



## GREATER MANCHESTER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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### SPONSOR INSIGHT:

#### Busy Summer and Fall Ahead for New Hampshire Legislators

Each biennium the House retains and the Senate re-refers a number of bills, thereby postponing action on them until the second session year. Sometimes, these mechanisms are used to delay killing a bill out of courtesy to supporters or for other reasons. Sometimes, they are used to preserve a bill as a potential vehicle for a related idea even when there is no intent to pass the bill in its current form. Most often, however, bills are retained or re-referred when they are complex and require in-depth work that can only take place when the Legislature is not in session and other official demands on legislators' time are minimal. This year, the Legislature has postponed action on approximately 230 bills. Here's a partial list.

For the text of these bills and/or scheduling information for work sessions and committee votes, go to <http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/ie/billstatus/quickbill.html>, type HB or SB followed by the number (no space) in the "Bill Number" field, and then click on "Docket" or "Bill Text".

#### Health Care:

- SB 114 relative to licensed acute care hospitals

#### Government Regulation and Licensure:

- SB 142 relative to the regulation of real estate brokers and salespersons by the Real Estate Commission
- SB 210 relative to transferring regulation of fuel gas fitters to the Board of Licensing and Regulation of Plumbers, and making certain changes to the regulation of plumbers
- SB 212 relative to the regulation of home inspectors
- HB 31 requiring the licensure of property and casualty insurance appraisers
- HB 172 establishing the position of state meat inspector

- HB 174 relative to regulating residential building and remodeling contractors
- HB 561 relative to pharmacy benefit managers
- HB 763 establishing the licensure and regulation of residential and building
- HB 776 establishing the licensure and regulation of private investigators
- HB 908 relative to the licensure and regulation of massage therapists and registration of somatic and bodywork practitioners

**Finance and Taxes:**

- HB 267 relative to certain small loans
- HB 618 establishing a research and development credit against the business profits tax and the business enterprise taxes
- HB 620 repealing the statutory provisions regarding small loans, title loans, and payday loans and establishing a general statutory usury rate
- HB 799 establishing a criminal usury rate for interest rates
- HB 884 increasing the rate of the tobacco tax
- HB 925 relative to state and local taxes

**Waste Management and Environmental Issues:**

- HB 76 creating an environmental policy for New Hampshire
- HB 201 relative to recycling and reconstituting the recycling market development steering committee
- HB 503 relative to establishing a solid waste management fund and assessing a surcharge for the disposal of solid waste
- HB 540 relative to solid waste reduction, establishing a solid waste disposal fee, and renaming the recycling market development steering committee
- HB 877 relative to the state recycling program
- HB 855 relative to renewable energy generation incentive payments
- HB 924 relative to the deconstruction of buildings

**Price Controls/Management and Consumer Protection:**

- HB 442 prohibiting unconscionable prices for essential commodities during a declared state of emergency
- HB 461 relative to purchasing alliances

- HB 492 relative to consumer protection in telecommunication contracts
- HB 686 relative to the regulation of tracking devices
- HB 830 relative to milk support prices in New Hampshire
- HB 839 relative to establishment of maximum retail fluid milk prices

**Employment and Human Resources:**

- HB 399 relative to variable rates of overtime

**Building and Zoning:**

- HB 331 relative to the withholding of building permits in certain cases
- HB 335 defining "unnecessary hardship" for purposes of zoning variances
- HB 868 relative to a surcharge on recording documents with the register of deeds to fund the land and community heritage investment program

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**CHAMBER INSIGHT:** 

CACR 18, the constitutional amendment relative to education funding, experienced a rough landing in House Finance this past week. After a 7 hour public hearing last week and several work sessions this week, its clear CACR 18 is not leaving the House in its current form. The question is will the amended version be acceptable to the Senate, and will it satisfy the concerns of the business community? The good news is several House Finance committee have expressed support for the targeting aid, one of the key aspects of CACR 18. By targeting aid the state will be able to efficiently send funding to the communities that need it the most.

HB 143, relative to the apportionment of civil damages, will finally have its Senate Public Hearing this Tuesday. The hearing should be one to remember as dozens of businesses and municipalities, including the Greater Manchester Chamber, are expected to attend and oppose the bill. HB 143, mainly supported by the Trial Lawyers Association, changes the definition of the term "party" in a lawsuit to mean only those who are specifically named in a case. This change would prevent the court from assigning fault to parties who may not be named in the lawsuit. The Chamber and the business community fear this change will lead defendants being held liable for damages that are grossly disproportionate to their share of blame. The Senate vote will likely be close on this bill, stat tuned.

SB 42, the statewide smoking ban for bars and restaurants, survived the House Commerce committee and now heads to the House floor unscathed. The Commerce committee appeared to be poised to attach a damaging amendment earlier this week but a surprise shift in votes led to an 11 to 6 ought to pass motion. The bill now heads to the full House where its reception will likely be much better. A floor fight and floor amendments should be expected, but look for SB 42 to emerge by a wide margin in the end.

Stay tuned to Capitol Insight as the session winds down and these issues and others are dealt with.

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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)

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