

September 15, 2016
No. 32

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Web Site Address: www.gencourt.state.nh.us



**Second Year of the 164th Session of the
New Hampshire General Court**

SENATE CALENDAR

**THE SENATE WILL MEET IN SESSION ON
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2016 AT 10:00 A.M.**

MEETINGS

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2016

COASTAL RISK AND HAZARDS COMMISSION (RSA 483-E:1)

9:00 a.m.	NH DES-Pease Field Office 222 International Drive Portsmouth, NH	Regular Meeting
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FISCAL COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL COURT (RSA 14:30-a)

10:00 a.m.	Rooms 210-211, LOB	Regular Business
10:30 a.m.	Rooms 210-211, LOB	Audits State of New Hampshire Department of Transportation Bridge Maintenance Performance Audit Report September 2016

NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE HOUSE BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION (RSA 17-R:1)

10:00 a.m.	Room 301, LOB	Regular Meeting
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NH-CANADIAN TRADE COUNCIL (RSA 12-A:2-g)

10:00 a.m.	Room 201, LOB	Regular Meeting
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HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE (RSA 126-A:13)

11:00 a.m.	Room 205, LOB	Regular Meeting
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COMMITTEE TO STUDY THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CONFLICT MANAGEMENT AND RESOLUTION SYSTEM FOR PARENTS AND CHILDREN (HB 1237, Chapter 209:1, Laws of 2016)

2:00 p.m.	Rockingham County Nursing Home 119 North Road Brentwood, NH	Organizational Meeting
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MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2016

COMMISSION TO STUDY ISSUES RELATING TO STUDENTS RECEIVING SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES WHILE ATTENDING A CHARTERED PUBLIC SCHOOL (RSA 186-C:30)

9:00 a.m.	25 Triangle Park Drive Concord, NH	Work Group Meeting
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NEW HAMPSHIRE VETERANS HOME BOARD OF MANAGERS (RSA 119:3-a)

9:00 a.m.	NH Veterans Home Tarr South Conference Room 139 Winter Street Tilton, NH	Regular Meeting
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COMMISSION TO REVIEW CHILD ABUSE FATALITIES (RSA 169-C:39-k)

1:00 p.m.	Room 103, SH	Regular Meeting
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INTERBRANCH CRIMINAL AND JUVENILE JUSTICE COUNCIL (RSA 651-E:2)

1:30 p.m.	Room 204, LOB	Regular Meeting
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NEW HAMPSHIRE COMMISSION ON DEAFNESS AND HEARING LOSS (RSA 125-Q)

1:30 p.m.	Room 205, LOB	Regular Meeting
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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2016

COMMITTEE TO STUDY THE USE OF RESTRAINTS WHEN TRANSPORTING A PERSON SUBJECT TO INVOLUNTARY ADMISSION PROCEEDINGS (SB 427, Chapter 101:1, Laws of 2016)

9:00 a.m. Room 103, LOB Organizational/Regular Meeting

COMMITTEE TO STUDY SOFT TISSUE INJURIES FOR PURPOSES OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION PERMANENT IMPAIRMENT AWARDS (SB 409, Chapter 305:3, Laws of 2016)

9:30 a.m. Room 103, SH Organizational Meeting

COMMITTEE TO STUDY THE INCIDENCE OF SUSPENSIONS AND EXPULSIONS OF CHILDREN IN LICENSED PRESCHOOLS AND IN KINDERGARTEN THROUGH GRADE 3 (HB 1145, Chapter 15:1, Laws of 2016)

9:30 a.m. Room 207, LOB Regular Meeting

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON STATE PROCUREMENT (RSA 21-I:14-d)

10:00 a.m. Room 100, SH Regular Meeting

COMMISSION TO ADDRESS CHILD HUNGER IN NEW HAMPSHIRE (RSA 161:12)

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

COMMITTEE TO STUDY LIVESTOCK AND MEAT INSPECTION (HB 1354, Chapter 210:1, Laws of 2016)

10:00 a.m. Room 303, LOB Regular Meeting

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

11:00 a.m. Room 205, LOB Organizational Meeting
Subcommittee on the
LBA Performance Audit

