



## GREATER MANCHESTER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

SPONSORED BY:



ATTORNEYS AT LAW  
Sheehan Phinney Bass + Green



POWERED BY:



### SPONSOR INSIGHT:

As we approach the last week in January, half of the bills initiated by legislators have yet to be printed. They will likely appear in a tremendous surge over the next week or two. This means legislators will be extremely busy during the months of February and March holding hearings, work sessions, and executive “voting” sessions on hundreds and hundreds of bills.

There are a number hearings scheduled for next week on bills that will interest some Chamber members. These include:

**Time required between shifts:** On Thursday, February 1 at 10:00 am, the House Labor Committee will hear HB 123, which would require the passage of at least 10 hours before any employee may be required to work again. An exception would be provided for “public safety personnel.”

**Outsourcing of jobs:** On Thursday, February 1 at 11:00 am, the House Labor Committee will hear HB 129, which would require companies that have reduced their employment in New Hampshire by 50 or more employees to supply certain information to the NH Department of Labor, including the number of jobs that were lost to outsourcing to foreign countries. It would also prohibit companies that have outsourced 50 or more New Hampshire jobs from obtaining state contracts or economic aid. Finally, it would prohibit contractors and subcontractors who have state contracts from outsourcing work outside the United States.

**Food protection managers in restaurants:** On Tuesday, January 30 at 10:00 am, the House Health, Human Services & Elderly Affairs Committee will hear HB 137, which would require food service establishments to assign at least one full-time employee to be a certified food protection manager. Such person would have to be at least 18 years of age, pass a food protection manager certification test, and be re-certified at least every five years.

**Electricity infrastructure study:** On Wednesday, January 31 at 1:30 pm, the House Science, Technology & Energy Committee will hear HB 124, which would study New Hampshire's electricity infrastructure and ways to enhance it to meet future demand including, adequacy of transmission lines; methods for increasing generation capacity; and sources of future generation capacity, including renewables.

**Regulating residential contractors:** On Tuesday, February 6 at 10:00 am, the House Executive Departments and Administration Committee will hear HB 174, which would establish a board of residential building and remodeling contractors to regulate the industry. Contractors would be required to register with the board, which could suspend or revoke a registration for certain violations. In addition, the Attorney General would be provided enforcement authority.

**Independent contractors:** The Senate Commerce, Labor and Consumer Protection Committee will consider SB 92, which would create a uniform definition of “employee” and clarify the criteria for exempting a worker from employee status. No hearing date has been scheduled yet, but expect one to be scheduled soon.

**Identity theft:** On Tuesday, January 30, the House Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee will hear HB 227, which would permit a victim of identity theft to bring a private action for damages and to use the judgment to correct related public and private records. This bill is a request of the Attorney General's Office.

**Youth Employment:** Yesterday, the House Labor Committee held a work session on a youth employment bill heard last week. House Bill 99 would prohibit 16 and 17 year-olds who are enrolled in school from working later than 9 pm on any night before a school day. A majority of the committee felt that the current law which requires employers to have on file a signed written document from the 16 or 17 year-old's parent or legal guardian permitting the youth's employment is sufficient, and that a prohibition on working later than 9 pm is not needed at this time. Instead, it looks like they will recommend passage of another two-part amendment. The first part would increase the maximum penalty the Department of Labor may impose for any violation of the Youth Employment Law from \$1,000 per violation to \$2,500 per violation. The second part would eliminate the requirement to have on file a signed document from a parent or guardian for a 16 or 17 year-old who has either graduated or attained a GED. The full Committee will vote on this bill and proposed amendment next week.

**Minimum pay for employees called into work:** A subcommittee of the House Labor Committee also held a work session on legislation heard last week that would increase the minimum hours an employer must pay an employee called into work from 2 to 4. The subcommittee was recessed to next Thursday at 1:00, when the Department of Labor can be present to answer a variety of questions. Last year, the Labor Committee recommended an increase from 2 to 3 hours, but the bill was defeated on the House floor.

