



NEW HAMPSHIRE MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION



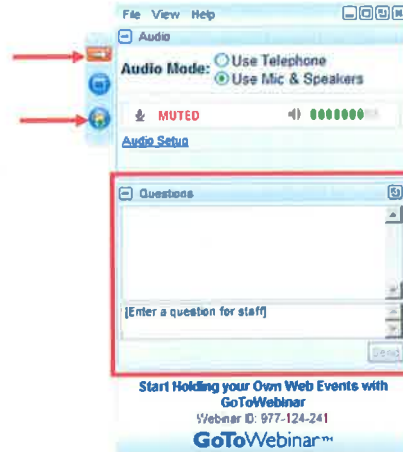
A Mid-Session Legislative Update

Presented by:


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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
- Two Pop Quizzes today




HB 192, relative to valuation of utility property



ELECTRIC COMPANY

If player lands on electric company, charge them anything between N150 and N500.


Whenever you feel like it, randomly charge them N2000.



WATER WORKS

If player lands on water works, they pay nothing to owner.

Instead, the player pays N250 to the owner of the electric company to give them electricity to pump water.

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Description: Prohibits use of DRA appraisal number for utility property in appeal of local property tax assessment to BTLA or superior court.

Status: Passed House. In Senate Ways & Means Committee. *Urge your senator to support it!*

http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/Senate/members/senate_roster.aspx

HB 547, relative to valuation of telephone poles and conduits



Description: Establishes a formula for appraising poles and conduits owned by telephone companies for property tax purposes.

Status: Passed House. In Senate Ways & Means Committee. *Urge your senator to oppose it!*

http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/Senate/members/senate_roster.aspx

HB 224, relative to the property tax exemption for pollution control facilities



Description: Repeals the property tax exemption for pollution control facilities.

Status: Killed in House.



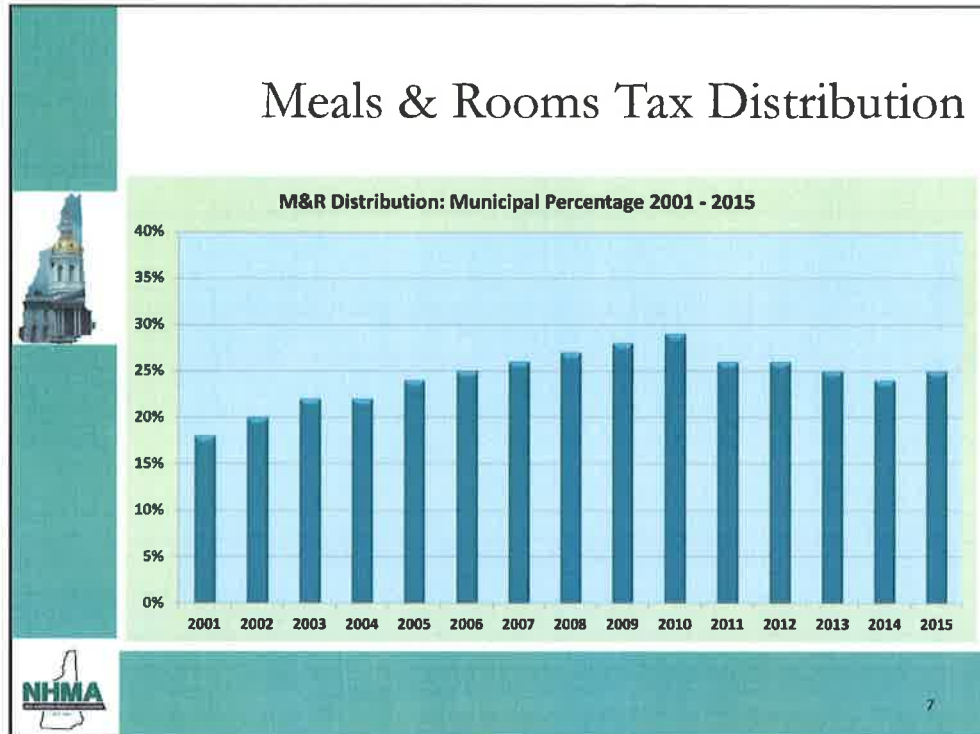
HB 1 and HB 2



- Biennial state operating budget for the period beginning July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2017
- Multiple Phases:
 - Agency submission – last fall
 - Governor's Proposal - February
 - House Version – April 1
 - Senate Version - early June
 - Committee of Conference – mid-June
 - Governor – sign, allow to become law without signature, or veto



Meals & Rooms Tax Distribution



Statutory requirement is 60% of meals and rooms tax revenues to the state and 40% to municipalities, distributed on a formula based on population.

