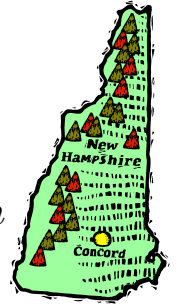


State House Bulletin

A Granite State Progress Publication



Special Fall Edition

Weekly, Legislative Session January - June

Saturday, October 8th, 2011

A Return to 300% Annual Interest Rates? No Thanks

Failed policies should not be repeated. Today's example: high interest car title loans.

New Hampshire had strict limits on small loan interest rates until 2000, when they were repealed. Within a few years, payday and car title lenders charging triple-digit interest rates had flooded the state. This bad experiment ended when NH instituted a reasonable 36 percent annual interest rate cap on payday and car title loans in 2008 (supported by now U.S. Senator Kelly Ayotte, and in line with 31 other states).

But on Wednesday, SB 57 could fast-track NH families back to 300% annual interest rates if the Governor's veto isn't sustained.

The April vote was 180-171, which means we have a fighting chance if D and R Reps stick to their principles. But we all know these votes will be closer now—this one requires a phone call. Please [take a look](#) at the info we've posted and make a call today.

Zandra Rice Hawkins
Executive Director

4 Park Street, Suite 300
Concord, NH 03301
Office: (603) 225-2471
info@granitestateprogress.org
www.GraniteStateProgress.org
Facebook: [GraniteStateProgress](#)
YouTube: [GraniteStateProgress](#)
Twitter: [ProgressNH](#)

Week in Review: Retained Bills Deadline Nov. 2nd; Republican Leadership Hastily Plans Redistricting Input Sessions in Response to Public Pressure

State House Happenings Week of October 3 to October 7

With the House on a deadline of November 2nd to act on [retained bills](#), the halls of the Legislative Office Building have been busy once again. Some of this past week's slate of committee work sessions included HB 219 that would establish a committee to study the abolishment of the department of education; HB 356-FN which would require photo ID to vote in person; and HB 536-FN relative to the natural right to carry a firearm, openly or concealed, without a license — essentially removing all protections the public and public safety officials should be able to rely upon.

Redistricting Public Hearings

Earlier this week, in response to [mounting criticism](#) from America Votes and Granite State Progress on the lack of transparency, the Chairman of the House Redistricting Committee held a press conference announcing a series of ten public hearings during October, one in each county, for the purpose of soliciting public input in the Redistricting of the House, the Executive Council, the County Commissioner Districts, and the two Congressional Districts.

This last-minute move by Chairman Mirski is a complete reversal of his stance from just two weeks earlier when he said public input was not needed because:

"It's a very complicated problem and quite frankly because it is a mathematical problem it doesn't lend itself to the sort of give and take with the public that may have been the case in the previous redistricting ... We have been holding off on this because we really have no way to utilize the public forum to get those answers. I just want to make that point."
[GSP State House Video Monitoring Project](#)

Are these public hearings for public relations purposes only, or an intentional effort to be more transparent? Given there is no plan available to comment on, and the committee members themselves were only informed of the hearings *after* the press was notified — well, we'll let you decide.

However, this is a great opportunity for activists and other concerned citizens to attend the hearings and ask the tough questions about when a plan will be ready, who will be drafting it, and how decisions will be made regarding it. There are also

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What's Coming Up In Concord and In NH

Occupy NH Discussions Underway

On Thursday, October 6th the First General Assembly of Occupy NH took place in Manchester. A second one is planned for Sunday, October 9th at 2:00 p.m. in White Park, Concord.

All who are interested in joining this movement are encouraged to attend, and to stay up-to-date on plans through the [Occupy New Hampshire Facebook page](#) (search: "Occupy New Hampshire").

House Back in Session, October 12th

Next week the House is back in session on Wednesday, October 12th at 10:00 a.m. to take up more of Speaker O'Brien's reckless agenda items, as well as veto votes.

