



NEW HAMPSHIRE MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION



Legislative Happenings at the State House at Crossover

March 31, 2014

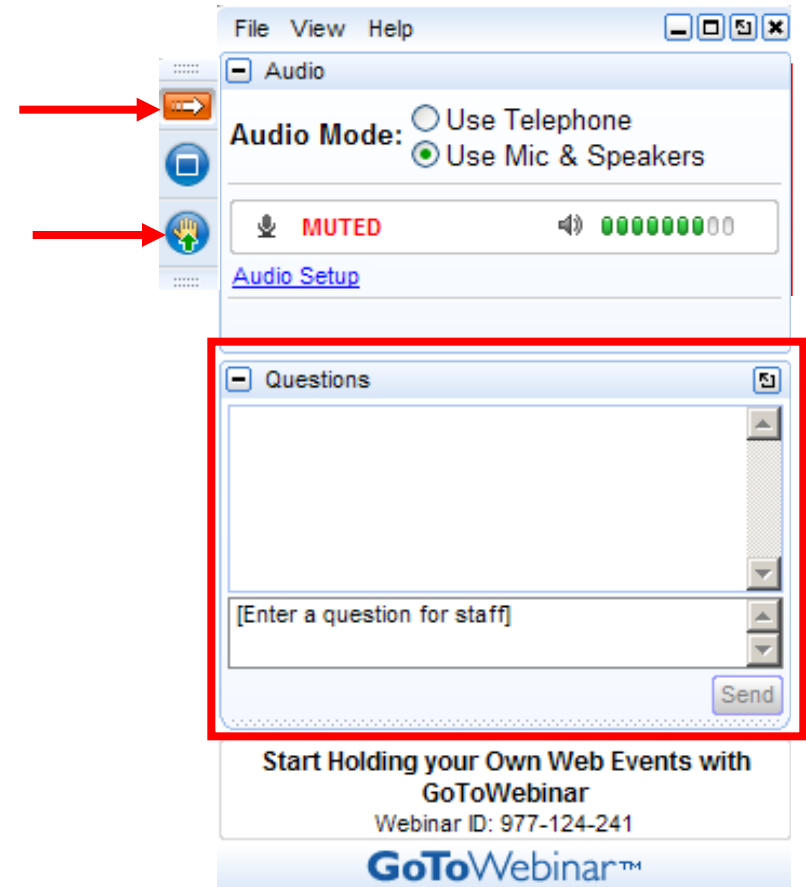
Cordell A. Johnston, Government Affairs Counsel

&

Barbara Reid, Government Finance Advisor

How to Participate Today

- Open and close your Panel
- Submit text questions
- Q&A addressed at the end of today's session
- Raise your hand



The screenshot displays the GoToWebinar interface. The 'Audio' panel is at the top, showing 'Audio Mode' with options for 'Use Telephone' and 'Use Mic & Speakers' (selected). Below this, a 'MUTED' status is shown with a speaker icon and a volume level indicator. A red arrow points to the 'Audio' panel's title bar. Another red arrow points to the 'Raise Hand' icon in the sidebar. Below the 'Audio' panel is the 'Questions' panel, which is highlighted with a red border. It contains a text input field with the placeholder text '[Enter a question for staff]' and a 'Send' button. At the bottom of the interface, there is a banner that reads: 'Start Holding your Own Web Events with GoToWebinar Webinar ID: 977-124-241' and the GoToWebinar logo.

Finding the Status of a Bill:

Find a 2014 Bill

<http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us>

The screenshot shows the homepage of the New Hampshire General Court website. The page features a navigation menu on the left, a main content area with several dashboards, and a footer with logos for NH State Websites and NH State News. A blue arrow points from the text 'Find a 2014 Bill' to the 'Find a 2014 Bill' link in the 'State Legislation Dash Board'.

The New Hampshire General Court

Welcome to the Portal to the New Hampshire State Legislature!
Below you will find direct links to some of the more popular pages, use the menu to the left to navigate the entire site.

General Court News and Hot Links

- The House is in Recess until 2:20 pm
- Next Senate Session: March 27, 2014 at 10:00 am
- Search Statutory/Study Committees
- ADA Compliance Notice
- 2014 Chaptered Final Version
- Commission to Study Expansion of Medicaid Eligibility
- Legislative Financial Disclosure

State Legislation Dash Board

- Advanced Bill Search
- Quick Bill Search
- Bill Text Search
- 2014 Bill Requests(SRs)
- Voting Records
- All Links
- Find a 2014 Bill
- Find No! (hb/3, sb/56)

House of Representatives Dash Board

- Continuing Education Series
- Find Your Representatives
- House Committees
- NH House Website
- House Calendars and Journals
- House Bills Amended by the Senate

State Senate Dash Board

- New Senate Roster
- NH Senate Website
- Senate Calendars and Journals
- NH Senate District Maps

NH General Court Links of Interest

- Legislative Ethics Committee
- NH State Laws (RSA's)
- Administrative Rules
- Available Downloads
- Directions to Statehouse
- Book a Tour of the Statehouse

Operating and Capital Budget FY 2014-2015

- Operating and Capital Budget FY 2014-2015

Click on Text (HTML or PDF) to see text of bill, or click on Bill Docket to see current status.