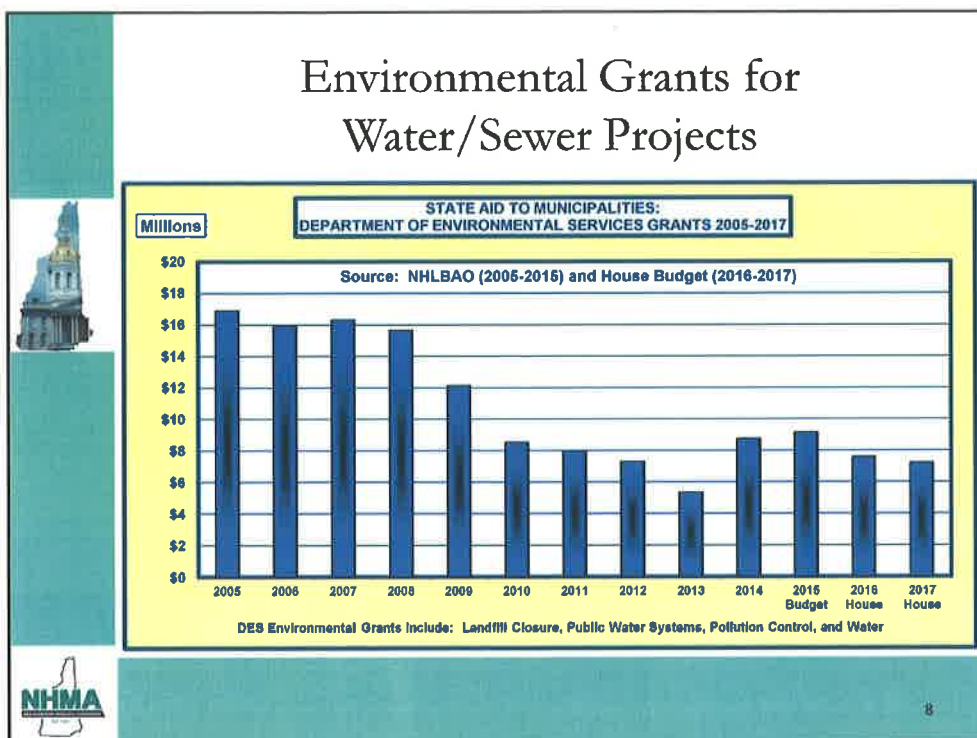
A “catch-up” provision was enacted years ago to gradually reach the statutory percentage.

The catch-up formula provides that 75% of the increase in meals and rooms tax revenues over the previous state fiscal year goes to municipalities, with a cap of \$5 million.

Governor’s budget proposal suspended the catch-up formula for FY 2016, but budgeted an additional \$5 million for FY 2017.

House budget suspended the catch-up formula for both years of the biennium, a loss of up to \$15 million over the biennium.

Environmental Grants for Water/Sewer Projects



Current law requires state match of 20%, or in some cases 30%, of the costs towards water and sewer projects, paid over the financing terms of the project (usually 10, 15 or 20 years).

To address state budget reductions during the recession, from 2009-2013 funding for new grants ceased and projects were placed on a “delayed and deferred” list.

Funding was provided in the FY 2014/2015 budget to address projects on the “delayed and deferred” list. These were defined as projects that had received local financing approval (i.e. bonding or other loan authorization) before December 31, 2008, but were not yet receiving the state match. However, a moratorium was placed on funding for any projects that received local approval after December, 2008.

The House has funded the existing obligations, but continued the moratorium through June, 2017.

There are at least 60 projects – with post- December 2008 local approval – that would be eligible for state match in the upcoming biennium if the moratorium was lifted, for an estimate of \$7.1 million.

Last Year:
SB 367 Road Toll (Gas Tax)




(IN MILLIONS)	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
Estimated Revenue	\$33.5	\$33.4	\$33.3	\$33.2	\$33.1	\$33.0
Local Block Grant	\$0.0	\$4.0	\$4.0	\$4.0	\$4.0	\$4.0
Debt Service	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$8.3	\$16.6	\$16.6	\$16.6
State Aid Bridge	\$8.3	\$6.8	\$6.8	\$6.8	\$6.8	\$6.8
Betterment – Rehabilitation	\$12.0	\$8.1	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0
Betterment – Resurfacing	\$13.2	\$13.2	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0
Betterment - 6 DOT Districts	\$0.0	\$1.3	\$14.2	\$5.8	\$5.7	\$5.6
Total Allocations	\$33.5	\$33.4	\$33.3	\$33.2	\$33.1	\$33.0



NHMA Policy:

Support adequate state revenue dedicated to highway improvements, including road toll (gas tax), motor vehicle fees, other sources, provided:

