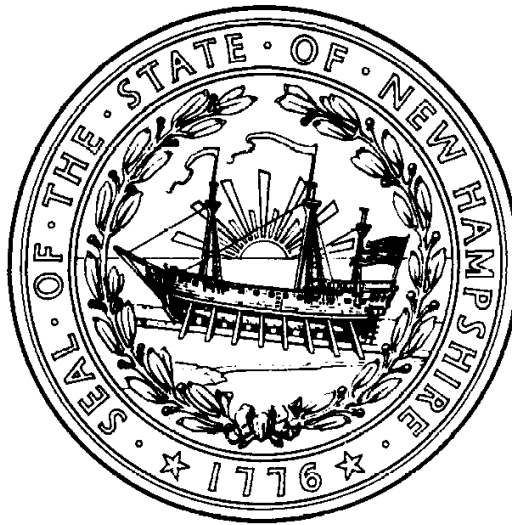


March 8, 2012
No. 10

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

WEB SITE ADDRESS:
www.gencourt.state.nh.us



Second Year of the 162nd Session of the New Hampshire General
Court Legislative

SENATE CALENDAR

THE SENATE IS IN RECESS TO THE CALL OF THE CHAIR

VETO MESSAGE

Governor Lynch's Veto Message Regarding SB 160

By the authority vested in me, pursuant to part II, Article 44 of the New Hampshire Constitution, on January 27, 2012, I vetoed SB 160, relative to regulation of installment loans.

I am vetoing this legislation because legalizing excessive interest rates for so-called "installment loans" – interest rates in excess of 400 percent APR – hurts our families, communities and economy.

SB 160 creates a new small loan product in New Hampshire – an installment loan – and overturns the interest rate cap for payday lenders. These new installment loans are essentially payday loans that would create an escalating spiral of debt for New Hampshire families that would undermine their financial security, as well as the financial well being of our communities and our economy. That is why 31 other states – including all the other New England states – ban these types of excessive interest rates for consumer credit.

SB 160 was strongly opposed by both Republicans and Democrats in the legislature, the American Friends Service Committee, the New Hampshire Local Welfare Administrator's Association, AARP, the New Hampshire Department of Justice, New Hampshire Legal Assistance and a coalition of churches.

While this legislation allows a lender to charge nominal interest of \$15.50 per \$100 installment, there could be as many as 26 installments per year with the resulting APR being in excess of 400 percent. On a 6-month loan with payments every two weeks, lenders will be able to charge consumers over \$1,100 to repay a \$500 loan. For vulnerable families, these excessive interest charges could force them further into a cycle of debt, and potentially onto public assistance.

Oversight and regulation of payday lenders under SB 160 is also inconsistent with current practices for other forms of consumer credit. For example, unlike current law for the examination of banks, the Banking Commissioner must provide a payday lender with advanced notice before conducting examination of its books, records and loan documents. Administrative fine authority over payday lenders is less than half of the existing authority over other lenders. Consumers will not receive the same level of protection from payday lenders as they do now with other providers of consumer credit.

The lack of adequate consumer protections and the existence of excessive interest rates will undoubtedly increase the cycle of debt for too many of our families are not in New Hampshire's interest. Therefore, I am vetoing SB 160.

Respectfully submitted,

John H. Lynch
Governor

Date: January 27, 2012

LAID ON THE TABLE

SB 74-FN, relative to the life settlements act. **01/25/12, pending motion Inexpedient to Legislate, Commerce, SJ 3, pg. 80**

SB 163-FN, relative to the New Hampshire health benefit exchange. **01/18/12, pending motion Committee Amendment (0164s), Commerce, SJ 2, pg. 36**

SB 222, relative to property and casualty insurance. **02/15/12, pending motion Committee Amendment (0653s), Commerce, SJ 5, pg. 128**

SB 279-FN, establishing registers of probate as clerks of the probate division of the circuit court. **03/07/12, pending motion Inexpedient to Legislate, Judiciary, SJ 6, pg. TBA**

SB 283, relative to disposition of nursing home patient accounts. **03/07/12, pending motion Committee Amendment (0897s), Health and Human Services, SJ 6, pg. TBA**

