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## Various School Board Governance Bills

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### LSR 2907

No bill number assigned as of the date of this webinar.

An ACT relative to school board expenditure of year-end fund balances. This bill increases the amount of the year-end unassigned general funds a school district may retain. This bill also changes the purposes for which such funds may be expended.

“...the school district to retain any unused portion of the year-end unassigned general funds from the preceding fiscal year in subsequent fiscal years, provided that the total amount of year-end unassigned general funds does not exceed, in any fiscal year, 5 percent of the current fiscal year's net assessment under RSA 198:5.” *Continued..*

**LSR 2907**

“...the school board shall hold a prior public hearing on the action to be taken with such funds.”

“An annual accounting and report of the activities of the retained general funds shall be presented to the school board of the district and published in the annual report.”

**HB 1144**

AN ACT requiring certain employers to submit data on wage differences between male and female employees to the department of labor. This bill requires certain employers to submit data on wage differences between male and female employees to the department of labor.

“An employer with more than 100 employees located in the state of New Hampshire shall disclose the following information to the department of labor no later than June 30, 2021, and biennially thereafter.”

**HB 1329**

AN ACT relative to school records retention and disposition. *This bill permits official school records to be transferred from paper to electronic records and stored accordingly.*

**LSR 3094**

No bill number assigned as of the date of this webinar.

AN ACT relative to violence in schools. This bill: (1) *requires school safety programs* to contain a plan for responding to violent acts committed by students against employees, volunteers, and visitors; (2) requires the *joint loss management committee to address protocols for employees* to follow; and provides for *reporting of acts of violence.*

This bill is in response to the Fall 2019 legislative study committee that studied violence in schools.

## LSR 3078

No bill number assigned as of the date of this webinar.

AN ACT relative to penalties for schools that fail to file certain reports with the department of education. This bill permits the commissioner of the department of education to withhold a portion of education adequacy funding if a school fails to file certain reports.

This bill is a request of the department of education.

**“If a school district, city, chartered public school, non-public school, or public academy *fails to comply with this section, the commissioner may withhold up to 10 percent of state education adequacy funding,* until such time as reports are submitted. Non-public schools shall submit average daily membership in attendance, fall enrollment, teacher staff census, and an annual safety report. If the governing body of a non-public school fails to submit the statistical reports, the commissioner may withhold up to 10 percent of any state funding, until such time as reports are submitted to the commissioner.”**

## LSR 2969

No bill number has been assigned as of the date of this webinar.

An ACT establishing a school marshals program. **This bill permits a school to establish an armed school marshal program.** This bill also requires the police standards and trainings council to develop a curriculum for training school marshals.

**LSR 3036**

No bill number has been assigned as of the date of this webinar.

An ACT relative to criminal threats to school safety.

**LSR 2909**

No bill number has been assigned as of the date of this webinar.

An ACT relative to Medicaid to schools.



**Right to Know Law Bills  
(RSA 91-A)**

## HB 1169

AN ACT relative to requiring a roll call vote when one member of a public body participates electronically. This bill eliminates the requirement that when a member of a public body is participating in a meeting by electronic or other means of communication, all votes must be by roll call vote.

## HB 1170

AN ACT adding a definition of "reasonably described" to the right-to-know law. This bill inserts a definition of "reasonably described" for purposes of retrieval of public records under the right-to-know law.

**"Reasonably described" means a document is identified with necessary specificity to allow a public employee to retrieve it without making an extensive search** and, at a minimum, by date or a range of dates not exceeding 30 days, by type, which means by letter, minutes, or a report, and by title or subject matter.

## HB 1202

AN ACT relative to matters discussed in nonpublic session under the right-to-know law. This bill clarifies the rights of an individual being discussed in a nonpublic session under the right-to-know law.

“Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of the public body itself, unless such person requests an open meeting. **The person to be discussed shall be notified, in writing, at least 48 hours prior to the nonpublic session...**”

## HB 1307

AN ACT relative to the cost of production of records under the right-to-know law. This bill allows public bodies or agencies to charge personnel costs for retrieval of records for certain requesters.

