

# LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN

## NHMA Supports Medicaid Expansion Reauthorization

Bulletin #5, 2016 Session  
January 22, 2016

At its January 2016 meeting, the NHMA Board of Directors discussed one of the big issues to come before the New Hampshire legislature this year: the reauthorization of the New Hampshire Health Protection Plan (NHHPP), also known as Medicaid expansion. The board voted to **support** the reauthorization due to its beneficial impact on municipalities.

After just one year of operation, local welfare administrators in the state’s 13 cities have noted that their expenditures, particularly for prescriptions, have dropped dramatically. It is always difficult to quantify costs and savings in local welfare programs, which are administered by each municipality and provide the state’s “safety net.” In this case, however, the prescription savings are quantifiable.

Local welfare savings also come from the availability of medical coverage for individuals who are not otherwise able to get care, which then allows those individuals to return to work, thus eliminating the need for continued local welfare assistance. These savings are less quantifiable, but local welfare officials know that these results of Medicaid expansion do occur. NHMA board members also noted that Medicaid expansion will soon be covering substance abuse treatment, which they believe will help to curb the increasing demands on municipal first responders dealing with addiction-related issues.

The reauthorization bill, [HB 1696](#), is scheduled for a hearing before the House Health and Human Services Committee on **Thursday, January 28, at 9:00 a.m., in Representatives’ Hall**, and will be the subject of much discussion throughout the session.

## Charging for Right-to-Know Law Costs

The House Judiciary Committee heard this week from plenty of supporters and opponents of [HB 1611](#), NHMA’s **policy bill** that would allow public bodies and agencies to recover a small portion of the labor cost involved in responding to Right-to-Know Law requests. Please see [last week's Legislative Bulletin](#) for

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more information about the bill.

The committee is scheduled to discuss the bill in executive session on **Tuesday, February 2**. Please contact members of the [Judiciary Committee](#) before then to let them know how important this bill is to your municipality.

## Close Vote on Transportation Fee Increase

As we reported in last week's [Legislative Bulletin](#), the House Municipal and County Government Committee heard overwhelming support for **HB 1119**, which would raise from \$5 to \$10 the maximum optional fee charged by municipalities for transportation improvements. Despite this support, the committee recommended Ought to Pass by only an 8-7 margin, with one opposing committee member absent when the vote was taken. Had that member been present, the tie vote would have sent the bill to the full House without recommendation.

Reasons stated for opposing the bill were that it's a fee increase, that it's a tax increase, that the funds can be used for transportation purposes other than roads and bridges (such as bus services for the elderly), and that money for these transportation costs can be paid from property taxes rather than this fee. These reasons seem to ignore the fact that a vote of the local legislative body is necessary both to establish and/or increase this fee and to decide the exact purpose of expenditures.

The bill goes to the House floor next **Wednesday, January 27**, and we expect pressure to overturn the committee recommendation of Ought to Pass. We ask all municipalities, whether you currently use this fee to fund local transportation needs or may consider doing so in the future, to please contact your [representatives](#) and urge them to **support the committee recommendation of Ought to Pass on HB 1119**.

## Taxation of Manufactured Housing

The House Municipal and County Government Committee will hear a bill next week on taxation of manufactured housing, which should be of interest to many municipalities. Under existing law, whenever a person has taxable property on the land of another, the tax on the property may be assessed to the landowner if the property owner does not pay it. The only exception to this is manufactured housing, which is taxable only to the owner of the manufactured housing, not to the landowner. The inability to tax the landowner leaves many municipalities holding the bag when a manufactured housing owner fails to pay his property taxes.

## THE EDGE

### Large bodies

Maybe you've heard someone say that New Hampshire has the second largest, or third or fourth largest, legislative body in the world, or perhaps in the English-speaking world. And that is exactly right. It's one of those. Sort of.