SB 335, establishing a procedure for certain condominiums to waive portions of the state fire code. **03/07/12, pending motion Inexpedient to Legislate, Commerce, SJ 6, pg. TBA**

SB 350-FN, relative to the sale of portable electronics insurance. **02/15/12, pending motion Inexpedient to Legislate, Commerce, SJ 5, pg. 129**

SB 355, clarifying the exemption for attorneys from licensing requirements for mortgage brokers or bankers. **02/15/12, pending motion Ought to Pass, Commerce, SJ 5, pg. 129**

SB 377-FN, relative to unemployment compensation eligibility for participants in the return to work program. **02/15/12, pending motion Committee Amendment (0655s), Commerce, SJ 5, pg. 130**

HEARINGS

TUESDAY, MARCH 13, 2012

COMMERCE, Room 102, LOB

Sen. Prescott (C), Sen. Sanborn (VC), Sen. De Blois, Sen. Houde, Sen. White

9:00 a.m. **EXECUTIVE SESSION ON PENDING LEGISLATION**

WAYS AND MEANS, Room 100, SH

Sen. Odell (C), Sen. Luther (VC), Sen. Boutin, Sen. D'Allesandro, Sen. Morse, Sen. Rausch

1:00 p.m. **EXECUTIVE SESSION ON PENDING LEGISLATION**

2:00 p.m. **HB 518-FN-A**, changing the prospective repeal date for the research and development tax credit.

2:15 p.m. **HB 1209**, establishing a committee to study administration of the business profits tax and the business enterprise tax.

EXECUTIVE SESSION MAY FOLLOW

THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 2012

ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES, Room 102, LOB

Sen. Odell (C), Sen. Gallus (VC), Sen. Bradley, Sen. Lambert, Sen. Merrill

9:00 a.m. **SB 215**, relative to the duties of the site evaluation committee.

10:00 a.m. **SB 264**, relative to energy facility site evaluations.

EXECUTIVE SESSION MAY FOLLOW

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION, Room 100, SH

Sen. Carson (C), Sen. Groen (VC), Sen. Larsen, Sen. Luther, Sen. White

9:00 a.m. **HB 654-FN-L**, relative to credit for retirement system employer contribution overpayments.

9:15 a.m. **HB 624**, relative to the rulemaking authority of state agencies to establish fees and costs and establishing a committee to study the rulemaking authority of state agencies to establish fees.

9:30 a.m. **HB 222-FN**, relative to the specificity of certain statutory provisions granting rulemaking authority.

EXECUTIVE SESSION MAY FOLLOW

FINANCE, Room 103, SH

Sen. Morse (C), Sen. Odell (VC), Sen. Barnes, Sen. Bragdon, Sen. D'Allesandro, Sen. Forrester, Sen. Gallus

1:00 p.m. **HB 1534-FN**, repealing the self-funding of the department of labor.

1:15 p.m. **HB 1686-FN**, relative to state contracts and making an appropriation therefor.

1:30 p.m. **HB 1196**, repealing the task force on state procurement policies and procedures.

1:45 p.m. **HB 1505-FN**, relative to public employee suggestions for cost-saving measures.

EXECUTIVE SESSION MAY FOLLOW

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, Room 102, LOB

Sen. Bradley (C), Sen. De Blois (VC), Sen. Kelly, Sen. Lambert, Sen. Sanborn

1:30 p.m. **EXECUTIVE SESSION ON PENDING LEGISLATION**

1:40 p.m. **SB 402**, relative to the adoption of policies for the management of concussion and head injury in youth sports.

2:10 p.m. **HB 1349-L**, relative to the service of town health officers.

2:25 p.m. **HB 1378**, relative to transfer by pharmacy technicians of prescription drugs between pharmacies.

2:40 p.m. **HB 1567**, establishing a committee to study the federal Youth Corrections Act.

EXECUTIVE SESSION MAY FOLLOW

JUDICIARY, Room 101, LOB

Sen. Houde (C), Sen. Carson (VC), Sen. Groen, Sen. Luther, Sen. Forsythe

2:30 p.m. **EXECUTIVE SESSION ON PENDING LEGISLATION**

2:40 p.m. **SB 406**, establishing an early offer alternative in medical injury claims.