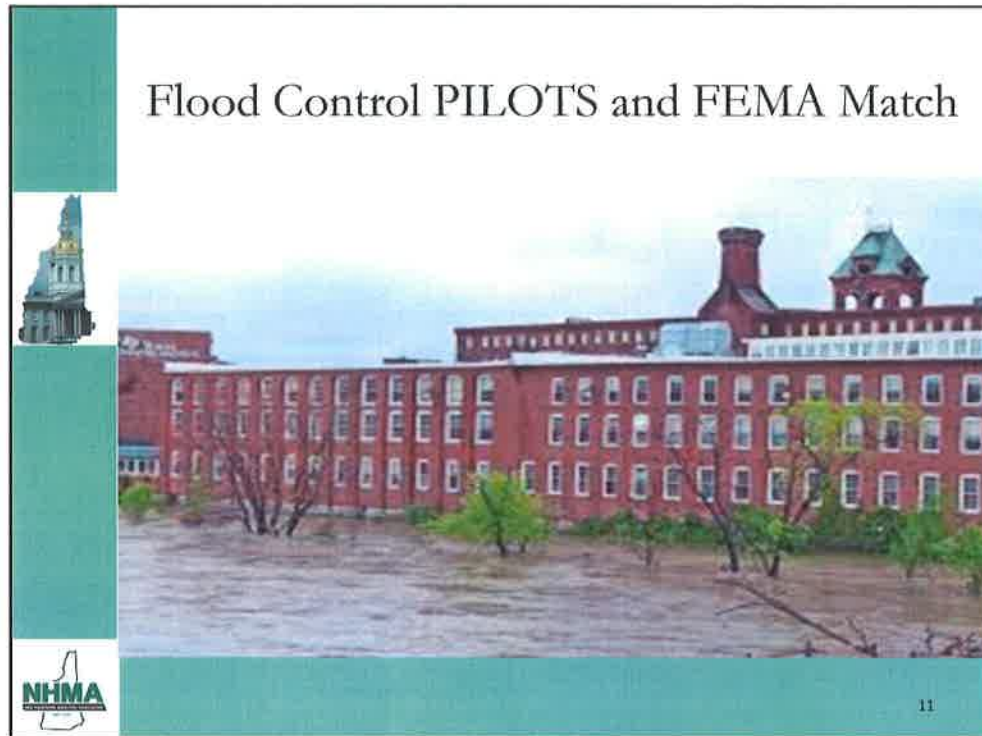
- Additional revenue used exclusively for highway purposes
- Proportionate share distributed to municipalities under current law (12% of gross revenue).



Anticipated FY 16				House Budget FY 16			
Expected:	Highway Funding	SB 367 Road Toll	Total	House:	Highway Funding	SB 367 Road Toll	Total
Highway Block Grant	\$30.9M	\$4M	\$34.8M	Highway Block Grant	\$26.9M	\$4M	\$30.9M
Bridge Aid	\$6.8M	\$6.8M	\$13.6M	Bridge Aid	\$0	\$6.8M	\$6.8M
Total	\$37.7M	\$10.8M	\$48.4M	Total	\$26.90	\$10.8M	\$37.7M

Governor's Proposal FY 16			
Governor:	Highway Funding	SB 367 Road Toll	Total
Highway Block Grant	\$30.9M	\$4M	\$34.9M
Bridge Aid	\$0	\$6.8M	\$6.8M
Total	\$30.9M	\$10.8M	\$41.7M

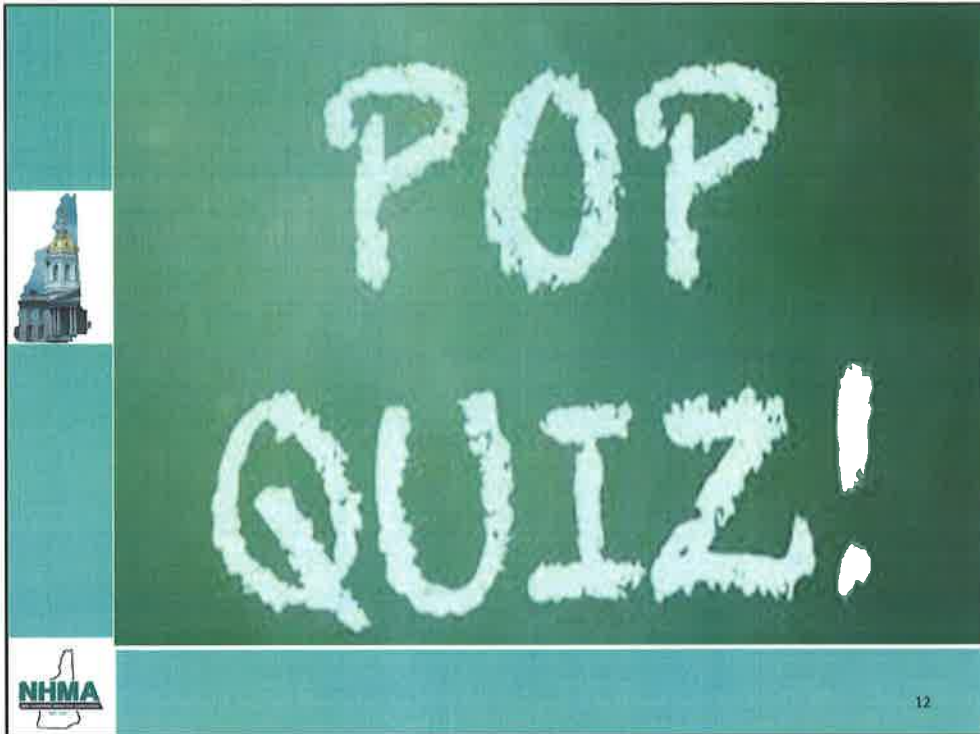
House budget reflects a loss of \$22 million over the biennium for municipal roads and bridges.