### CHAMBER INSIGHT:

As mentioned above in Sponsor's Insight, over half of the bills submitted this session have yet to be published. One yet to be published bill, however, is already on the Chamber's support list.

Over the past two years a group known as the “Growth Development Roundtable” has been meeting regularly to discuss the future of New Hampshire and how to manage our state's growth in a healthy manner. The roundtable was made up of such organizations as the BIA, NH Municipal Association, NH Housing Finance Authority, the Audubon Society, Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission, NeighborWorks Greater Manchester, and many more. The issue at hand for the roundtable was ‘how can we promote healthy growth and development in New Hampshire?’ Population growth and shifts are indeed inevitable, but the byproducts of them (sprawl, traffic congestion, and destruction of natural resources) are not. The group concluded that “the lack of adequate planning capacity at the local level, particularly in NH's small towns, represents the single greatest obstacle to meeting this challenge (NH's growth) while at the same time preserving our

tradition of local decision making.”

In response to this problem, the roundtable crafted a legislative solution, “The NH Conservation and Housing Planning Program.” In a nutshell, the program will provide a grant program to be administered at the state level that will offer technical planning grants to New Hampshire’s communities. Many of our smaller towns lack the resources and staff to engage in comprehensive planning. The technical grants provided by this program would allow interested communities the ability to integrate conservation, economic development, and housing development into a comprehensive master planning strategy. The program, of course, recognizes the each community will have their own unique vision of how they want to see their community develop thus maintaining the New Hampshire tradition of local control.

The cost of the program calls for an initial appropriation of \$600,000 per year for the next two years of state general fund dollars. While the cost is significant, the potential impact and benefits of this program are equally significant and important to promoting healthy growth in New Hampshire.

The Chamber supports the creation of the program and has joined a very broad coalition of chambers of commerce, business organizations, and conservation groups from across the state to advocate for this legislation. The cost will undoubtedly be the most challenging hurdle for this program especially in light of other issues, such as education funding, which will put a strain on state spending. Capitol Insight and the Chamber will keep you updated on this legislation as the session progresses. If you have any questions regarding this program please do not hesitate to contact us.

Michael Skelton  
Director of Economic Development and Advocacy  
Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce  
[michaels@manchester-chamber.org](mailto:michaels@manchester-chamber.org)

#### EYE ON POLITICS:

---

NH State Legislature [www.state.nh.us](http://www.state.nh.us)

The Union Leader [www.theunionleader.com/primaryindex.html](http://www.theunionleader.com/primaryindex.html)

NH Primary Info [www.nhprimary.com](http://www.nhprimary.com)

#### EDITORIAL TEAM:

---

**Brad Cook**  
Sheehan, Phinney, Bass, + Green, P.A.  
1000 Elm Street  
Manchester , New Hampshire 03101  
[brcook@sheehan.com](mailto:brcook@sheehan.com)  
800-625-SPBG

**Valerie Acres**  
Sheehan Phinney Capitol Group  
2 Eagle Square  
Concord , New Hampshire 03301  
[vacres@sheehan.com](mailto:vacres@sheehan.com)

603-228-2370

**Bruce Berke**

Sheehan Phinney Capitol Group  
2 Eagle Square  
Concord , New Hampshire 03301  
[bberke@sheehan.com](mailto:bberke@sheehan.com)  
603-228-2370

**Henry Veilleux**

Sheehan Phinney Capitol Group  
2 Eagle Square  
Concord , New Hampshire 03301  
[hveilleux@sheehan.com](mailto:hveilleux@sheehan.com)  
603-228-2370

**Liz Murphy**

Sheehan Phinney Capitol Group  
2 Eagle Square  
Concord , New Hampshire 03301  
[lmurphy@sheehan.com](mailto:lmurphy@sheehan.com)  
603-228-2370

**Michael Skelton**

Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce  
889 Elm Street , Third Floor  
Manchester , New Hampshire 03101  
[michaels@manchester-chamber.org](mailto:michaels@manchester-chamber.org)  
603-666-6600 ext. 107