EXECUTIVE SESSION MAY FOLLOW

TUESDAY, MARCH 20, 2012

EDUCATION, Room 103, LOB

Sen. Stiles (C), Sen. Forsythe (VC), Sen. Carson, Sen. Kelly, Sen. Prescott

1:00 p.m. **SB 408**, relative to a school district's policy informing parents of bullying incidents.

EXECUTIVE SESSION MAY FOLLOW

INTERNAL AFFAIRS, Room 103, SH

Sen. Prescott (C), Sen. Lambert (VC), Sen. Bradley, Sen. Bragdon, Sen. Larsen

3:00 p.m. **EXECUTIVE SESSION ON PENDING LEGISLATION**

PUBLIC AND MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS, Room 101, LOB

Sen. Barnes (C), Sen. Forrester (VC), Sen. Boutin, Sen. Merrill, Sen. Stiles

- 9:00 a.m. **HB 1229**, declaring March 30 as Welcome Home Veterans Day to honor veterans of Vietnam.
- 9:15 a.m. **HB 1134**, establishing a committee to study the construction of a permanent memorial to Governor John Gilbert Winant on state property other than the state house grounds.
- 9:30 a.m. **HB 108**, relative to trees and roadside growth.
- 9:50 a.m. **HB 655**, establishing a committee to study issues regarding the New Hampshire Local Government Center.
- 10:30 a.m. **HB 1420**, relative to the disposition of the remains of service members.
- 10:50 a.m. **HB 1710**, establishing a commission to identify issues for legislation related to strengthening the role of fathers in families with divorced or unmarried parents.
- EXECUTIVE SESSION MAY FOLLOW**

THURSDAY, MARCH 22, 2012

JUDICIARY, Room 101, LOB

Sen. Houde (C), Sen. Carson (VC), Sen. Groen, Sen. Luther, Sen. Forsythe

- 1:00 p.m. **EXECUTIVE SESSION ON PENDING LEGISLATION**
- 1:30 p.m. **HB 344-FN**, relative to judicial performance evaluations.
- 1:45 p.m. **HB 1384**, relative to the statute of limitations for complaints against judges.
- 2:00 p.m. **HB 151**, repealing the laws relative to marital masters.
- EXECUTIVE SESSION MAY FOLLOW**

MEETINGS

FRIDAY, MARCH 9, 2012

WORKERS' COMPENSATION ADVISORY COUNCIL (RSA 281-A:62)

9:00 a.m. Room 307, LOB Regular Meeting

FISCAL COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL COURT (RSA 14:30-a)

10:30 a.m. Rooms 210-211, LOB Regular Business

11:00 a.m. Rooms 210-211, LOB Audits

State of New Hampshire
Comprehensive Annual Financial
Report For the Fiscal Year Ended
June 30, 2011

MONDAY, MARCH 12, 2012

SHORELAND ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RSA 483-B:21)

9:30 a.m. Department of Environmental Services, Room 214 Lakes' Subcommittee Regular Meeting

29 Hazen Drive
Concord, NH

ECONOMIC STRATEGIC COMMISSION TO REVIEW THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN NEW HAMPSHIRE BUSINESSES AND STATE GOVERNMENT (RSA 359-K:2)

10:00 a.m. Rooms 206-208, LOB Regular Meeting

ADVANCED MANUFACTURING EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL (RSA 188-E:21)

3:00 p.m. Room 100, SH Regular Meeting

THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 2012

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE (RSA 126-A:13)

2:00 p.m. Department of Health & Human Services Subcommittee on Public
29 Hazen Drive Health Services Improvement
Concord, NH

COMMISSION TO STUDY THE EFFECTS OF SERVICE-CONNECTED POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER AND TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY SUFFERED IN THE LINE OF DUTY BY MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES AND VETERANS (RSA 115-D:1)

2:30 p.m. Room 203, LOB Regular Meeting

FRIDAY, MARCH 16, 2012

JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATIVE RULES (RSA 541-A:2)

