedings of committees of the House of Representatives. It passed and the governor signed the bill into law on June 25, effective immediately.

Bills we Watched to Entertain Ourselves

[HB 572](#) Proclaiming the second Saturday in June as Pollyanna of Littleton New Hampshire Recognition Day. Pollyanna is the optimistic title character in the classic 1913 children's book written by Littleton resident Eleanor H. Porter. The Senate added an amendment stipulating that the bill became effective immediately. The House voted to concur, on May 2. This left a narrow window for the bill to be enrolled and signed by the governor. We were a little anxious. Governor Sununu signed the bill into law on June 6, two days before Pollyanna Day.

[HB 525](#) Relative to compensation for members of the general court. The sponsors of this bill wanted to pay legislators in silver dollars. The issue of storing the coins was not addressed in the bill, which was voted ITL by a voice vote.

[HB 280](#) Designating the red-tailed hawk as the official state raptor. Voted OTP by a roll call vote of 333-11. The Senate amended the bill to stipulate it be effective immediately, then voted OTP/A by a roll call vote of 24-0. The House concurred with the Senate amendment. The governor signed the bill into law on June 14. The [Boston Globe](#) provides a retrospective of the red-tailed hawk in the NH House.