Flood Control PILOTS and FEMA Match

Municipalities involved in interstate flood control compacts will likely see only payments-in-lieu-of-taxes on the NH share, not full reimbursement as in the past.

Funding appropriated last year in SB 409 for the state match for federal assistance associated with 8 declared disasters that occurred between 2010 - 2013 was eliminated. This would have provided \$4.3 million to municipalities in FY 16.



POP
QUIZ!

NHMA

12

The graphic features a dark green chalkboard background with the words "POP QUIZ!" written in white, textured, hand-drawn letters. To the left of the chalkboard is a vertical teal bar containing a small image of the New Hampshire State House and the NHMA logo. The NHMA logo consists of a white outline of the state of New Hampshire with the letters "NHMA" in teal below it. The number "12" is printed in the bottom right corner of the teal bar.

Pop Quiz



How is a vacancy in the moderator's position filled?

- a. Appointment by the selectmen
- b. Appointment by the clerk
- c. Appointment by the supervisors of the checklist
- d. Special election



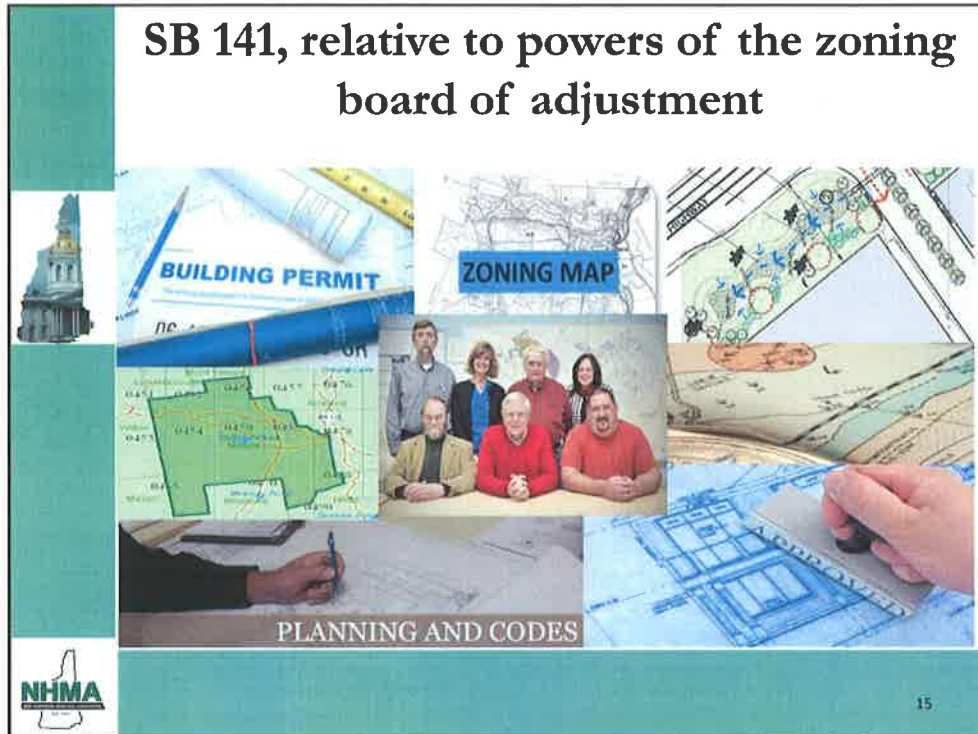
SB 146, relative to accessory dwelling units



Description: Requires municipalities to allow ADUs and limits the restrictions that can be imposed.