“If the production of records for one requester in a calendar month exceeds 5 person-hours, **the public agency shall require the requester to pay the personnel costs required during the month to complete the search and copying tasks.** The personnel costs shall not exceed the actual salary and benefit costs for the personnel time required to perform the search and copying tasks. The requester shall pay the fee before the records are disclosed, and the public body may require payment in advance of the search.”



## HB 1325


AN ACT relative to minutes and decisions in nonpublic sessions under the right-to-know law. This bill requires that for meetings in nonpublic session where the minutes or decisions were determined to not be subject to public disclosure, a list shall be kept which shall include certain information. The list shall be made available for public disclosure.

“For all meetings held in nonpublic session, where the minutes or decisions were determined to not be subject to full public disclosure, a list of such minutes or decisions shall be kept and this list shall be promptly made available for public disclosure. This list shall identify the public body and include the date and time of the meeting in nonpublic session, the specific exemption under paragraph II on its face which is relied upon as foundation for the nonpublic session, the date of the decision to withhold the minutes or decisions from public disclosure, and the date of any subsequent decision, if any, to make the minutes or decisions available for public disclosure.”

## HB 1559

AN ACT relative to sealing records in nonpublic session under the right-to-know law. This bill declares that sealed minutes in nonpublic sessions under the right-to-know law would only be sealed for one year and would require annual revoting to keep them sealed.

“...**the vote to not publicly disclose the minutes and decisions shall be valid for up to one year** and may be revoted annually to not publicly disclose the minutes and decisions if such circumstances continue to exist.”



## SB2 - Default Budget/Warrant Articles

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### HB 1105

AN ACT relative to warrant articles in official ballot town, school district, or village district meetings. This bill *requires* that original warrant articles be placed on the official ballot at certain meetings even if such articles have been amended during the first session of the meeting.

Would apply only to SB2 districts.

“If a warrant article is amended at the first session, then the original article shall also be placed on the official ballot preceding the amended article. In the event both articles are adopted, the amended article shall supersede the original article.”

SB2-Default Budget/Warrant Articles
www.nhsba.org
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## HB 1173

AN ACT relative to the use of an official ballot in towns. This bill modifies the definitions of "default budget" and "contracts" for the purposes of towns that have adopted official ballot voting.

Applies only to SB2 districts.


““Default budget”” as used in this subdivision means the amount of the same appropriations as contained in the operating budget authorized for the previous year, reduced and increased, as the case may be, by debt service, contracts, and other obligations previously incurred or mandated by law, and reduced by one-time expenditures ~~contained in the operating budget and by salaries and benefits of positions that have been~~ eliminated in the proposed budget.”

““Contracts”” as used in this subdivision means contracts previously **approved** ~~[, in the amount so approved,]~~ by the legislative body in either the operating budget authorized for the previous year or in a separate warrant article for a previous year.”


## HB 1451

AN ACT relative to the definition of contracts relative to official ballot default budgets. This bill revises the definition of "contract" relative to official ballot default budgets.

““Contracts”” as used in this subdivision means contracts previously approved ~~[, in the amount so approved,]~~ by the legislative body ***of the town or school district*** in either the operating budget authorized for the previous year or in a separate warrant article for a previous year.”



## Student Matters - Various

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### HB 1163

AN ACT **requiring** schools to update documents and software to include the option of identifying a student as non-binary.

“Require, as of the effective date of this paragraph, all school boards to update documents and software to provide the option of declaring non-binary as well as male or female for gender identification. Where a program uses a letter code rather than a word, "x" shall be added as an option.”

*Student Matters - Various* [www.nhsba.org](http://www.nhsba.org) *Slide 23*

## HB 1282

AN ACT relative to changing a pupil's school or assignment because of a manifest educational hardship. This bill revises the procedures for a change of school or assignment because of manifest educational hardship.