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the NH General Court Bill Status System search results. The browser address bar shows the URL: http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/bill_status/Results.aspx?billid=1&billsessionyear=2014. The page title is "NH General Court - Bill Status System Search Results".

Search Results:

Bills Found : 1

HB1591 -FN	Title: establishing the right-to-know grievance commission.
Session Year: 2014	G-Status: HOUSE
Bill Docket	House Status: REPORT FILED
Bill Status	Senate Status:
Text [HTML] [PDF]	Next/Last Comm: HOUSE JUDICIARY
	Next/Last Hearing: 01/23/2014 at 11:15 AM LOB 208

At the bottom of the search results, there are links for "NH House" and "NH Senate".



If a committee has proposed an amendment, it will show up on the docket.

You can see the text of the amendment by clicking on

“Amendment # _____.”

The screenshot shows the New Hampshire General Court Bill Status System website. The main heading is "Docket of HB1591". Below this, the "Bill Title" is "establishing the right-to-know grievance commission." The "Official Docket of HB1591:" is displayed in a table with the following entries:

Date	Body	Description
12/17/2013	H	Introduced 1/6/2014 and Referred to Judiciary
1/8/2014	H	Public Hearing: 1/23/2014 11:15 AM LOB 208
1/29/2014	H	Full Committee Work Session: 2/11/2014 1:00 PM LOB 208
2/14/2014	H	Executive Session: 2/18/2014 10:00 AM LOB 208=RECESSED=
2/19/2014	H	=CONTINUED=Executive Session: 2/20/2014 1:30 PM LOB 208 ==RECESSED==
2/25/2014	H	==CONTINUED== Executive Session: 3/04/2014 10:30 AM LOB 208
3/7/2014	H	Majority Committee Report: Ought to Pass with Amendment #2014-0658h (Vote 9-6; RC); HC 19
3/7/2014	H	Proposed Committee Amendment #2014-0658h (New Title)
3/7/2014	H	Minority Committee Report: Inexpedient to Legislate
3/25/2014	H	Lay On Table: MA Div 248-66



Poll Question

How many bills has NHMA followed in the current legislative session?

- 84
- 122
- 197
- 263



SB 367, increasing the road toll (gas tax)

(NHMA Policy Bill)

- **Description**: Increases the road toll by 4.2 cents, from 18 cents per gallon of gas to 22.2 cents, effective 7/1/14, for approximately \$33 million more annually for highway infrastructure. Increases funding for highway block grants, municipal bridge aid, highway betterment and I-93. Eliminates tolls at exit 12 on Everett turnpike.
- **Status**: Passed Senate. Not scheduled yet for hearing in House.

SB 409, appropriation for disaster assistance grants (NHMA Policy Bill)



- **Description**: Appropriates \$5 million for the state share (12.5%) of FEMA match for 9 declared disasters from Feb 2010 thru July 2013. Funding to be provided in FY 2015 (next state biennial budget). See list in *Legislative Bulletins #7 and #13*.
- **Status**: Passed Senate. Not scheduled yet for hearing in House.

HB 1591, establishing the right-to-know grievance commission

- **Description**: as amended, would have required 72 hours' notice, with agenda, for all meetings of public bodies
- **Status**: Laid on table in House. Deadline for House to act on House bills has passed, so bill is dead.



HB 1156, making certain changes to the right-to-know law and establishing the right-to-know law oversight commission

- **Description**: As amended, makes several changes to the non-public session provisions of the right-to-know law. Also establishes a right-to-know law oversight commission “to study and oversee the right-to-know law.”
- **Status**: Passed House. Senate hearing not scheduled yet.



SB 364, relative to pension benefits for public employees hired after January 1, 2012

- **Description**: Creates an employer funded (4% of compensation) defined contribution plan in addition to existing defined benefit plan for employees and teachers, and increases pension formula for police and fire. \$81 million estimated cost to employers over next 5 years.
- **Status**: Killed in Senate by 12-11 vote.



HB 1494, NHRS filing penalty and interest charges

- **Description**: Sections 7 and 8 authorize NHRS to assess interest charges if data cannot be processed and a \$25 per day penalty for late filing of the new “retirees working part-time” report.
- **Status**: Passed the House. Not yet scheduled for hearing in the Senate.



Poll Question

Who is the only NH governor since 1900 who was born outside the U.S.?

- John Sununu
- Judd Gregg
- Sherman Adams
- Maggie Hassan



SB 228, relative to notice of changes to zoning and historic districts

- **Description**: As amended by the Senate, would require notice of hearings on zoning amendments to be sent by first-class mail to all affected property owners if the amendment would affect not more than 500 properties.
- **Status**: Passed Senate. Not scheduled yet for hearing in House.