9:00 a.m. Rooms 305-307, LOB Regular Meeting

GUARDIAN AD LITEM BOARD (RSA 490-C:1)

1:00 p.m. Room 101, LOB Regular Meeting

SUNDAY, MARCH 18, 2012

LEGISLATIVE YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL (RSA 19-K:1)

1:00 p.m. NHTI Community College Regular Meeting
Student Center/Crocker Wellness
Center Building, Room 235
Concord, NH

MONDAY, MARCH 19, 2012

INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL FOR WOMEN OFFENDERS (RSA 21-H:14-c)

9:00 a.m. Room 100, SH Regular Meeting

COMMISSION ON PRIMARY CARE WORKFORCE ISSUES (RSA 126-T:1)

10:00 a.m. Room 305, LOB Regular Meeting

COMMITTEE TO STUDY WATER INFRASTRUCTURE SUSTAINABILITY FUNDING (SB 60, Chapter 245:1, Laws of 2009)

1:00 p.m. Room 103, SH Regular Meeting

TUESDAY, MARCH 20, 2012

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE (RSA 126-A:13)

2:00 p.m. Room 205, LOB Mental Health Subcommittee Meeting

THURSDAY, MARCH 22, 2012

COMMISSION TO STUDY BUSINESS REGULATIONS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE (RSA 359-L:1)

3:00 p.m. Room 303, LOB Regular Meeting

FRIDAY, MARCH 23, 2012

ASSESSING STANDARDS BOARD (RSA 21-J:14-a)

9:30 a.m. Room 305, LOB Regular Meeting
NEW HAMPSHIRE RAIL TRANSIT AUTHORITY (RSA 238-A:2)
 10:00 a.m. Room 203, LOB Regular Meeting

MONDAY, MARCH 26, 2012

OIL FUND DISBURSEMENT BOARD (RSA 146-D:4)

9:00 a.m. Room 308, LOB Regular Meeting
MEDICAL MALPRACTICE PANEL AND INSURANCE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE (RSA 519-B:13)
 10:00 a.m. Room 100, SH Regular Meeting

FRIDAY, MARCH 30, 2012

JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATIVE RULES (RSA 541-A:2)

9:00 a.m. Room 103, SH Continued Meeting

MONDAY, APRIL 2, 2012

STATE COMMITTEE ON AGING (RSA 161-F:7, I)

10:00 a.m. DHHS, Brown Building Regular Meeting
 129 Pleasant Street
 Concord, NH

TUESDAY, APRIL 3, 2012

LONG RANGE CAPITAL PLANNING AND UTILIZATION COMMITTEE (RSA 17-M:1)

3:30 p.m. Room 201, LOB Regular Business

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4, 2012

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE EDUCATION OF CHILDREN/STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES (RSA 186-C:3-b)

4:30 p.m. NH Department of Education Regular Meeting
 Londergan Hall, Room 15
 101 Pleasant Street
 Concord, NH

FRIDAY, APRIL 6, 2012

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION (RSA 282-A:128)

9:00 a.m. NH Employment Security Regular Meeting
 32 South Main Street
 Concord, NH

THURSDAY, APRIL 12, 2012

INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH AND INNOVATION CENTER OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE (RSA 187-A:32)

2:00 p.m. UNH School of Law Regular Meeting

The Franklin Center Board Room
 Room 175
 2 White Street
 Concord, NH

MONDAY, APRIL 16, 2012

BOARD OF MANUFACTURED HOUSING (RSA 205-A:25)

1:00 p.m. Room 201, LOB Regular Meeting

FRIDAY, APRIL 20, 2012

JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATIVE RULES (RSA 541-A:2)

9:00 a.m. Rooms 305-307, LOB Regular Meeting

GUARDIAN AD LITEM BOARD (RSA 490-C:1)

1:00 p.m. Room 101, LOB Regular Meeting

MONDAY, APRIL 23, 2012

OIL FUND DISBURSEMENT BOARD (RSA 146-D:4)

9:00 a.m. Room 305, LOB Regular Meeting

FRIDAY, APRIL 27, 2012

NEW HAMPSHIRE RAIL TRANSIT AUTHORITY (RSA 238-A:2)

10:00 a.m. Room 203, LOB Regular Meeting

SENATE BILLS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

SB 19, relative to the definition of "prime wetlands."