## HB 1328

AN ACT relative to a change of school or assignment due to manifest educational hardship. This bill modifies provisions regarding a change of school or assignment because of an educational hardship.

## HB 1558

AN ACT relative to the provision of special education services for older students. This bill modifies the definition of "child with a disability" to include persons 21 years of age.

““Child with a disability" means any person [~~3 years of age or older but less than 21 years of age~~] **between the ages of 3 and 21, inclusive,**...”

## SB 515

AN ACT relative to a discrimination prevention policy in schools. This bill establishes requirements for school district discrimination prevention policies.

Expands the policy requirements found in local school board anti-discrimination policies. This is a follow-up to SB 263 (2019) which created a private right of action allowing individuals to sue school boards over alleged discriminatory actions within the district.

## Student Matters – Adequate Education/Delivery of Education

## HB 1369

AN ACT relative to the acceptance of high school course credits from certain schools or education agencies. This bill permits high school principals to accept for course credit certain coursework that is satisfactorily completed in other New Hampshire educational facilities.

“The principal or other administrator **shall approve coursework** from a sending school, contingent upon review of the course to ensure the course promotes, meets, or exceeds required knowledge and skills that lead a student to meet competencies offered and measured in the receiving high school.”

“The principal or other administrator **shall approve course credit leading toward high school graduation if a student satisfactorily completes a course offered in another high school.**”

## HB 1412

AN ACT requiring secondary schools to grant educational credit for certain courses completed. This bill requires secondary schools to grant credit for coursework or programs completed at other approved schools. This bill also requires the school to give written notice to a student, his or her parent, and the state board of education if such credit is not given.

“The principal or other administrator **shall grant credit toward high school graduation** for courses and programs completed at other approved schools. For the purposes of this section, approved schools include all New Hampshire public schools, including chartered public schools, and public academies, and all schools in Vermont and Maine that are members of an interstate school district with schools in New Hampshire.”

## SB 514

AN ACT relative to alternative learning credit rules of the state board of education. This bill requires the state board of education to establish a process for the approval of vendors offering alternative, extended learning, and work-based programs which may be accepted for credit by a local school board.

*“**The state board of education shall... establish a process** for the application, vetting, and approval of vendors offering alternative, extended learning, and work-based programs **which may be accepted by the local school board for credit** leading to graduation in any school district in this state. Nothing in this subparagraph shall prevent a local school district from approving vendors offering credit for alternative, extended learning, or work-based programs which do not appear on the preapproved list maintained by the board.”*

## Use of School District Property



## HB 1285

AN ACT relative to possession of firearms on school property. This bill prohibits carrying a firearm on school property.

“No person shall knowingly carry a firearm on public school property, including buildings, grounds, school buses, and vans. Any person who violates the provisions of this paragraph shall be guilty of a class A misdemeanor.”

“This section shall not apply to: (a) Any person or persons picking up or dropping off a student, provided the firearm remains in a motor vehicle; (b) Any person authorized by name and in writing by the school board or duly authorized designee to possess a firearm; or (c) Any law enforcement officer, when on duty or serving as a school resource officer, or member of the armed services of the United States or National Guard when on duty.”

## SB 481

AN ACT relative to chartered public school use of unused school district facilities. This bill makes unused school district facilities available to chartered public schools.

“On July 1, 2019, and on July 1 every year thereafter, the superintendent of each school district shall report to the department of education each unused facility owned by the school district.”

“...a school district **shall offer an unused facility to a chartered public school** for purchase or lease as follows...”



# Effective Legislative Advocacy

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## Introduction to NH Legislative Process

1. There is a certain date every year by which bills have to be introduced – usually around November 1st. If a bill died (Inexpedient To Legislate/ITL) during the first year of a biennium, it cannot be reintroduced in the second year of a biennium. This is why we often see bills “retained” rather than killed – if it is retained, the bill can come back the second year for reconsideration, amendment, debate, etc. New bills/new subject matter can be introduced in the second year of the biennium.
2. Once the bills are introduced, they are assigned a Legislative Service Request number (LSR). Please note that the LSR number and the bill number are not the same – a bill will be assigned an LSR number and then will be assigned a completely different bill number. As far as NHSBA can tell, there is no system as to how this happens – likely assigned in sequential order as the legislative staff receives them.