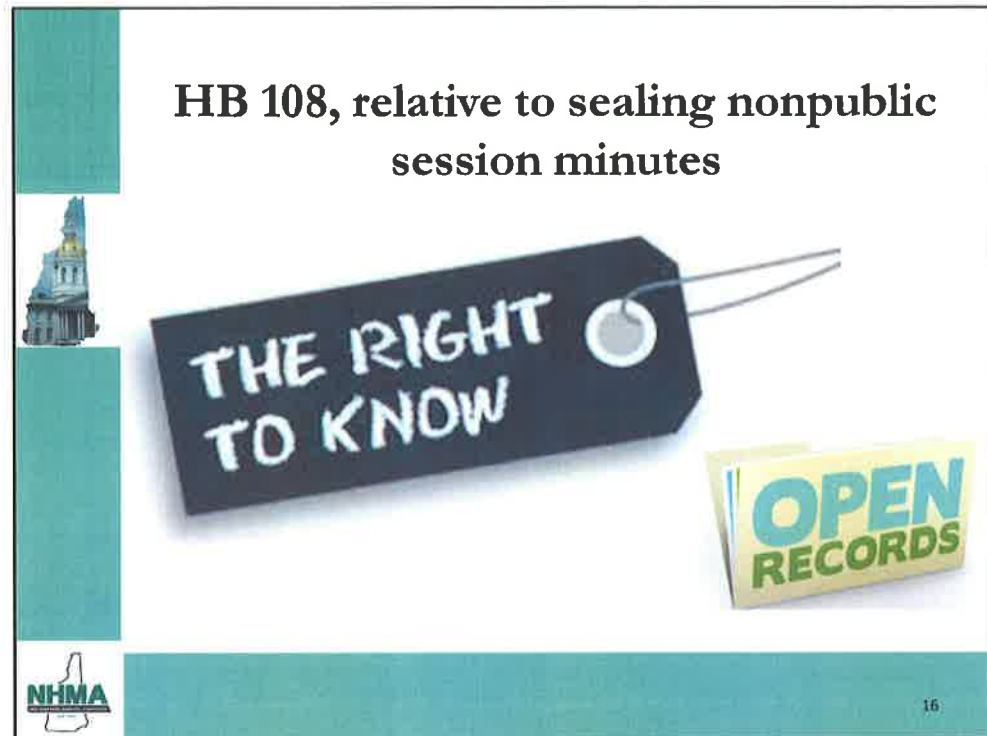
Status: Passed Senate. House hearing April 21.

SB 141, relative to powers of the zoning board of adjustment



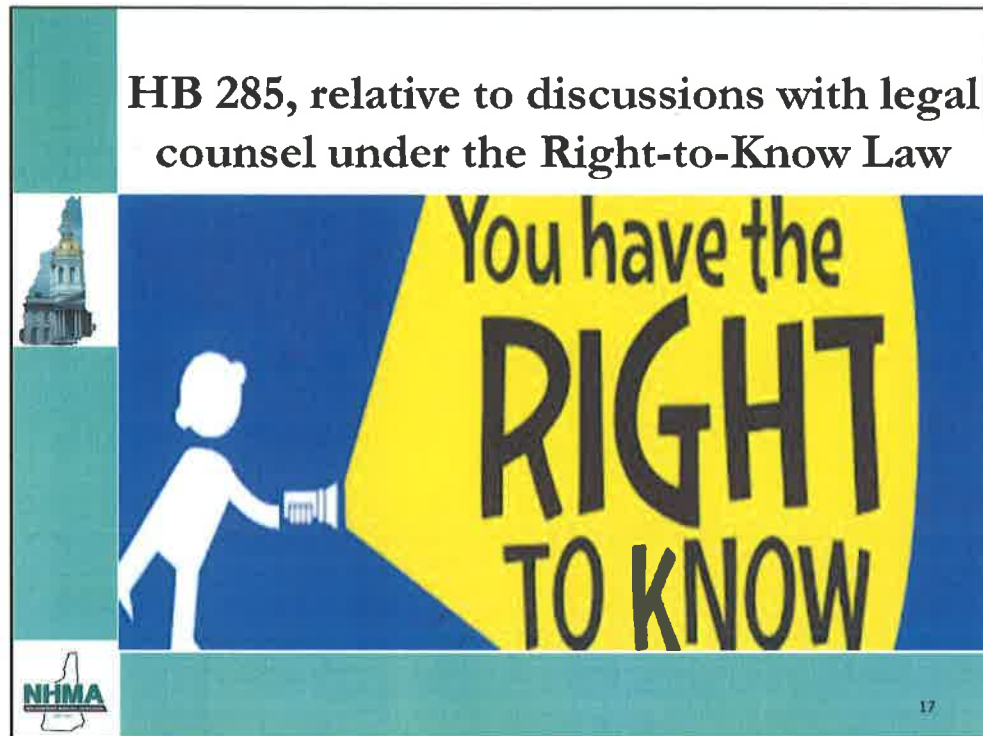
Description: Eliminates the requirement that three ZBA members concur to decide in favor of an applicant.

Status: Passed Senate. House hearing April 14.



Description: requires that a vote to seal nonpublic session minutes be taken in public.


Status: Passed House. Senate hearing not scheduled yet.



Description: Allows public body to discuss correspondence from legal counsel in non-public session, without attorney present.


Status: Passed House. Senate hearing not scheduled yet.