According to our research, here is where things stand:

The New Hampshire General Court, with 424 members (24 senators, 400 representatives), is the largest state legislature in the country. No other state comes close. (Pennsylvania is a distant second, with 203 in the General Assembly and 50 in the Senate.)

Of course, the largest elected legislative body in the United States is the U.S. Congress, with 435 representatives and 100 senators.

But Congress and the N.H. legislature pale in comparison to the British Parliament, which comprises approximately 1,440 members. There are 650 members in the House of Commons and "about 790" in the House of Lords, according to its website. The number varies, for reasons we haven't tried to understand.

If we confine our survey to the English-speaking world, there is one more candidate. Under the Indian constitution, English is one of two official languages (the other being Hindi), so India is generally included in "the English-speaking world." The Indian Parliament comprises a

*(continued on next page)*

**HB 1179** deletes this exception and makes the landowner liable for the tax. This would help to address a perennial problem for many cities and towns. We expect stiff resistance to this bill, but manufactured housing park owners should be able to make arrangements with their tenants to ensure that property taxes are paid on time. It should not be the municipality's problem. If your city or town is affected by this issue, please contact members of the [Municipal and County Government Committee](#). The hearing is scheduled for **Thursday, January 28, at 10:00 a.m., in LOB Room 301.**

### Road Agent Bill Returns

Next Thursday the House Municipal and County Government Committee will hear **HB 1284**, which would eliminate the local governing body's ability to remove an elected highway agent. This issue has come up several times in the last decade, and a similar bill came close to passing at least once. If the bill passes, the governing body would have no ability to remove a highway agent for any reason, no matter how extreme or dangerous the person's conduct. It would also make the highway agent the only local official who is not subject to removal under any circumstances.

If your town has an elected highway agent, we encourage you to weigh in on this bill. Please contact [committee members](#) or attend the hearing, which is scheduled for **Thursday, January 28, at 2:00 p.m., in LOB Room 301.**

### Camel's Nose Under the Tent

On Tuesday, the Municipal and County Government Committee recommended Inexpedient to Legislate by a vote of 10-6 on **HB 1214, an NHMA policy bill** that would authorize a local option surcharge on hotel occupancy of up to \$2 per 24-hour period. As reported in [Legislative Bulletin #3](#), New Hampshire is one of the few states that do not allow some form of local option tax or fee to offset the cost of vital public services (such as public safety, drinking water/wastewater, roads) that are stressed due to tourism-related activities. New Hampshire's municipalities and the state have a shared responsibility in delivering these essential public services to our residents and visitors alike. However, in recent years a deterioration in this state-local partnership has resulted in significant reductions in financial support to municipalities. In fact, municipalities today receive \$40 million dollars less per year in state aid than in 2009. A local option such as this to raise revenues, **other than through property taxes**, would help to offset this loss of state aid—and support services to tourism, the state's second-largest industry.

### THE EDGE (Continued)

maximum of 802 members, with up to 552 in the Lok Sabha (lower house) and up to 250 in the Rajya Sabha (upper house).

The bottom line, then, is that New Hampshire has the fourth-largest elected legislative body in the English-speaking world, after the British Parliament, the Indian Parliament, and the U.S. Congress.

But wait! Notice the qualifier "elected." Can you think of an *unelected* legislative body that is larger than some of these? Well, if you live in one of New Hampshire's larger towns, you probably have participated in one—namely, your town meeting.

Of the towns that still have a traditional town meeting, some are large enough to attract more than 500 to a town meeting; and even if you are in an SB 2 town, voting at the town election is still part of the town meeting and therefore constitutes participation in a legislative body—and there are plenty of SB 2 towns in which more than 1,000 people vote in town elections.

So it turns out that New Hampshire may have *several* of the largest legislative bodies in the world—not only in the state house, but also in places like Hudson and Goffstown and Hanover.