SB 49, relative to tip pooling arrangements.

SB 152-FN, relative to participation in state employees' group insurance by members of the general court.

SB 190, relative to the duties and membership of the executive branch ethics committee.

FISCAL NOTE ADDITIONS AND UPDATES HAVE BEEN AMENDED TO THE BILLS ON THE WEB SITE AND ARE AVAILABLE IN THE SENATE CLERK'S OFFICE FOR THE FOLLOWING 2011 RE-REFERRED AND RETAINED BILLS:

SENATE BILLS: 19, 48, 71, 74, 83, 84, 132, 142, 152, 153, 155, 159, 160, 163, 168, 185, 186, 188, 198, 212, 217, 219, 225, 227, 234, 239, 247, 271, 272, 275, 276, 279, 285, 289, 294, 303, 305, 307, 309, 311, 312, 313, 320, 324, 326, 330, 338, 343, 358, 366, 370, 372, 375, 381, 399, 405, 407

HOUSE BILLS: 72, 110, 186, 210, 222, 225, 242, 247, 269, 325, 330, 351, 378, 420, 449, 466, 479, 508, 518, 520, 528, 654, 1155, 1302, 1383, 1534, 1505, 1611

ENROLLED BILL AMENDMENTS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE SENATE CLERK'S OFFICE FOR 2012 BILLS:

HOUSE BILLS: 648

NOTICES**STATE HOUSE COMPLEX DISPOSAL BOXES**

The General Court is exploring the issue of the disposal of dirty syringes, needles, and any other sharps into the proper disposal boxes.

During the first phase of exploration, we will have a sharps box for collection in the Health Services Department to place all sharps in. This will assist us in planning if there is any viability of placing like containers in the complex.

Senator Jeb Bradley, Senate Majority Leader

The components of the NH Dental Society will be inviting legislators to events in their area in order to share information regarding oral health issues in New Hampshire. Please watch for invitations in the mail.

Senator Jeb Bradley, Senate Majority Leader
Senator Sylvia B. Larsen, Senate Minority Leader

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, 2012

The National Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Society, in conjunction with the Governor's Commission on Disabilities, is inviting all legislators and staff to visit their display in the State House cafeteria on Wednesday, March 14th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. This event is being held in honor of National MS Awareness Week, March 12th – 18th.

Senator Peter Bragdon, Senate President

THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 2012

All legislators and staff are invited to attend the 10th Annual NH Capital St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef & Cabbage Lunch to benefit Children's Hospital at Dartmouth on Thursday, March 15th, at 12:00 p.m., at the Courtyard Marriott-Grappone Center in Concord, with a special comedy performance by Juston McKinnery, star of Comedy Central, The Tonight Show with Jay Leno, and Conan O'Brien. For your complimentary reservation, please RSVP to: James.Demers@Demers-Blaisdell.com

Senator Jeb Bradley, Senate Majority Leader

TUESDAY, MARCH 20, 2012

The American Red Cross cordially invites all Legislative members and staff to the annual State House complex blood drive. The blood drive will take place on Tuesday, March 20th, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The American Red Cross state-of-the-art, self-contained coach will be parked out in front of the State House for this event.

Appointments are strongly encouraged. To schedule an appointment, please call State House Health Services, ext. 271-2757.

In the past, the blood drive has had overwhelming support. Please help to make this year the best ever!

Senator Jeb Bradley, Senate Majority Leader

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28, 2012

Breathe New Hampshire invites all legislators and staff to attend a Breakfast Reception on Wednesday, March 28, 2012 from 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. at the State House Cafeteria. Please join Breathe New Hampshire staff, board members, and volunteers for breakfast, conversation, and door prizes. Please RSVP by March 16, 2012 at info@breathenh.org or by calling 603-669-2411.

