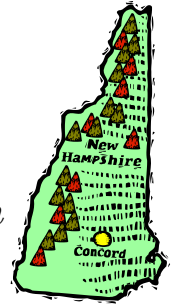


State House Bulletin

A Granite State Progress Publication



Volume I, Issue 3

Weekly, Legislative Session January - June

Friday, February 25th, 2011

NH, Nation Rally in Support of WI Workers

NH residents gathering this Saturday in Concord and Portsmouth to stand in solidarity with Wisconsin workers under attack will be joined by like-minded citizens in cities across the nation. Governor Walker's vendetta against Wisconsin teachers, emergency responders, and state workers has sparked a firestorm of outrage and shed light on the anti-worker agenda being pursued by newly elected legislators in states across the country (including New Hampshire). Wisconsin and its Governor have become the poster children of this epic battle; this week, Gov. Walker was caught on tape bad-mouthing middle class families and revealing his agenda to weaken their ability to negotiate fair wages and participate in the political process.

The story stretches to New Hampshire where free market enthusiasts are making deep cuts in revenue and seeking tax giveaways for business despite a budget crisis; then using that crisis as an excuse to blame public employees and limit worker's right to free speech and collective organizing.

Timothy McKernan
Intern Editor, UNH-Manchester

Week in Review: RGGI, Voting Rights, Health Care, Education, Bond Rating — ALL in Jeopardy

State House Happenings Week of February 21st-25th

More Pollution, Fewer Jobs: Climate Change Denial Bill Passes in Roll Call

HB 519: State lawmakers who deny the science of global warming want to dismantle NH's clean energy future by ending our participation in the regional effort to limit greenhouse gasses, RGGI. This bill passed a floor vote 246-104 this week on largely partisan lines, signaling an intent to end a program that has channeled \$20 million in energy efficiency programs in N.H. at a cost of \$0.36 per month for an average household. This bill is now in the Finance Committee. [Click here to take action \(NH Sierra Club\).](#)

Students, Military Vets Protest Voter Discrimination Bills

HB 176, 223, 356-FN, 487-FN, 515-FN: Over 200 students, citizens, and election officials gathered Thursday to oppose bills seeking to impose draconian limits on voting access. Rep. Sorg (R-Easton), main sponsor of HB 176 and HB 223, described

colleges as "educational theme park(s)" and characterized students as ignorant and inexperienced. Sponsors and supporters of these bills raised the specter of vote fraud as the reason for these bills, but the NH Attorney General's office testified that only one conviction for voter fraud has been obtained in the last 10 years despite investigating hundreds of allegations in the state. [Click here for video of a student State House rally \(Granite State Progress\).](#)

House, Senate Consider More Challenges to Historic New Health Law, Seek to Repeal Consumer Protections

HB 309-FN, 601-FN, 627-FN, SB 148-FN, 150-FN, 162-FN, 163-FN: The barrage of attacks on the popular new health law continued yet again this week. **SB 148-FN**—the third bill requiring the Attorney General to join a lawsuit challenging the new health law—was presented in the Senate despite AG testimony last week that it is a clear violation of the separation of powers. Other bills attack various provisions of the new law and its implementation, as well as previously existing consumer protections.

(Continued on page 2)

What's Coming Up at the State House

Monday, February 28th

10:00 a.m. JUDICIARY, Rooms 206-208, LOB, HB 329-FN, Requires minors to obtain court permission for abortions performed without parental notification.

10:00 a.m. SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PENSIONS REFORM, Room 307, LOB, HB 231-FN: This bill negates the state's contractual obligation by taking money from retirees. Public hearing. 11:00 a.m. Full committee work

session. 12:30 p.m. Executive session.

Tuesday, March 1st

9:00 a.m. HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND ELDERLY AFFAIRS, Room 205, LOB Executive sessions on **HB 75**, establishing a commission to study bed bugs in New Hampshire, **HB 484-FN**, requiring random drug testing of food stamp program participants. Cost: \$3.5-7 Million/year, just for initial testing. Savings = \$0.

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(NEXT WEEK, Continued from page 1)

10:00 a.m. HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND ELDERLY AFFAIRS, Reps Hall **HB 442-FN**, relative to the use of marijuana for medicinal purposes.

10:00 a.m. CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW AND STATUTORY RECODIFICATION, Room 206, LOB Executive session on **HB 89**, requiring the attorney general to join the lawsuit challenging the new health law.