HB 646, relative to charging for costs to retrieve records under the Right-to-Know Law



THE RIGHT TO KNOW

KEEPING GOV'T ACCOUNTABLE

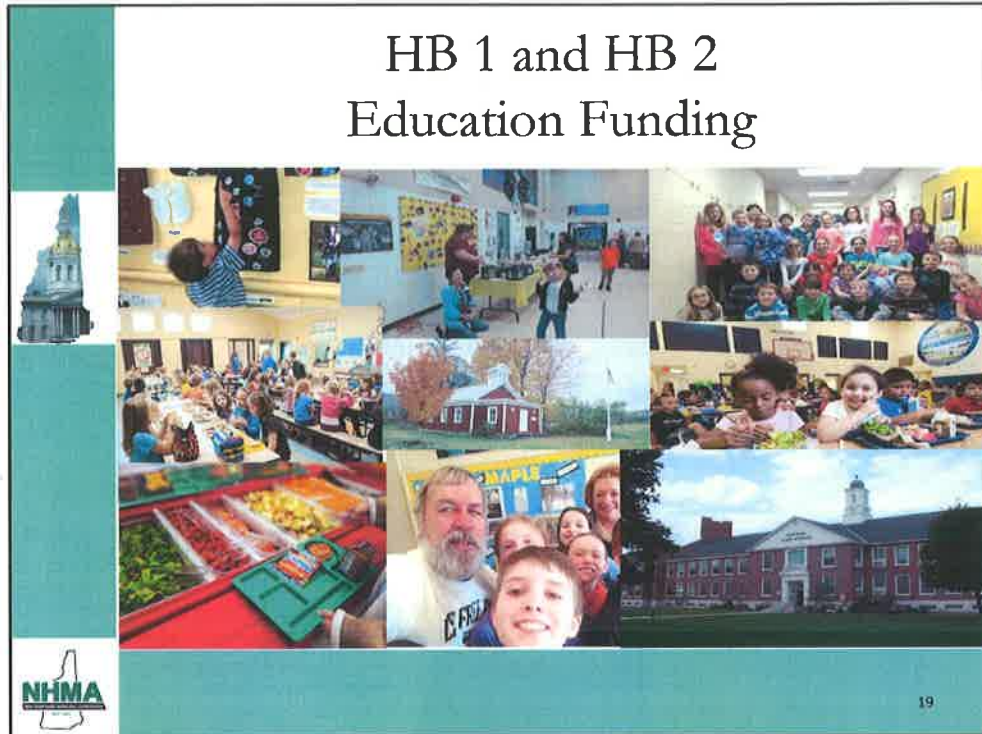


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Description: Allows public bodies and agencies to charge for labor costs to retrieve records.

Status: Tabled in House. Probably dead.

HB 1 and HB 2 Education Funding



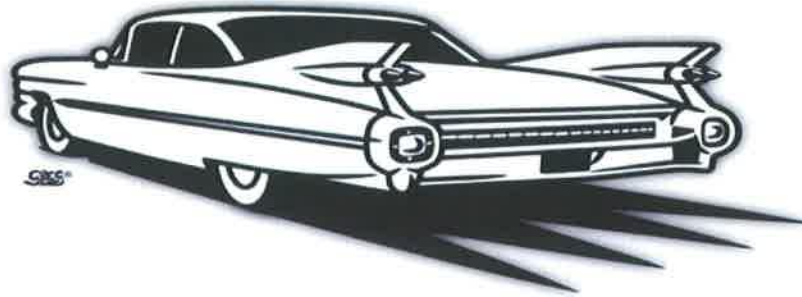
Education Funding

Adequacy grants - In FY 17 the cap is eliminated, and stabilization grants will be 90% of the 2012 level. Eliminating the cap will help those school districts experiencing increased enrollment over the past few years.

Catastrophic Aid – Funded both years at approximately 70% of the entitlement level.