Senator Sylvia B. Larsen, Senate Minority Leader

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28, 2012

All legislators are cordially invited to join the New Hampshire State Alliance of YMCAs in the State House cafeteria on Wednesday, March 28th during the lunch break for an informal luncheon reception. Sandwiches, hot and cold drinks, and desserts will be provided.

Senator Peter Bragdon, Senate President

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28, 2012

All legislators and staff are cordially invited to join members of the New Hampshire Automobile Dealers Association (NHADA) for a Crossover Reception on Wednesday, March 28th at 3:00 p.m. or following the House session, whichever is later, at the Concord Holiday Inn, 172 North Main Street. NHADA has historically hosted this event which offers legislators a wonderful opportunity to unwind and enjoy the company of fellow legislators and staff in a fun, social gathering. This year in particular we want to recognize all of you for your support of New Hampshire automotive members and their 14,000 employees.

Senator Jim B. Rausch

SATURDAY, MARCH 31, 2012

All members of the Senate are invited to the 4th Annual Local Energy Solutions Conference set for Saturday, March 31, 2012 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. at the Merrimack Valley High School in Penacook. Registration is free to members of the NH General Court. Keynote speaker is Mike Breen, Vice President with the Truman National Security Project. Originally from New Hampshire, Mr. Breen is an expert voice on America's security challenges and has appeared in numerous national and regional media outlets on a wide range of issues, particularly energy security, counterinsurgency, and counterterrorism. Mr. Breen will speak about energy use in the United States and at a local level and how that has direct and serious impact on the national security challenges we face abroad. In addition, more than 250 attendees, instructional workshops on energy solutions for local government, and peer-to-peer networking make this conference a "don't miss" event. For a complete listing of workshop sessions and speakers, go to [2012 Local Energy Solutions Conference](#). An RSVP would be appreciated.

Senator Gary E. Lambert

THURSDAY, APRIL 12, 2012

The City and Town Clerks Association would like to invite all Senators to breakfast on Thursday, April 12th from 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. in the cafeteria. Come and meet your clerk.
 Senator Jeb Bradley, Senate Majority Leader

LEGISLATIVE ETHICS COMMITTEE

The Legislative Ethics Committee has voted to issue the following interpretive ruling, which is printed below in its entirety.

INTERPRETIVE RULING 2012-#1 (February 9, 2012)

Request of Rep. Steve Vaillancourt for Interpretation of Ethics Guidelines
 Section 1 Principles of Public Service, Paragraphs II and III

Rep. Vaillancourt has asked the Committee to determine whether the alleged use of certain methods and procedures by House leadership to persuade legislators to support its positions (characterized in his letter as “bullying”), and non-public activities pursued on the part of leadership in the development of legislation (characterized as “secrecy”), are violative of the Ethics Guidelines, specifically Section 1 Principles of Public Service, Paragraphs II and III.

Those paragraphs state:

“II. Principle Of Independent Objective Judgment

Legislators should employ independent objective judgment in performing their duties, deciding all matters on the merits free from conflicts of interest and both real and apparent improper influences.

“III. Principle Of Accountability

Legislators should assure that government is conducted openly, equitably and honorably in a manner that permits the citizenry to make informed judgments and hold government officials accountable.”

RSA 14-B:3, I(b) authorizes the Ethics Committee to:

“Issue interpretative [*sic*] rulings explaining and *clarifying* any law, guideline, rule or regulation within the jurisdiction of the committee” (emphasis added).

We treat the request as asking for clarification of the cited Principles through an Interpretive Ruling.

Committee Analysis

The issue is whether the types of conduct alleged in the request fall within the scope of the Guidelines as they presently exist. In that regard, in a series of previous decisions dismissing certain Complaints on a confidential basis as required by law, we have recognized that there are substantial limitations on the scope of the Guidelines. More particularly, we have ruled that the Guidelines do not create an opportunity to raise every asserted grievance against legislators’ behavior. Specifically:

In a Complaint which alleged repeated uncivil or abusive conduct toward another legislator, we said:

“The Ethics Guidelines are not intended to provide a general grievance procedure for legislators to complain about uncivil or other inappropriate activity by their colleagues, but rather are designed as standards to guide legislators toward conduct which is in the public interest, objective, and open, and to guide them away from conduct infected by conflict of interest or abuse of office.”