Influenced by representatives from the lodging industry, several committee members expressed concern that this bill gets the “camel’s nose under the tent,” suggesting that passage will lead to additional local fees, surcharges and taxes. However, not all New Hampshire municipalities would exercise this option—only those cities and towns that are economic engines of the state’s tourism industry, which benefits not only the municipality, but the region and the entire state. The more significant impact of passing this bill would have been tax relief for local property taxpayers. If the state continues to reduce aid to municipalities to balance the state budget, it should at least give cities and towns revenue options such as this to offset the loss of state funding. This legislation would recognize the critical role municipalities play in nurturing, supporting, and enhancing local economies, from which all state revenue is derived.

The bill was originally scheduled to go to the full House for a vote next week, but apparently has been postponed to the following week. **Please urge your representatives to support tax relief for local property taxpayers by voting *against* the committee recommendation and supporting an Ought to Pass motion.**

### More Right-to-Know Law Bills

The House Judiciary Committee will hear a number of bills dealing with the Right-to-Know Law next week. Here they are (all hearings are in **LOB Room 208**):

#### Tuesday, January 26

**2:00 p.m.** -- [HB 1216](#) requires a public body or agency, upon request, to “compile, cross-reference, or assemble information into a form in which it is not regularly kept or reported by that body or agency.” This would be a direct reversal of existing law, which expressly states that public entities do not have that obligation. Although the bill requires the public body or agency to compile the information only if it is “reasonably practical to do so,” and allows it to charge for the cost of providing the information, we believe this would lead to a significant increase in the workload of public employees and officials. The purpose of the Right-to-Know Law is to require that *existing* records be made available, not to require that *new* records be created upon request. We will oppose this bill.

**3:00 p.m.** -- [HB 1413](#) establishes a commission to study processes to resolve Right-to-Know Law complaints. We think this is a good idea, but the proposed composition of the commission is conspicuously skewed to exclude any representation for local government. We will support the bill with an appropriate amendment, and otherwise oppose it.

#### Thursday, January 28

**10:00 a.m.** -- [HB 1417](#) requires a public body to keep a record, and disclose it within 72 hours, of any consultation with legal counsel or collective bargaining session that is exempt from the definition of a “meeting.” The record must include the names of members participating, other persons in attendance, the meeting place, and the beginning and ending time of the meeting. NHMA believes this is unnecessary and burdensome, and may force the disclosure of confidential information.

**11:00 a.m.** -- [HB 1418](#) amends the law to state explicitly that minutes of non-public sessions must contain the same information as minutes of public sessions. We believe this is implicit in the existing law and is generally understood, so the change is not necessary, but we see no harm in making it explicit.

**1:00 p.m.** -- [HB 1419](#) adds the following sentence to the section on non-public sessions: “Minutes of such sessions shall record all actions in such a manner that the vote of each member is ascertained and recorded.” We get the point: Because the public is excluded, the only way to know how board members voted is to include it in the minutes. It makes sense on its face, and as of this writing, we have no problem with it; but it’s possible that there’s something we’re missing, so we reserve the right to change our minds. If members have any concerns, they are encouraged to let us know **before Thursday**.

**2:00 p.m.** -- [HB 1510](#) requires a public body to review sealed non-public session minutes every three years to determine whether they should be unsealed. That seems reasonable. It also requires that if a public body is going to discuss dismissal, promotion, compensation or discipline of a public employee, and if the employee has a right to a meeting, the public body must notify the employee in advance before holding the discussion in non-public session. That merely codifies case law and therefore is not objectionable.

However, we are concerned with a third provision of the bill, which requires that if a public body is going to enter non-public session to discuss a matter that could adversely affect someone’s reputation, it must notify the person in advance of the meeting. That presents practical problems and, in our view, is unworkable. We will oppose this part of the bill.

