



New Hampshire School Boards Association
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NHSBA Legislative Update – January 27, 2017

HB 378: An act relative to the public members of a school administrative unit planning committee. This bill provides that no public member of a school administrative unit planning committee shall hold any public elective office at the time of the appointment. This bill was heard by the House Election Law Committee on Tuesday January 24, 2017. NHSBA did not testify on this bill. NHSBA mentions this bill for informational purposes for those districts/SAUs that may be considering or undergoing an SAU withdrawal study.

HB 354: An act make an appropriation to the department of education to provide additional adequate education grant payments to certain municipalities. This bill appropriates funds for additional adequate education grants to certain municipalities for costs incurred in the 2016 fiscal year. This bill was heard by the House Education Committee on Tuesday January 24, 2017. Due to inclement weather, NHSBA was not able to attend and testify. However, NHSBA supports this bill.

HB 356: An act relative to the per pupil cost of an adequate education. This bill increases the base per pupil cost of an adequate education. This bill increases state adequacy aid payments to school districts by \$30 per pupil in the Average Daily Membership in Attendance (ADMA). This bill was heard by the House Education Committee on Tuesday January 24, 2017. Due to inclement weather, NHSBA was not able to attend and testify. However, NHSBA supports this bill.

HB 441: An act relative to confidentiality in applying for public sector jobs. This bill exempts records of initial screening process for employment in the public sector from the provisions of RSA 91-A. This bill was heard by the House Judiciary Committee on Tuesday January 24, 2017. Due to inclement weather, NHSBA was not able to attend and testify. However, NHSBA supports this bill. The intent of this bill is protect the confidential and privacy of individuals who apply for jobs within the school district from having their application information made public. It is NHSBA's understanding that an amendment to the bill was offered. NHSBA will be tracking this bill accordingly.

NHSBA Action Item:

NHSBA encourages its members to contact their local representatives and urge support for this bill. Passage of this bill will grant school boards greater flexibility in protecting the privacy rights and confidential concerns of applicants for superintendent searches. Current law is unclear as to what documents or information may be exempt from disclosure relative to superintendent searches. A case on this issue is currently before the New Hampshire Supreme Court. NHSBA is apprise its members accordingly.

HB 525: An act relative to stabilization grants for education. This bill removes the annual 4 percent reduction in stabilization grants made to certain municipalities and provides that the stabilization grant to a municipality in fiscal year 2018 shall be the same as in fiscal year 2017. This bill was heard by the House Education Committee on Tuesday January 24, 2017. Due to inclement weather, NHSBA was not able to attend and testify. However, NHSBA supports this bill and will be submitting written testimony, accordingly.

NHSBA Action Item:

NHSBA encourages its members to contact their local representatives and urge support for this bill. Passage of this bill grant school boards and school districts additional state funds relative to the delivery of an adequate education. Given the state's continued downshifting of costs to local taxpayers, NHSBA believes it is appropriate for the state to provide guaranteed funding to school districts in need.

SB 45: An act requiring a course in civics for high school graduation. This bill provides that one-half year of civics courses shall be required for high school graduation. This bill was heard by the Senate Education Committee on Tuesday January 24, 2017. NHSBA did not testify and has no specific position on this bill.

SB 46: An act relative to participation in public school cocurricular programs offered in another school district. This bill requires the school district in which the pupil resides to grant a pupil's request to participate in a cocurricular program in another school district if such program is not offered in the school district in which the pupil resides. This bill was heard by the Senate Education Committee on Tuesday January 24, 2017. NHSBA did not testify and has no specific position on this bill.

SB 43: An act relative to non-academic surveys administered by a public school to its students. This bill provides that no student shall be required to volunteer or submit to a non-academic

survey or questionnaire without written consent of a parent or legal guardian. The bill also creates an exception to this requirement for the youth risk behavior survey developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This bill was heard by the Senate Education Committee on Tuesday January 24, 2017. Due to inclement weather, NHSBA did not testify. However, NHSBA opposes this bill. This bill is contrary to a Resolution adopted at the 2017 NHSBA Delegate Assembly and was submitted by the Merrimack School Board. The Resolution states:

“NHSBA supports language in legislation that provides parents’ rights to opt-out of content and programs that they feel are not appropriate for their child(ren). However, NHSBA opposes language requiring parents to opt-in to content and programs for their child(ren). Opt-in language creates undue burden on the school district to account for every student who would participate, versus the few who choose not to participate.”

NHSBA Action Item:

NHSBA encourages its members to contact their local representatives and urge opposition to this bill. If such a law requiring parental/student “opt-in” of all curricular offerings becomes effective, school districts will expend significant time and resources ensuring that all students have submitted the proper forms, segregating students who opted in from those that did not, and potentially having to offer separate instruction or content to a myriad of students..

SB 44: An act prohibiting the state from requiring implementation of common core standards. This bill prohibits the department of education and the state board of education from requiring the implementation of the common core standards in any school or school district in this state. This bill was heard by the Senate Education Committee on Tuesday January 24, 2017. NHSBA did not testify and has no specific position on this bill.

SB 56: An act relative to adequate education grant payments to certain municipalities. This bill appropriates funds for additional adequate education grants to certain municipalities for costs incurred in the 2016 fiscal year. This bill was heard by the Senate Education Committee on Tuesday January 24, 2017. Due to inclement weather, NHSBA was not able to attend and testify. However, NHSBA supports this bill and will be submitting written testimony, accordingly.

HB 557: An act relative to school attendance in towns with no public schools. This bill allows a school district to assign a child to another public school in another school district or to an approved private school if there is no public school for the child's grade in the child's resident district. The bill also allows a school board to make a contract with a private school to provide for the education of a child who resides in a district which does not have a public school at the

child's grade level. This bill was heard by the House Education Committee on Wednesday January 25, 2017.

NHSBA testified in opposition to this bill, primarily citing two NHSBA Perennial Resolutions:

I:A• NHSBA supports the utilization of public education funds solely for public school purposes as determined by the local school boards. (1991)

I:B• NHSBA urges the NH Legislature and Congress to oppose any efforts to subsidize elementary or secondary private, religious or home schools with public tax dollars. Specifically, NHSBA opposes the creation of vouchers, tax credits and tax subsidies that in any form are targeted to the tuition or expenses for non-public K-12 schools. Rather than diverting scarce tax dollars away from our public school classrooms, NHSBA urges the NH Legislature and Congress to support improvements in our public schools and meet current funding obligations and promises, benefiting the vast majority of America's children who are educated daily in our public schools. (2005)

Additionally, NHSBA raised concerns relative to constitutional concerns regarding expending public money for a private purpose, as well as concerns regarding a conflict between this bill and RSA 193-E (Adequate Education) as well as conflict between the bill and RSA 198 (school money/adequacy payments).

NHSBA Action Items:

NHSBA encourages its members to contact their local representatives and urge opposition to this bill, for the reasons stated above and consistent with NHSBA testimony.

Legislative Contacts:

NH House of Representative members can be found here:

<http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/house/members/housemembers.html>

NH Senate members can be found here:

http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/Senate/Senate_members.aspx

Governor Sununu can be contacted here:

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Please contact NHSBA for additional information relative to these bills or any pending legislation.