

House/Senate Calendar

TUESDAY, JANUARY 9

HOUSE REGULAR CALENDAR

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION

HB 92, revising the definition of the state building code and ratifying changes to the state building code adopted by the state building code review board. MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. Rep. Steven Beaudoin for the Majority of Executive Departments and Administration. This bill not only updates the building code, but adds a suite of new codes including plumbing, mechanical, pool & spa, existing building, and energy code. During testimony, the committee learned that this round of codes would increase the cost of building a new home or structure by approximately 12%. Since NH suffers from a severe shortage of affordable housing, the majority found no need to add to the problem. Further, since the state building codes only set the minimum standards, businesses and homebuilders are free to build to the new codes, if they wish to enjoy additional energy savings or use new building techniques and materials. Vote 10-7. Rep. Carol Roberts for the Minority of Executive Departments and Administration. This bill, with the amendment, would update the codes that comprise the state building code from the 2009 to the 2015 versions, with the exception of the International Energy Conservation Code. New Hampshire is in danger of being one of only 12 states using codes that are at least two cycles (6 years) old. This change has the support of all the building trades; the related professional organizations; and several state agencies. The minority is concerned about ignoring the real and the intangible costs of not building to current code, and fears for the health and safety of the public.

HB 168, relative to the definition of the New Hampshire fire code. MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS. Rep. Steven Beaudoin for the Majority of Executive Departments and Administration. This bill would adopt the 2015 version of NFPA 1, the Fire Safety Code, and by default, the 2012 version as well. Along with the hundreds of code compliance requirements explicit in the documents, they incorporate by reference 15 more codes not currently adopted, adding dozens of regulated areas and over 2300 pages of new regulations. The majority felt that NH's business climate would suffer from this new round of expensive regulation. The committee heard compelling testimony to adopt only one section of the code, protection from the life safety dangers of lightweight construction during a fire. The majority believes this single issue can be appropriately addressed in rules adopted by the Fire Safety Board or the Building Code Review Board, since it is within their existing authority. The other new requirements had no demonstrated need for adoption. Vote 10-7. Rep. Carol Roberts for the Minority of Executive Departments and Administration. The 2009 Fire Code is the prevailing fire and life safety code in New Hampshire. Many states have adopted the 2015 edition of this code. This bill would move New Hampshire to the 2015 code. It is important to realize that fire insurance rates may be increased when a state does not operate under the newest codes. Reviewing and updating codes in a timely way leads to new code sets that are not overwhelming to decipher. The eleven members of the Board of Fire Control support this bill. This board is responsible for providing advice on fire safety codes, reports to the governor and brings their experience in industry, construction standards, engineering, propane gas distribution as well as management of fire personnel to the table. The minority holds that life and fire safety codes are crucial; and furthermore, life safety issues addressed in the 2015 code were previously unknown to the building community. It is in the best interest of all citizens when the newest fire and safety code is in place.

FINANCE

HB 413-FN-A-LOCAL, relative to payment by the state of a portion of retirement system contributions of political subdivision employers. INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. Rep. J. Tracy Emerick for Finance. This bill is relative to payment by the state of a portion of retirement system contributions of political subdivision employers. As part of the budgeting process, payment of a percent of retirement payments was discussed and dismissed as an uncontrollable cost to the state. An amount of \$50 million was included in the house budget for distribution to municipalities to offset rising taxes, in lieu of a percentage payment. This funding did not make it through the budgeting process and was not included in the final budget signed by the Governor. Vote 17-9.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10

HOUSE EDUCATION, Room 207, LOB

2:00 p.m. HB 1370, relative to a school's emergency management plan.

Executive session on pending legislation may be held throughout the day, time permitting, from the time the committee is initially convened.

HOUSE FINANCE, Rooms 210-211, LOB

2:45 p.m. HB 1756-FN-A, relative to an additional allowance and a cost of living adjustment for retirees from the state retirement system.

HOUSE TRANSPORTATION, Room 203, LOB

1:00 p.m. HB 1364, relative to use of amber lights on vehicles.

SENATE EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION, Room 101, LOB

Sen. Carson (C), Sen. Reagan (VC), Sen. Gannon, Sen. Soucy, Sen. Cavanaugh

9:00 a.m. SB 324-FN, allowing an optional retirement system allowance to include a subsequent remarriage of a divorced retiree.

9:40 a.m. SB 370-FN, adopting the emergency medical services personnel licensure interstate compact.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 11

HOUSE EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION, Room 306, LOB

10:15 a.m. HB 1254, establishing a committee to study the procedures for adoption of national codes by the state of New Hampshire.

11:00 a.m. HB 1255, relative to the state fire code.

11:30 a.m. HB 1421-FN, relative to regulations for event tents.

1:30 p.m. HB 1472, relative to the state building code provisions for energy conservation in new building construction.

HOUSE JUDICIARY, Room 208, LOB

1:15 p.m. HB 1399, relative to statutes of limitations in civil actions against public servants.

HOUSE LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION, Room 104, LOB

2:00 p.m. HB 1225, relative to removal of public officers for cause.