In another Complaint, which alleged false or offensive testimony by a legislator before a committee, we said:

“The Ethics Guidelines are not intended to provide a general grievance procedure to complain against legislators for making untrue or other inappropriate presentations to their colleagues. Rather, they are designed as standards to guide legislators toward conduct which is in the public interest, objective, and open, and to guide them away from conduct infected by conflict of interest or abuse of office.”

In yet another Complaint, which alleged failure on the part of a legislator to adopt the complainant’s view toward specific legislation, we said:

“The Ethics Committee's complaint procedure is not intended as a mechanism to challenge a legislator's position on a matter of policy, or to enforce a complainant's position regarding such policy. Rather, the Guidelines are designed as standards to guide legislators toward conduct which is in the public interest, objective, and open, and to guide them away from conduct infected by conflict of interest or abuse of office.”

As these decisions demonstrate, the Committee has repeatedly rejected efforts to use its processes as a general grievance mechanism for challenging offensive or abusive conduct by legislators toward each other, or for challenging how matters of policy are developed or resolved.

As in its previous decisions, the Committee does not believe that the purpose of the Guidelines covers the conduct in question. Our previous rulings have suggested that as the governing law presently stands, the Committee’s role is more limited. Based on those rulings, we perceive no basis for us now to become judges of the political conduct of legislative leadership, through clarification of the Guidelines.

In addition, the conduct described in Rep. Vaillancourt’s request would not fall within the definition of “conflict of interest,” as presently provided in the Guidelines. That definition narrowly defines the term only as “the condition in which a legislator has a financial interest in any official activity.” See Ethics Guidelines, Section 2 Definitions, Paragraph II.

The issues Rep. Vaillancourt has raised, while important, are fundamentally political, rather than questions of ethics we are currently charged with deciding. For better or worse, the conduct Rep. Vaillancourt describes has, in widely varying degrees, always been part of the legislative process. To accept Rep. Vaillancourt’s contentions would thrust the Committee into the middle of the House’s political processes.

Such political questions must be determined by legislators themselves in the selection of their leadership, or adopting appropriate legislation or rules, or ultimately by the voters, but not by us under the present state of the Guidelines. It is for the legislature, rather than the Committee, to further define and articulate what should be the functional line between permissible and impermissible efforts to influence fellow legislators’ votes (apart from use or threats of physical force, bribery or other offers of economic advantage, which we believe are prohibited by present law, but which Rep. Vaillancourt’s request does not allege). Similarly, it is for the legislature, rather than the Committee, to determine the line between permissible and impermissible methods for shaping policy in the development of legislation.

If the legislature were to articulate such limits through statute, rule or otherwise, to govern legislators in the performance of their duties, actions in violation of such limits would fall within the Committee's statutory jurisdiction. See RSA 14-B:1, I. However, under present law, they do not.

Accordingly, the Committee respectfully declines to interpret the Guidelines, as they presently stand, to prohibit the conduct alleged by Rep. Vaillancourt.

For the Committee,
Martin L. Gross
Chairman

SENATE SCHEDULE

Thursday, March 15, 2012	Deadline for Policy Committees to ACT on all Senate bills with a fiscal impact, except bills exempted pursuant to Senate Rule 4-3 (b).
Thursday, March 29, 2012	Last Day to ACT on all Senate bills. (Crossover)
Thursday, May 03, 2012	Deadline for Policy Committees to ACT on all House bills with a fiscal impact, except bills exempted pursuant to Senate Rule 4-3 (b).
Thursday, May 17, 2012	Last Day to ACT on all House bills.
Thursday, May 24, 2012	Last Day to FORM Committees of Conference.
Monday, May 28, 2012	Memorial Day (State Holiday)
Thursday, May 31, 2012	Last Day to SIGN Committee of Conference Reports.
Thursday, June 07, 2012	Last Day to ACT on Committee of Conference Reports.
Wednesday, July 04, 2012	Independence Day (State Holiday)
Monday, September 03, 2012	Labor Day (State Holiday)
Monday, November 12, 2012	Veterans' Day (State Holiday)
Thursday, November 22, 2012	Thanksgiving Day (State Holiday)
Friday, November 23, 2012	Day after Thanksgiving (State Holiday)
Tuesday, December 25, 2012	Christmas Day (State Holiday)
Tuesday, January 01, 2013	New Year's Day (State Holiday)