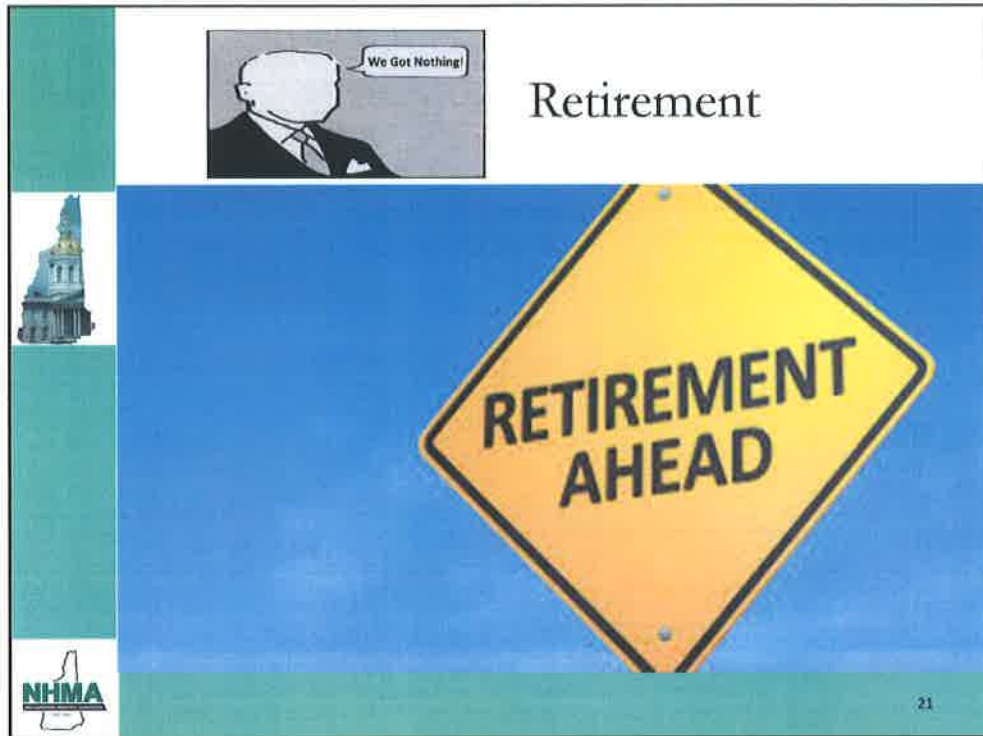
School Building Aid – The moratorium prohibiting the Department of Education from issuing building aid for any new projects is extended through June 30, 2017.

HB 2 Cadillac Tax



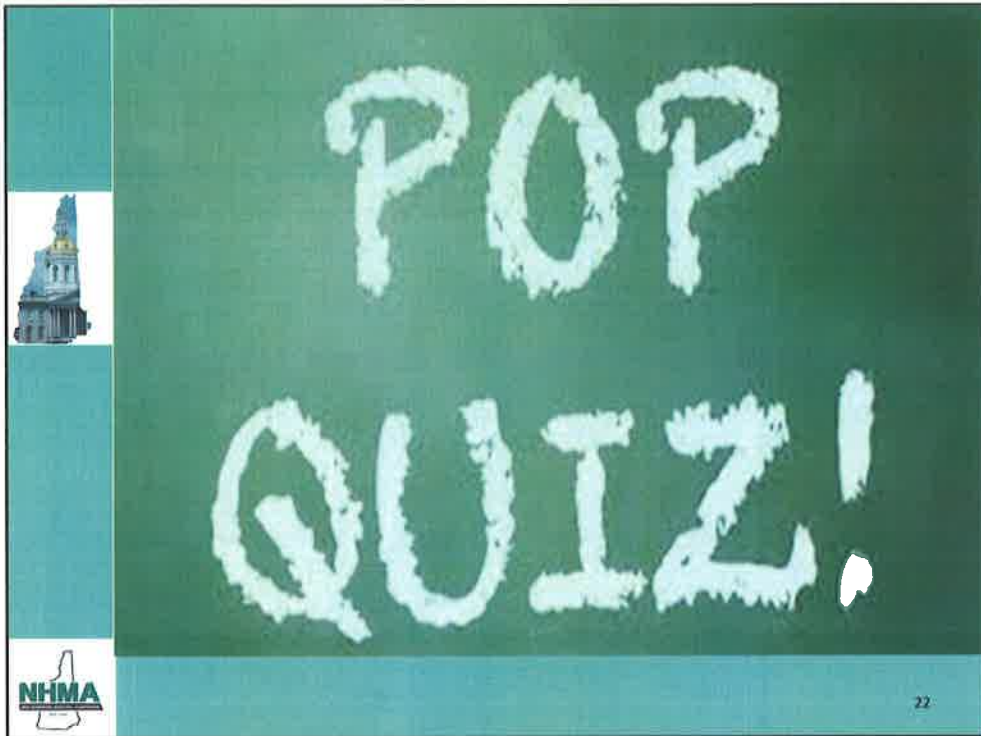
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HB 2 provision prohibits the state or any political subdivision (municipality, school, county, village district) from providing employees with a health insurance plan that is subject to the excise tax on high-cost employer sponsored plans under the Affordable Care Act, **UNLESS** the tax is borne by the plan participant.




The Special Committee on Public Employee Pension Plans has retained HB 369 and HB 556 dealing with a defined contribution retirement plan and a cash balance retirement plan, respectively.

A decennial commission will be convened in 2017 to review all aspects of the NH Retirement System, similar to the review by the commission in 2007.



POP
QUIZ!

 NHMA

22

The graphic features a dark green background with the words "POP QUIZ!" written in a white, hand-drawn, chalk-like font. On the left side, there is a vertical teal bar containing a small image of the New Hampshire State House in the middle and the NHMA logo at the bottom. The NHMA logo consists of a white outline of the state of New Hampshire above the letters "NHMA" in a bold, sans-serif font. The number "22" is located in the bottom right corner of the teal bar.