10:00 a.m. FINANCE, Rooms 210-211, LOB Or immediately following the Chairmen's meeting, executive session on **HB 269-FN**. This bill cripples agencies' budgets from responding to the state's growing populations and changing needs. **HB 618-FN**, This bill adds a burden of unnecessary and redundant reports to all agencies.

10:30 a.m. ELECTION LAW, Room 308, LOB Executive session on **HB 186-FN**. This bill deregulates political advertising and phone calls that imply support of candidates or parties, further extending corporate power over elections.

11:00 a.m. MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT, Room 301, LOB Executive session on **HB 341**, to enshrine tax cap gimmicks in law and allow a minority of town council members to hold budgets hostage, **HB 340-FN**, to give parents of children in private school a \$3,500 tax abatement per child.

11:15 a.m. CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY, Room 204, LOB **HB 628-FN**, making the touching or viewing with a technological device of a person's breasts or genitals by a government security agent w/o probable cause a sexual assault.

1:00 p.m. EDUCATION, Rooms 205-207, LOB **HB 370**, removes protections for students bullied outside the classroom.

1:00 p.m. JUDICIARY, Room 208, LOB Executive session on **HB 329-FN**, mandating parental notification prior to a minor terminating a pregnancy, **HB 437-FN**, **HB 443-FN**, **HB 569-FN**, all 3 bills removing marriage equality, the last denying recognition of ALL marriages.

1:00 p.m. LABOR, INDUSTRIAL AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES, Room 307, LOB Executive session on **HB 133**, relative to the minimum wage, **HB 273**, relative to public or private criticism of employers by employees, **HB 560**, increasing the minimum wage, **HB 582**, relative to communication between employers and employees during bargaining negotiations, **HB 589**, repealing the ability for employees to select union representation by written majority authorization, **HB 647**, relative to withholding of wages.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2

10:00 a.m. House meets in session. See full calendar for floor votes.

THURSDAY, MARCH 3

9:30 a.m. CHILDREN AND FAMILY LAW, Room 206, LOB **HB 587**. Denies no-fault divorce to couples with minor children.

10:00 a.m. CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY, Room 204, LOB **HB 207-FN**, **HB 210-FN**, **HB 567**, to use deadly force in public places w/no responsibility to retreat.

1:30 p.m. **HB 536-FN** asserts a natural right to carry a firearm, openly or concealed, without a license.

FRIDAY, MARCH 4

(WEEK IN REVIEW, Continued from page 1)

[Click here for a full list \(NH Voices for Health network\).](#)

Anti-Choice Legislators Try to Defund Planned Parenthood

HB 228-FN: Mimicking actions at the federal level, **HB 228-FN** seeks to restrict abortion access in New Hampshire by prohibiting the state from contracting with any health care provider that provides abortion services. The bill targets Planned Parenthood by name, and also seeks to restrict abortion access by preventing *private insurance* from covering abortion care.

A public hearing was held on February 8th. This bill is scheduled for a *third* subcommittee meeting on March 3rd. [Click here for more info \(Planned Parenthood of Northern NE\).](#)

House Considers Statewide Tax Cap Gimmick, State AAA Bond Rating in Jeopardy

CACR 6: This proposed amendment requires a 2/3 majority vote of the legislature for any tax or fee increase, except to pay a debt due that year. Fiscal observers have expressed concern that even considering this bill may cause investment ratings firms to lower the state's current prime AAA bond rating (Manchester's bond rating dropped after passage of a local tax cap gimmick—those local gimmicks have since been ruled illegal by the NH Supreme Court but pending legislation seeks to reinstate them).

Contact us if you are concerned about tax cap gimmicks and can help challenge these and other bad fiscal policies. [Click here to help protect NH communities \(Granite State Progress\).](#)

9:00 a.m. SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION FUNDING REFORM, Room 207, Several bills to nullify and replace the Claremont decision.

1:00 p.m. SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PENSIONS REFORM, Rooms 201-203, LOB

[More: View entire legislative calendar.](#)

Links and Information

General Court (NH House and Senate)

www.gencourt.state.nh.us

Look here for the full text and status of bills, legislative calendars, journals of record, roll call votes, and contact information for your state representatives.

Executive Council

<http://www.nh.gov/council/>

NH's five-member elected Executive Council works with the Governor to oversee the affairs of the state.

Legislative Lingo

<http://www.granitestateprogress.org/new-hampshire-state-house.html>

Read our handy legislative guide.