SB 237, relative to local land use board hearing notice to condominium owners



- **Description**: As amended, would require that notice of hearings on land use applications (subdivision, site plan, etc.) be sent to each unit owner of an abutting condominium, if there are not more than 100 units. Current law requires notice only to the officers of the association.
- **Status**: Passed Senate. Not scheduled yet for hearing in House.

SB 354, relative to the definition of “agritourism”

- **Description**: Greatly expands the definition of agritourism and places it within the definition of agriculture.
- **Status**: Referred to Interim Study.

SB 315, establishing the board of building officials

- **Description**: Establishes a state board of building officials, and requires that any person charged with local enforcement of the state building code be certified by the board. Must pass board-approved exam or have national certification to be certified. Grandfather clause for anyone actively engaged as building official for 12 months prior to 7/1/14. Re-certification required every two years. Continuing education requirements.
- **Status**: Passed Senate. Hearing in House ED&A Committee **tomorrow, April 1.**

SB 300, tax rate setting process

(NHMA Policy Bill)

- **Description**: Original bill authorized municipalities to set their own tax rates under certain requirements and procedures. Amended bill requires state agencies to provide DRA with revenue estimates by October 1.
- **Status**: Passed Senate. Hearing in House Ways and Means on **Wednesday, April 2.**

HB 1549 and ***HB 1590***, relative to payments-in-lieu-of-taxes (PILOTs) for renewable energy facilities

- **Description**: Clarifies how PILOTs made on renewable energy generation facilities are handled by DRA for equalization purposes.
- **Status**: HB 1549 and HB 1590 both passed the House. Not yet scheduled for hearing in Senate.
- **Note**: Other related bills tabled (SB 410) or killed (HB 1471 and SB 304)



Poll Question

How many NHMA policies were enacted into law in 2013?

- none
- seven
- fourteen
- twenty



SB 333, relative to property taxation of manufactured housing



- **Description**: The bill is not really about manufactured housing. It exempts a recreational vehicle from taxation as real estate if the RV is located on a rented campsite at a “recreational campground or camping park” as defined in RSA 216-I:1, VII.
- **Status**: Passed Senate. Hearing in House Municipal & County Government Committee **tomorrow, April 1.**

HB 286, relative to broadband infrastructure

- **Description**: Authorizes municipalities to issue bonds to finance infrastructure to provide broadband service within the municipality. Service must be provided first to areas with no service or inadequate service, but is not limited to those areas. Other limitations apply.
- **Status**: Passed House. Senate hearing not yet scheduled.

HB 1570, establishing a paint stewardship program

- **Description**: Imposes an assessment on all paint sold in the state, to be used to fund a program under which a non-profit organization collects discarded paint from collection centers at municipal transfer stations and retail stores.
- **Status**: Passed House. Senate hearing not yet scheduled.



HB 1196 and ***SB 286***, abatement of property taxes

- **Description**: clarifies the selectmen's authority to abate taxes and interest "for good cause shown" under RSA 76:16,I. Reverses a 2013 BTLA ruling that a taxpayer's filing of an application is a mandatory prerequisite for granting an abatement.
- **Status**: HB 1196 passed House. Hearing in Senate Ways and Means **tomorrow, April 1.**
SB 286 passed Senate. Not yet schedule for House hearing.

HB 297, management of capital reserve funds (CRF)

- **Description**: Upon vote of the governing body in a city or the legislative body in a town (town meeting), authorizes trustees of trust funds to charge expenses related to management of capital reserve funds against those funds. Changes the date to transfer CRF to trustees from 12/31 to 12/15 or from 6/30 to 6/15 for fiscal municipalities.
- **Status**: Passed the House. Had a hearing in Senate Public and Municipal Affairs on 3/19.

HB 422, relative to the adoption, revision, and amendment of municipal charters (NHMA Policy Bill)

- **Description**: Simplifies the process for adopting, revising, or amending a municipal charter; among other things, reduces the number of signatures required on a petition to place a question on the ballot for election of a charter commission.
- **Status**: Passed House. Senate hearing not scheduled yet.

SB 183, relative to filing for state representative special elections and relative to processing absentee ballots
-and-

HB 1543, relative to photo identification of voters, processing absentee ballots, and voluntary political expenditures

- **Description**: Both bills allow for earlier processing of absentee ballots on election day—SB 183 allows processing to begin at 10:00 if polls open at 9:00 or earlier; HB 1543 allows processing to begin two hours after polls open.
- **Status**: SB 183—Passed Senate. Hearing in House Election Law Committee **Wednesday, April 2**.
HB 1543—Passed House. Hearing in Senate Public & Municipal Affairs Committee **same day**.

Questions?

- Thank you for attending!
- New Hampshire Municipal Association
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 - 1-800-852-3358 x3408
 - governmentaffairs@nhmunicipal.org