



NHSBA

NEW HAMPSHIRE SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

Legislative Preview and Effective Legislative Advocacy

January 10, 2022
12:00-1:30pm

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General Process for Participation in NH Legislation 2022

- Bills are introduced and assigned a number (LSR)
- LSR's are published to the public
- Bills are introduced to assigned committees/public hearings held
- Committees act on bills
- Full Body (House or Senate) act on bills put through committee
- Bills are crossed over between House/Senate
- Process repeats
- Bills that pass both House and Senate are sent to Governor's office
- Governor can veto/enact bills
- Full House/Senate meet in January of the following session to override or sustain vetoes and act on retained bills
- Legislative session begins again each January

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How to advocate for legislation: Step One- Identifying Legislation

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Identify

- Identify LSR's/Bills you are interested in tracking/advocating in support or opposition

Use

- Use the General Court website (<https://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/>)

Contact

- Contact the sponsor of the bill, to find out more about it- purpose, intent, catalyst, and Consider emailing full committee with your thoughts, questions

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Step Two: Create Communication Networks

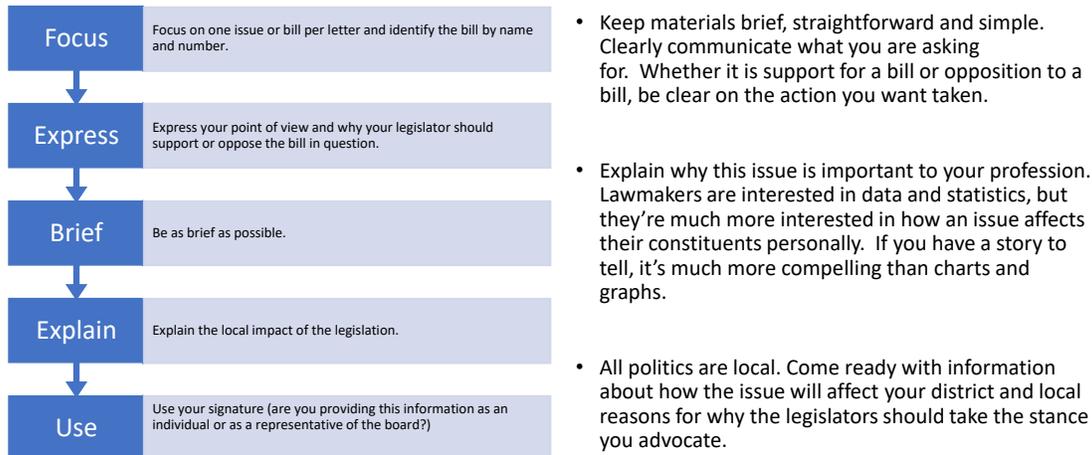
- Think of regional or district contacts you may have relationships with, who may want to learn more about the bill
- Recruit others to consider testifying in person at hearings
- Write and submit testimony to full committees, and include your local representatives

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Step Three: Suggestions for Testifying at Hearings/Providing Written Testimony



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Testifying in Person at the NH House or Senate

- The House and Senate use "pink cards" or sign in sheets, for people who wish to testify to fill out.
- The pink card or sign in sheet will ask for the individual's name, organization/group the individual is representing, and how long the individual wishes to speak for.
- Fill out the card, hand it in to the committee chair, have a seat, and wait to be called on.



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- if you believe your testimony will take longer, it is advised that individuals indicate they wish to speak for more than three minutes.
- On high profile bills, there may be dozens of people wishing to speak.
- Another option is to provide written testimony and then offer oral comments that summarize the most important aspects of the written testimony. Some individuals bring one copy of written testimony for the Committee; other individuals bring copies for each committee members.
- Be prepared to answer questions. Upon completion of your oral testimony, the committee chair will ask the individual if they are willing to take questions.