Another **Citizen Lobby Day to Defeat "Right to Work for Less"** is scheduled that day from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Organized by [Protect NH Families](#) and other al-

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lies, you're invited to help hold the line for working families by meeting at the America Votes Office, 4 Park Street, Room 302 sometime between 8:00 a.m. and 9:15 a.m. to receive background information and a schedule, then join the group in traveling over to the State House together.

If you can't make it: The NH AFL-CIO put together an [action page](#) where you can call on your legislator to stand with working families. Send a note even if your legislator does — let them know you care! Send two if they don't — make sure they hear they should!

Legislative Calendar, Week of October 10th to October 15th

MONDAY, OCTOBER 10

SENATE: FIRST DAY TO FILE LEGISLATION FOR THE 2012 SESSION

1:00 p.m. HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND ELDERLY AFFAIRS, Room 205, LOB Subcommittee work session on retained **HB 228-FN**, prohibiting the department of health and human services from entering into a contract with Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Inc. or any org that provides abortion services and prohibiting the use of public funds or insurance for abortion services.

***** Note:** Speaker O'Brien's leadership team is trying to downplay this — a sign to

pay closer attention — and the timing is suspect. An announcement in this week's calendar states legislators will not be reimbursed for travel on Mondays, discouraging attendance at this work session. Check GSP social media for real-time updates regarding the discussion on Monday.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11

9:00 a.m. EDUCATION, Room 207, LOB Subcommittee work session on retained **HB 219**, establishing a committee to study the abolishment of the department of education.

10:00 a.m. SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION FUNDING REFORM, Rooms 210-211, LOB Full committee work session on retained **HB 533-FN-L**, establishing a cap on the amount of school building aid grants distributed in each fiscal year.

1:00 p.m. Committee to Develop a Plan to **Increase Usage of Contractors** to Perform Certain Duties of DOT (HB 2, Chapter 224:277, Laws of 2011), Room 212, LOB Regular meeting.

2:00 p.m. COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS, Room 302, LOB Insurance/Consumer subcommittee work session on retained **HB 440-FN**, requiring that New Hampshire join the lawsuit challenging federal health care reform legislation, and repealing the authority for state implementation of federal health care reform.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12

HOUSE SESSION – 10 am

1:00 p.m. HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES & ELDERLY AFFAIRS, Room 205, LOB Or after session, executive session on **HB 228-FN**, (see above reference)

IMPORTANT FUTURE DATE:

Tuesday, October 25th, 11:00 a.m. JUDICIARY, Room 208, LOB Executive session on **HB 437-FN**, relative to the definition of marriage, and **HB 443-FN**, establishing that marriage between one man and one woman shall be the only legal domestic union that shall be valid or recognized in this state. (Stay posted for more — GSP will send details closer to date!)

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very specific questions that can be asked in various towns and cities — the full schedule is below, we invite you to [“sign-up” to attend a hearing](#) and we'll help you consider the best questions to ask in your area.

BELKNAP – Tuesday, October 18th, 7:00 p.m.

Belknap Mill, 25 Beacon Street East, Laconia

CARROLL – Thursday, October 13th, 7:00 p.m.

Mountain View Community Nursing Home, Ossipee

CHESHIRE – Tuesday, October 18th, 7:00 p.m.

Keene Public Library Auditorium, Keene

COOS – Tuesday, October 25th, 7:00 p.m.

Lancaster Town Hall, Lancaster

GRAFTON – Thursday, October 20th, 7:00 p.m.

UNH Cooperative Extension, 3855 Dartmouth College Highway, North Haverhill

HILLSBOROUGH – Thursday, October 13th, 7:00 p.m.

Nashua Public Library, Theatre Room, Nashua

MERRIMACK – Thursday, October 27th, 7:00 p.m.

Merrimack County Administration Building, Basement Conference Room, Concord

ROCKINGHAM – Thursday October 20th, 7:00 p.m.

Hilton Auditorium, Rockingham County Nursing Home, Brentwood

STRAFFORD – Tuesday, October 25th, 7:00 p.m.

Strafford County Superior Court, Court Room 1, Dover

SULLIVAN – Thursday, October 27th, 7:00 p.m.

Probate Court, 3rd floor, Sullivan County Admin Building, Newport

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.