COMMITTEE TO REVIEW POTENTIAL STATUTORY REVISIONS TO CONSTRAIN POSSIBLE STRANDED COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH PIPELINE CAPACITY CONTRACTS (HB 1148, Chapter 163:1, Laws of 2016)

1:00 p.m. Room 102, LOB Organizational Meeting

COMMITTEE TO STUDY THE PROCESS BY WHICH BUSINESS NAMES ARE AUTHORIZED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE (HB 1307, Chapter 315:2, Laws of 2016)

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

NEW HAMPSHIRE DRINKING WATER AND GROUNDWATER ADVISORY COMMISSION (RSA 485-F:4)

1:30 p.m. Room 100, SH Organizational Meeting

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2016

COMMISSION TO EVALUATE THE 3-TIER SYSTEM (RSA 175:11)

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

JOINT HEALTH CARE REFORM OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE (RSA 420-N:3)

9:00 a.m. Room 302, LOB Regular Meeting

COMMISSION TO STUDY THE APPORTIONMENT OF GROSS BUSINESS PROFITS UNDER THE BUSINESS PROFITS TAX (RSA 77-A:22)

10:00 a.m. Room 103, SH Organizational Meeting

COMMITTEE TO STUDY CRYPTOCURRENCY REGULATION (RSA 399-G:25)

10:00 a.m. Room 302, LOB Organizational Meeting

COMMITTEE TO STUDY RSA 461-A, RELATIVE TO PARENTAL RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES (HB 378, Chapter 281:1, Laws of 2016)

10:00 a.m. Room 205, LOB Organizational Meeting

COMMISSION TO STUDY AND RECOMMEND IMPROVEMENTS TO THE NEW HAMPSHIRE HIKING TRAILS NETWORK (RSA 216-F:7)

11:00 a.m. Room 100, SH Organizational Meeting

COMMITTEE TO STUDY THIRD PARTY MORTGAGE PROCESSORS (HB 1105, Chapter 219:1, Laws of 2016)

11:00 a.m. Room 302, LOB Organizational Meeting

COMMITTEE TO STUDY REAL TIME THREAT NOTIFICATION SYSTEMS TO LINK SCHOOLS WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT WHEN SCHOOLS ARE UNDER DIRECT THREAT (SB 370, Chapter 47:1, Laws of 2016)

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

BALLOT LAW COMMISSION (RSA 665:1)

2:00 p.m. Room 307, LOB Regular Meeting

COMMITTEE TO STUDY GUARDIANSHIP IN NEW HAMPSHIRE (SB 341, Chapter 152:2, Laws of 2016)

2:00 p.m. Room 100, SH Regular Meeting

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2016

COMMISSION TO STUDY TAXABILITY OF LEASE INTERESTS IN PUBLIC PROPERTY (RSA 72:79)

10:00 a.m. Room 102, LOB Regular Meeting

COMMISSION TO STUDY THE SHORTAGE OF NURSES AND OTHER SKILLED HEALTH CARE WORKERS FOR HOME HEALTH CARE SERVICES AND POST-ACUTE CARE SERVICES (RSA 161-I:8)

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

COMMISSION TO STUDY ISSUES RELATING TO PRE-EXISTING DISTRICTS WITHDRAWING FROM A COOPERATIVE SCHOOL DISTRICT (RSA 195:32)

1:00 p.m. Room 207, LOB Regular Meeting

JOINT COMMITTEE ON TAX EXPENDITURE REVIEW (RSA 71-C:3)

1:00 p.m. Room 202, LOB Regular Meeting

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

2:30 p.m. NH Medical Society
7 North State Street
Concord, NH Regular Meeting

JOINT COMMITTEE ON DEDICATED FUNDS (RSA 6:12-i)

2:30 p.m. Room 202, LOB Regular Meeting

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2016

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

1:00 p.m. Room 307, LOB Regular Meeting

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

1:00 p.m. Representatives Hall, SH Public Hearing

THERAPEUTIC USE OF CANNABIS ADVISORY COUNCIL (RSA 126-X:9)

1:00 p.m. Rooms 205-207, LOB Regular Meeting

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2016

COMMISSION ON HYPODERMIC SYRINGES AND NEEDLES (RSA 318-B:26-b)