Pop Quiz



Which of the following terms is **NOT** used in the RSA 105, the statute defining the authority and responsibilities of police officers?

- a) Watchman
- b) Police matron
- c) Policeman
- d) Constable



**SB 207, eliminating the requirement
that moderators photograph voters who
do not present identification**



Description: Eliminates the requirement that the moderator take a photograph of a voter who votes without identification.

Status: Killed in Senate. May be revived in HB 2.

HB 208, relative to sales of allowances under RGGI




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Description: Eliminates funding for municipal energy projects under RGGI.

Status: Passed House. Senate hearing April 8. Proposed amendment restores funding.


SB 135, relative to lead poisoning in children



Lead poisoning

Lead buildup in the body causes serious health problems

Symptoms	Additional complications for children:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Headaches • Irritability • Reduced sensations • Aggressive behavior • Difficulty sleeping 	<p><i>Lead is more harmful to children as it can affect developing nerves and brains</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of developmental skills • Behavior, attention problems • Hearing loss • Kidney damage • Reduced IQ • Slowed body growth



The diagram shows a house with various lead sources labeled: Airborne lead, Lead in water, Lead paint, Lead crystal, Lead in soil, Lead in dust, Lead in old cars, and Lead in old toys. A child is shown playing in the yard with a dog, and a car is parked nearby.


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Description: Makes various changes to existing law, including new requirement for building permits.

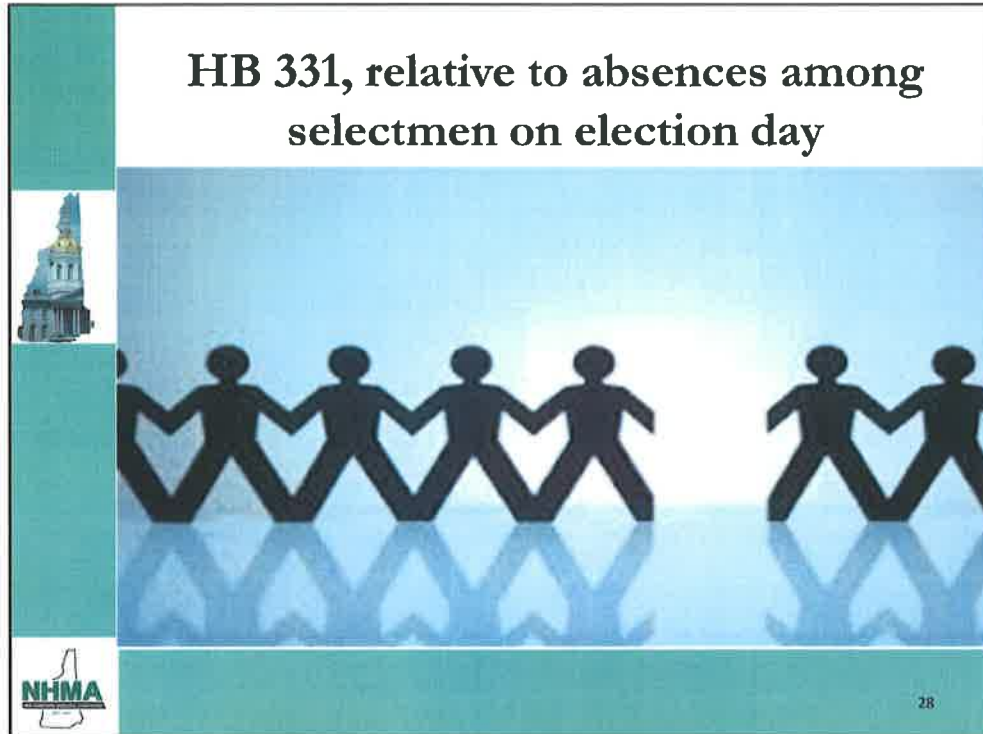
Status: Passed Senate without building permit requirement. House hearing April 9.

SB 106, relative to synthetic drugs



Description: Prohibits the sale or possession of synthetic drugs.

Status: Passed Senate. In House Criminal Justice Committee.



Description: Allows appointment of a selectman pro tem to perform the duties of an absent selectman on election day.

Status: Passed House. In Senate Public & Municipal Affairs Committee.

HB 130, relative to use of blue lights on emergency vehicles



Description: Authorizes the use of rear-facing blue lights on fire trucks and ambulances.

Status: Passed House. Senate hearing not scheduled yet.

PROD. **COMING ATTRACTIONS**

May 20
It's All About the People

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presentation
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Mission Statement

The New Hampshire Municipal Association is a non-profit, non-partisan association working to strengthen New Hampshire cities and towns and their ability to serve the public as a member-funded, member-governed and member-driven association since 1941. We serve as a resource for information, education and legal services. NHMA is a strong, clear voice advocating for New Hampshire municipal interests.

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