Finally, the House Legislative Administration Committee will hear [HB 1593](#), which prohibits charging for any labor costs for retrieving or copying records. It is unclear why the bill was sent to that committee, instead of Judiciary. In any event, the bill is directly at odds with our policy bill, [HB 1611](#), discussed above, so obviously we will oppose it. The hearing is scheduled for **Wednesday, January 27, at 2:00 p.m., in LOB Room 307.**

## **Fudged Budgets Debated Again**

On Tuesday the House Municipal and County Government Committee heard testimony on several bills dealing with official ballot (SB 2) procedures. [HB 1221](#) would amend the law governing computation of the default budget by requiring that all items in the previous year’s budget with a useful life of three years or longer be removed as “one-time” expenditures. Supporters asserted that few default budgets reflect any reductions for one-time expenditures, and that these budgets are “fudged.” Further testimony stated that default budgets do not give voters any choice on run-away spending (as evidenced by default budgets being so close to recommended budgets), and that default budgets should be adjusted down to reflect savings from things such as staff reductions or energy improvements. One speaker went so far as to drop the f-bomb – accusing school officials of committing fraud!

Fortunately, a number of committee members and other speakers countered these accusations, pointing out that many capital items are voted via separate or special warrant articles, would not



be included in the previous year's operating budget, and therefore would not need to be adjusted out as a one-time expenditure. Additionally, what may be a capital item in one municipality could easily be a maintenance item in another, such as police cruisers, road paving, or computers. Further, there are already several measures in the law for citizens to address concerns with the SB 2 budget process: adopt an official budget committee; authorize the budget committee to prepare the default budget; participate in the deliberative session; enact a tax cap; adopt a charter.

Complaints about the default budget are not new. In the twenty-one years since enactment of the official ballot form of town meeting, there probably hasn't been a single legislative session without a bill tweaking some part of SB 2, mostly dealing with the default budget. As we pointed out in our testimony (and we were there twenty-one years ago), what some people today perceive as the purpose of the default budget is very different from the original intent; and adhering to the intent of the law should not be characterized as fraud!

The committee also heard [HB 1375](#), which allows an SB 2 town to adopt a charter for the sole purpose of modifying the procedures for the consideration, amendment and adoption of an operating or default budget. NHMA testified in support of this bill as a reasonable method of addressing the types of concerns described above in **HB 1221**. Among other benefits, this would provide flexibility for municipalities and schools districts to establish a method of computing a default budget and define for their own budget purposes what constitutes one-time expenditures. Adoption of **HB 1375** would introduce a degree of local choice into the SB 2 process, making it more effective, efficient, and responsive to the concerns of a particular community.

Please contact members of the [House Municipal and County Government Committee](#) and urge them to recommend *Inexpedient to Legislate* on **HB 1221** and *Ought to Pass* on **HB 1375**!

### Senate Concurs on Accessory Dwelling Units

The Senate concurred this week with the House amendment to **SB 146**, the bill that requires municipalities to allow accessory dwelling units as a matter of right or by special exception or conditional use permit in all residential districts. The bill will go next to the Governor, and there is no reason to believe she will not sign the bill.

*This legislation may require many municipalities to amend their zoning ordinances* to comply with the new requirements. It is not too early to review [the bill as amended](#) and consult with your municipality's legal counsel about what changes to your zoning ordinance may be required. (If your ordinance already allows ADUs without limitation, then no changes should be necessary.)

The bill as amended does not take effect until June 1, 2017, so municipalities will have time to amend their ordinances if necessary. This is likely to be a topic in NHMA publications and in state and regional planning workshops and publications over the next several months, so please be on the lookout.

## Get Involved in NHMA's Legislative Policy Process

NHMA's biennial legislative policy process is getting underway. As a first step, we are recruiting volunteers to serve on our three legislative policy committees. These committees will review legislative policy proposals submitted by local officials and NHMA affiliate groups and make recommendations on those policies, which will go to the NHMA Legislative Policy Conference in September.