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NHSBA Tracked
Bills 2022
Session

- NHSBA is currently Tracking approximately 175 Bills in both the House and the Senate
- Generally, categorize them by current topics/school board impacts:
- <https://files.ctctusercontent.com/f9151af9001/8cd93332-a4fe-4bf9-9593-be4de108df17.pdf?rdr=true>

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Virtual/Remote Meetings

- HB 1014 allowing public meetings to be conducted virtually (allows members to attend virtually/electronically, as appropriate, and provides provisions for public participation, and compliance with Right to Know law.)
- SB 322-Relative to remote meetings under the right to know law (This bill modifies the physically present quorum requirement for meetings of public bodies, allowing for remote attendance of members and one member in physical attendance in an emergency)

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Public Comment

- HB 1169 - relative to public comment during school board meetings (This bill establishes requirements for public meetings held by a school board to include a designated time period for questions from the public and answers from the board. The bill also allows an attendee of a meeting of the school board to demand which New Hampshire statute or administrative rule gives the school board the authority described in a school policy or operational procedure.)
- HB 1195 - relative to public comment periods (This bill requires that all open meetings of public bodies have a period designated for public comment.)
- SB 410 - relative to School District Transparency (This bill requires public comment periods at school board meetings, the adoption of a school board code of ethics developed by the state board of education, and procedures for amendment and submission of school district charters.)

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Non-Public Meetings/Right To Know

- HB 1036 - relative to nonpublic meetings concerning public employees (This bill modifies the circumstances under which a public body may hold a non-public meeting concerning an employment matter.)
- HB 1322 - modifying the governmental records exempted from RSA 91-A (This bill allows governmental agencies and departments to share personnel records with one another for the purposes of hiring.)
- HB 1603 - defining Certain School Information As Governmental Records Under The Right to Know Law (This bill provides for the inclusion of certain records of schools and school administrative units under the right-to-know law, RSA 91-A.)
- SB 342 - relative to the minutes of nonpublic sessions under the right to know law (This bill modifies the list of nonpublic meeting types where minutes of which do not need to be made publicly available within 72 hours.)

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General Governance

- SB 426 - This bill requires the commissioner of education to use highest of the average daily membership in residence for school years 2020, 2021, and 2022 in calculating adequate education grants for fiscal year 2023.
- HB1605 - This bill requires school administrative units to annually report to school districts the 5-year projection of future enrollments within the school administrative unit, including cost-per-student information. The requirement is repealed in 2025.
- HB 1131-This bill prohibits school boards and accredited nonpublic schools from adopting, enforcing, or implementing a policy that requires students or members of the public to wear a facial covering.
- HB 1295 - This bill requires school districts to report in-classroom observer policies and in-classroom audio/video streaming and recording policies to the department of education.
- SB 235 - This bill allows a local school board to offer students multiple instructional options, including traditional classroom, distance education, or hybrid instruction models using a combination of classroom and distance learning.
- HB 1434 - This bill requires that curriculum course materials taught to pupils in public schools and public academies be available to the public.

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General Governance Continued...

- HB 1393-This bill establishes the requirements for and procedure for the adoption of a school district budget cap.
- HB 1276-This bill allow for a school district to require the cost per student information be noted on the school district budget and special warrant articles.
- HB 1189- This bill allows a municipality or the state to establish a voluntary donations fund to be expended for certain local or state projects or to reduce amount raised through taxation.
- HB 1026- This bill provides that a municipal budget committee may require that the governing body provide budget recommendations in full line item detail in active spreadsheet format.
- HB 1015- This bill revises the requirements for school district policies providing an alternative to specific course material based on a parent or legal guardian's determination that the material is objectionable.

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Other Impacting Bills

- HB 1072-This bill prohibits the denial of access to any school facilities, documents, or school events to persons in elected school district positions. A violation is a class B misdemeanor.
- HB 1137- This bill states the duties and responsibilities of elected school boards and allows school boards to contract with any private school approved by the school board as a school tuition program.
- HB 1155-This bill provides that a person elected to a local board shall be a nonvoting ex officio member of other local boards the person is appointed to, serving on, or is a liaison to.
- HB 1255-This bill expands the prohibition on teacher advocacy of subversive doctrines.
- HB 1371- This bill requires school districts to adopt a policy leaving facial mask use to parents of students and not tolerating bullying, harassment, or discrimination.
- HB 1381-This bill allows for at least one student member on the school board from each public high school in the district.
- HB 1646- This bill requires cooperative school district boards to have an elected member from each pre-existing district.
- SB 304-This bill removes provisions concerning freedom from discrimination in public workplaces and education, and clarifies the authority of public schools and public employers concerning discrimination.

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