*Continued..*

## Introduction to NH Legislative Process

3. LSRs are published online usually from the middle of December through the first week of January. There is very little identifying information is found in the title of the LSR. It will usually say something broad like “A bill relative to special education.” The text of the bill is generally not available prior to it being assigned a bill number.

## Identifying Pertinent Legislation

Once the LSR is codified into a bill, bills can be searched here. This search site allows users to search by bill number, LSR number, committee, key word, and so forth:

[http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/bill\\_status/](http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/bill_status/)

Don't wait for the public hearing to get scheduled before waiting to contact the Committee or your local representatives. Notice of hearings is posted only a few days before the hearing – the legislative calendars (both House and Senate) are posted on Thursday night/Friday morning. If a bill is scheduled for a public hearing on Tuesday morning, you only have 3-4 days to coordinate your state-wide efforts and to prepare written or oral testimony.

*Continued..*

## Identifying Pertinent Legislation

When communicating with legislators, include links to the pertinent bills so they can get full context.

Provide regular/as needed legislative updates to your board and the public during a public meeting. To the extent possible, discuss how the proposed legislation might impact your local district.

## Contacting Legislators and Committees

- Keep materials brief, straightforward and simple. Remember that the legislators may not have the expertise or background that you have. Lengthy materials are often not read.
- Clearly communicate what you are asking for. Whether it is support for a bill or opposition to a bill, be clear on the action you want taken.
- Explain why this issue is important to your profession. Lawmakers are interested in data and statistics, but they're much more interested in how an issue affects their constituents personally. If you have a story to tell, it's much more compelling than charts and graphs.

*Continued..*

## Contacting Legislators and Committees

- All politics is local. Be prepared to discuss information about how the issue will affect the lawmaker's district and local reasons for why the lawmaker should take the stance you advocate.
- Provide them or pass along the weekly NHSBA Legislative Updates (January through June).

## Finding Bills Online

Visit: [http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/bill\\_status/](http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/bill_status/)

## Finding Bills Online

General Court of New Hampshire  
**Advanced Bill Status Search**

[General Court of NH Home](#)

Session Year:  1989-Current      Origin Body:

Title Search:        General Status:  Codes

**Bill Number:**        LSR Number:

Hse Committee:  Codes       Sen Committee:  Codes

Hse Comm. Ref:  Codes       Sen Comm Ref:  Codes

House Status:  Codes      Senate Status:  Codes

Hse Flr/Session Day:       Sen Flr/Session Day:

Hse Amended:       Sen Amended:  Codes

Sponsor:       Last Comm Rpt:  Codes

Chapter #:       Comm Hearing Date:

All Senate Rereferred       All House Retained       All Bills With Fiscal Note

All Bills With Appropriations       Local Government Bills

\*\*\*  Select radio button to sort by that field.

[NH House](#)      [NH Senate](#)

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## Finding Bills Online

General Court of NH - Bill Status System  
Search Results

[NH General Court](#)      [New Query](#)     

Bills Found : 1     

HB 1169

<p><b>HB1169</b>                  Session Year 2020  <a href="#">Bill Docket</a>  <a href="#">Bill Status</a>  <a href="#">Bill Text[HTML] [PDF]</a></p>	<p><b>Title:</b> relative to requiring a roll call vote when one member of a public body participates electronically.  <b>G-Status:</b> HOUSE  <b>House Status:</b> IN COMMITTEE  <b>Senate Status:</b>  <b>Next/Last Comm:</b> HouseJudiciary  <b>Next/Last Hearing:</b> Time not specified</p>
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[NH House](#)      [NH Senate](#)

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