*If you are a local official in an NHMA member municipality and are interested in serving on one of the policy committees, please contact the Government Affairs staff at 800-852-3358, ext. 3408, or [governmentaffairs@nhmunicipal.org](mailto:governmentaffairs@nhmunicipal.org).*

Each of the committees deals with a different set of municipal issues. The committees and their subject areas are as follows:

- Finance and Revenue – budgeting, revenue, tax exemptions, current use, assessing, tax collection, retirement issues, education funding.
- General Administration and Governance – elections, Right-to-Know Law, labor, town meeting, charters, welfare, public safety.
- Infrastructure, Development, and Land Use – solid/hazardous waste, transportation, land use, environmental regulation, housing, utilities, code enforcement, economic development.

When you contact us, please indicate your first and second choices for a committee assignment. We will do our best to accommodate everyone's first choice, but we do need to achieve approximately equal membership among the committees. We hope to have 15-20 members on each committee.

There will be an organizational meeting for all committees on April 8. After that, each committee will meet separately as many times as necessary to review the policy proposals assigned to it—typically three to five meetings, all held on either a Monday or Friday, between early April and the end of May.

### HOUSE CALENDAR

**Joint House/Senate Meetings Are Listed Under This Section**

#### MONDAY, JANUARY 25

**ASSESSING STANDARDS BOARD, Department of Revenue Administration,  
109 Pleasant Street, Concord**

9:30 a.m. Poles Subcommittee Meeting

#### TUESDAY, JANUARY 26

**ELECTION LAW, Room 308, LOB**

10:00 a.m. **HB 1642-FN-L**, relative to persons executing election affidavits.

10:10 a.m. **HB 1223**, relative to changes of address on election day.

10:20 a.m. **HB 1503**, relative to distributing campaign materials at the polling place.

10:30 a.m. **HB 1511-FN-L**, relative to hours of polling.

11:00 a.m. **HCACR 23**, relating to the warning of biennial meetings. Providing that the selectmen are not required to be present to receive the votes.

11:20 a.m. **HCACR 17**, relating to domicile for the purpose of voting. Providing that only a resident of the state may establish a domicile for the purpose of voting.

**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION, Room 306, LOB**

10:00 a.m. **HB 1187-FN-L**, repealing licensure of showmen.  
10:15 a.m. **HB 1433-FN**, establishing the office of ombudsman in the department of state.  
10:45 a.m. **HB 1424-FN**, establishing an office of program evaluation and government accountability.

**JUDICIARY, Room 208, LOB**

2:00 p.m. **HB 1216-FN**, requiring public bodies and agencies to provide information which is not regularly kept or reported upon payment by the requestor.  
3:00 p.m. **HB 1413**, establishing a commission to study processes to resolve right-to-know complaints.

**LABOR, INDUSTRIAL AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES, Room 307, LOB**

10:00 a.m. **HB 1376**, relative to temporary workers.  
11:00 a.m. **HB 1252**, permitting employers to pay wages to employees weekly or biweekly.  
2:30 p.m. **HB 1463**, relative to mandatory vaccines.

**MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT, Room 301, LOB**

10:20 a.m. **HB 1164**, relative to contributions by a city to the county or state.

**SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENERGY, Room 304, LOB**

1:00 p.m. Continued public hearing on **HB 1134**, relative to open access to broadband infrastructure.

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27**

**LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION, Room 307, LOB**

2:00 p.m. **HB 1593-FN-L**, restricting fees for obtaining copies of public records and requiring certain information on public official and legislative financial disclosure forms.

**MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT, Room 301, LOB**

1:00 p.m. **HB 1222**, relative to procedures for appraisals by assessing officials.  
1:20 p.m. **HB 1296**, requiring the legislative body to approve the appointment of town managers and prohibiting town managers from hiring contractors to perform the duties of town managers.  
1:40 p.m. **HB 1363**, relative to filling of vacancies in town offices.  
2:00 p.m. **HB 1380**, relative to duties of police commissions.

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 28**

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY, Room 204, LOB**

2:00 p.m. **HB 1297**, relative to harm to unalienable rights of inhabitants.

**HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND ELDERLY AFFAIRS, Representatives Hall, SH**

9:00 a.m. **HB 1696-FN**, requesting a modification of the New Hampshire health protection program.

**JUDICIARY, Room 208, LOB**

10:00 a.m. **HB 1417**, relative to records of convenings of public bodies.  
11:00 a.m. **HB 1418-L**, relative to the minutes of nonpublic sessions of public bodies.  
1:00 p.m. **HB 1419**, relative to voting records in nonpublic sessions of public bodies.  
2:00 p.m. **HB 1510**, relative to the review of minutes of nonpublic sessions.



**MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT, Room 301, LOB**

- 10:00 a.m. **HB 1179-L**, relative to the taxation of manufactured housing on the land of another.
- 10:40 a.m. **HB 1293**, relative to the procedure for charter amendments.
- 11:00 a.m. **HB 1382**, relative to the referendum procedure for public water systems.
- 1:00 p.m. **HB 1181**, relative to designating an alternate cemetery trustee.
- 1:20 p.m. **HB 1253-L**, relative to the removal of land use board members and municipal officers.
- 1:40 p.m. **HB 1260**, repealing the authority of assessing officials to obtain administrative inspection warrants to complete property appraisals.
- 2:00 p.m. **HB 1284**, relative to highway agents.

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 29**

**ASSESSING STANDARDS BOARD (RSA 21-J:14-a), Room 304, LOB**

- 9:30 a.m. Regular meeting.

**SENATE CALENDAR**

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 19**

**COMMERCE, Room 100, SH**

- 1:30 p.m. **SB 306**, enabling the sampling of beer or wine at farmers' markets.

**EDUCATION, Room 103, LOB**

- 9:00 a.m. **SB 328-L**, relative to school districts exercising joint powers with other public agencies.
- 9:50 a.m. **SB 473-FN-A-L**, repealing the cap on adequate education grant payments and making an appropriation therefor.

**FINANCE, Room 103, SH**

- 1:30 p.m. **SB 412**, establishing a minimum wage.
- 2:20 p.m. **SB 485-FN-A**, establishing a state grant program to assist state and local law enforcement agencies in addressing the opioid crisis and making an appropriation therefor.

**TRANSPORTATION, Room 103, LOB**

- 1:10 p.m. **SB 471-FN**, relative to parking for persons with disabilities.

**WAYS AND MEANS, Room 103, SH**

- 9:30 a.m. **SB 497-FN-A-L**, relative to disposition of meals and rooms tax revenues to towns and cities.

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27**

**ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES, Room 100, SH**

- 9:00 a.m. **SB 380**, establishing the drinking water and groundwater trust fund and establishing the New Hampshire drinking water and groundwater advisory commission.
- 9:15 a.m. **SB 377**, relative to emission levels of municipal waste combustion units.
- 9:30 a.m. **SB 381**, relative to the combustion of the wood component of construction and demolition debris.

**PUBLIC AND MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS, Room 102, LOB**

- 9:15 a.m. **SB 482-FN-L**, enabling municipalities to license and regulate short-term rental businesses.
- 9:45 a.m. **SB 507-FN**, authorizing online voter registration.
- 10:45 a.m. **SB 509-FN**, relative to voter registration forms and relative to voter identity verification.

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 28**

**COMMERCE, Room 100, SH**

9:00 a.m. **SB 395**, relative to minimum housing standards for tenants with health or respiratory issues.

**JUDICIARY, Room 100, SH**

1:00 p.m. **SB 475-FN**, requiring law enforcement agencies to file crime reports with the department of safety.

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2**

**WAYS AND MEANS, Room 103, SH**

9:30 a.m. **SB 445-FN-L**, suspending the registration fee for the sale of municipal bonds in New Hampshire for 2 years. **(The previous hearing for SB 445-FN -L was recessed on Jan. 19)**

9:45 a.m. **SB 511-FN-A**, establishing a refund of a portion of state education property taxes for child and dependent care expenses.