VISITORS' CENTER SCHEDULE – MARCH & APRIL

State House Visitation Schedule

As a convenience to the members of the NH General Court, the Visitors' Center offers the following schedule of schools and other groups visiting the State House in 2012. These listings are to ensure all members be notified in a timely manner of visitors from their district. Our schedule is tightly booked for the school year and subject to changes.

Please contact the Visitors' Center concerning school tour booking information. Legislators planning to meet with students should notify the Visitors' Center. Thank you for your continued participation with your School Visitation Program.

Virginia J. Drew, Director
Deborah Rivers, Public Information Administrator

DATE	TIME	GROUP	Group#/Grade
March 12	9:00	Bow Elementary School	50/4
March 12	10:30/12:00 SH/HM	Milford School @ Heron Pond	100/4
March 12	1:30	World Affairs Council- Venezuela	15
March 13	9:00	Bow Elementary School	48/4
March 13	10:00	Lamprey River School – Raymond	40/4
March 13	11:00	Northwood Elementary School	60/4
March 13	1:30	World Affairs Council – Europe	
March 14	9:00	Bow Elementary School	24/4
March 14	9:45/11:00 SH/HM	Pembroke Hill School	95/4
March 14	12:45	Sant Bani School – Sanbornton	15/6
March 15	9:00	Dover Alternative High School	12/HS
March 15	10:00	Lamprey River School – Raymond	60/4
March 15	10:30/12:00 SH/HM	Allenstown Elementary School	65/4
March 15	1:15	Vesta Roy Series Class	12
March 16	10:15/11:30 SH/HM	Charlotte Ave. School – Nashua	115/4
March 16	1:00	Hipke Home School – Brentwood	14+
March 19	10:45/12:15 SH/HM	Appleton Elementary School – New Ipswich	100/4
March 19	1:30	World Affairs Council – Republic of Georgia	
March 20	9:30	Greenland Central School	44/4
March 20	10:00/11:30 SH/Manse	Dondero School – Portsmouth	60/4
March 21	9:30/11:00 SH/HM	Lincoln St. School – Exeter	88/4
March 22	9:30/11:00 SH/HM	Jaffrey Grade School	69/4
March 22	11:00	Wells Memorial School Harrisville	7/4&5
March 22	12:00	Bible Baptist Christian Soldiers- Nashua	13
March 23	9:30/11:00 SH/HM	Henry Wilson School – Farmington	120/4
March 23	12:00	Presentation of Mary School – Hudson	42/4

March 26	10:30/12:00 SH/HM	Milford Elementary School @Heron Pond	100/4
March 26	1:00	Gilford Parks & Recreation	
March 27	10:00	Maplewood School – Somersworth	48/4
March 27	11:00/12:30	Beaver Meadow School – Concord	74/4
March 28	9:00/10:30 SH/HM	Barnstead Elementary School	63/4
March 28	9:15	Breathe NH student group	
March 28	10:15	Pollard School – Plaistow	40/4
March 29	9:30/11:00 SH/HM	Lincoln St. School – Exeter	88/4
March 29	10:30	Pollard School – Plaistow	40/4
March 30	9:30	Trinity Christian School – Keene	10/4
March 30	9:30/11:00 SH/F&G	Symonds School – Keene	60/4
April 2	9:30	Maple Ave. School – Goffstown	50/4
April 2	11:00	Paul School – Sanbornville/Wakefield	45/4
April 2	1:00	Brain Injury Assoc. of NH	25
April 3	9:30/11:00 SH/HM	Maple Ave. School – Goffstown	75/4
April 4	10:00/11:30	Newmarket Elementary School	80/4
April 4	1:30	Active Outdoor Adults – Wolfeboro	30/Srs
April 5	9:00	Stevens High School German Exchange students - Claremont	25/HS
April 5	10:00	East Kingston Elementary School	40/4