**House Bills**

CACR 14 provides that the people of New Hampshire have the right to enact local laws that cannot be preempted or nullified by any international, federal, or state law. Rep. Emerson of Rindge; **LEGIS. ADMIN.**

CACR 17 provides that a person must be a resident to establish a domicile for the purpose of voting. Rep. Bates of Windham; **EL.**

CACR 22 provides that there is a fundamental right to live free of governmental interference that shall not be restricted unless the government demonstrates that the restriction is the least intrusive means to fulfill a compelling state interest. Rep. Kurk of Weare; **JUD-H.**

CACR 23 deletes the constitutional requirement that selectmen be present to receive votes in biennial elections. Rep. Hunt of Ridge; **EL.**

**Senate Bills**

CACR 27 provides that expenditures may not exceed revenue in any state operating budget. Sen. Sanborn of Bedford; **F-S.**

SB 507 authorizes online voter registration. Sen. Lasky of Nashua; **PMA.**

SB 509 modifies the voter registration form and changes the procedure for investigating new voters who do not confirm their status after receiving letters of identity verification. Sen. Carson of Londonderry; **PMA.**

SB 511 establishes a refund, to be paid from the education trust fund, of a portion of state education property taxes paid by taxpayers who claimed the federal child and dependent care tax credit. Sen. Hosmer of Laconia; **W&M-S.**

## HOUSE FLOOR ACTION

Wednesday, January 20, 2016

**HB 240**, prohibiting law enforcement agencies from using a drone to collect evidence. **Tabled.**

**HB 359**, allowing municipalities in Carroll County to offer property tax exemptions to foster commercial and industrial construction. **Passed with Amendment.**

**HB 475**, prohibiting the state from engaging in acts of civil forfeiture. **Tabled.**

**HB 586-FN-L**, relative to registration of automobile utility trailers. **Passed with Amendment. Referred to W&M-H.**

## SENATE FLOOR ACTION

Thursday, January 21, 2016

**SB 4**, relative to domicile for voting purposes. **Passed with Amendment.**

**SB 335-FN-A**, transferring administration of the building code review board to the office of professional licensure and certification, and relative to appeals of decisions of the state fire marshal. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

**SB 359**, relative to funding electric vehicle charging stations with municipal registration permits. **Passed.**

**SB 364**, establishing a committee to study the feasibility of incorporating complete streets into the 10-year transportation improvement plan. **Passed.**

**SB 390-FN**, relative to the procedure in retirement system hearings concerning qualification for disability retirement benefits. **Passed.**

**SB 411**, relative to the merger of lots that are mortgaged. **Passed.**

**HB 192**, relative to the valuation of utility property. **Inexpedient to Legislate.**

**HB 613**, relative to governmental records exempted under the right-to-know law. **Referred to Interim Study.**

### Upcoming NHMA Workshop

February 20, 2016 Town & School Moderators (Traditional Meeting) [click [here](#) to register]

For more information please access our website: [www.nhmunicipal.org](http://www.nhmunicipal.org) and scroll down on the left to CALENDAR OF EVENTS, *View the Full Calendar.*

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### NHMA WEBINAR

#### **How to Ensure a “Clean” Vote in Your Municipality**

Event Date: Wednesday, February 3, 2016

Time: 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

Contact Phone: 603.224.7447

As election day nears, electioneering and improper influences becomes a prominent issue that municipalities must understand and address. Spend an hour with Legal Services Counsel Stephen Buckley and experienced moderator Lynne Christensen to learn about voter guides, political advertising near polling stations, political signs, advocacy and conduct of public officials, electioneering by municipal employees, and local electioneering rules under RSA 31:41-c.

This webinar will benefit local election officials such as moderators, town and city clerks, supervisors of the checklists and any other local officials working the polls on election day.

**REGISTER HERE!**

***Registration deadline is noontime, February 1, 2016.***