9:00 a.m. Room 205, LOB Regular Meeting

COMMISSION TO STUDY ISSUES RELATING TO STUDENTS RECEIVING SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES WHILE ATTENDING A CHARTERED PUBLIC SCHOOL (RSA 186-C:30)

9:00 a.m. 25 Triangle Park Drive Regular Meeting
Concord, NH

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

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

COMMITTEE TO STUDY EXOTIC AQUATIC WEEDS AND EXOTIC AQUATIC SPECIES OF WILDLIFE IN THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE (RSA 487:30)

11:00 a.m. Room 307, LOB Regular Meeting

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2016

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATOR ORIENTATION (RSA 17-C:1)

9:00 a.m. Room 104, LOB Regular Meeting

COMMITTEE TO STUDY THE INCIDENCE OF SUSPENSIONS AND EXPULSIONS OF CHILDREN IN LICENSED PRESCHOOLS AND IN KINDERGARTEN THROUGH GRADE 3 (HB 1145, Chapter 15:1, Laws of 2016)

9:30 a.m. Room 207, LOB Regular Meeting

COMMISSION TO STUDY OHRV USAGE AND THE ALLOCATION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE RESOURCES AND RESPONSIBILITIES (RSA 215-A:10-a)

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

COMMITTEE TO STUDY THE PROCESS BY WHICH BUSINESS NAMES ARE AUTHORIZED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE (HB 1307, Chapter 315:2, Laws of 2016)

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

COMMITTEE TO STUDY THE USE OF ABANDONED RAILROAD BEDS FOR RECREATIONAL PURPOSES (SB 80, Chapter 116:1, Laws of 2015)

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

COMMISSION TO DEVELOP A LAND CONSERVATION PLAN (RSA 162-C:12)

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

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2016

CONCORD STEAM TASK FORCE

2:00 p.m. Room 100, SH Regular Meeting

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

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

9:30 a.m. NHDRA Regular Meeting
109 Pleasant Street
Concord, NH

NEW HAMPSHIRE FILM AND TELEVISION COMMISSION (RSA 21-K:23, III)

10:00 a.m. Department of Cultural Resources Regular Meeting
19 Pillsbury Street
Concord, NH

MONDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2016

JOINT LEGISLATIVE HISTORICAL COMMITTEE (RSA 17-I:1)

10:00 a.m. Room 100, SH Regular Meeting

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

10:00 a.m.	DHHS, Brown Building 2nd Floor Conference Room 129 Pleasant Street Concord, NH	Regular Meeting
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TASK FORCE ON WORK AND FAMILY (RSA 276-B:2, I)

1:15 p.m.	Room 207, LOB	Regular Meeting
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COMMISSION TO STUDY THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE ARTS AND CULTURE IN NEW HAMPSHIRE (RSA 19-A:14)

2:00 p.m.	Room 303, LOB	Regular Meeting
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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2016**COMMITTEE TO STUDY FUNDING OPTIONS FOR THE INTERNET CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN TASK FORCE (SB 544, Chapter 160:1, Laws of 2016)**

9:00 a.m.	Room 101, LOB	Regular Meeting
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COMMITTEE TO STUDY IMPROVEMENTS TO THE HANNAH DUSTON MEMORIAL (HB 1397, Chapter 28:1, Laws of 2016)

10:00 a.m.	Room 201, LOB	Organizational Meeting
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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MEDICAID MANAGED CARE PLAN WORKING GROUP (SB 553, Chapter 204:2, Laws of 2016)

10:30 a.m.	Rooms 210-211, LOB	Regular Meeting
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COMMITTEE TO STUDY THE EFFECT OF SHORT-TERM RENTALS ON MUNICIPALITIES (SB 482, Chapter 271:1, Laws of 2016)

11:00 a.m.	Room 102, LOB	Regular Meeting
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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2016**JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATIVE RULES (RSA 541-A:2)**

9:00 a.m.	Rooms 306-308, LOB	Continued Meeting
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COMMITTEE TO STUDY THE 2015 EDITION OF THE UNIFORM FIRE CODE NFPA 1 (HB 427, Chapter 282:2, Laws of 2016)

10:00 a.m.	Room 305, LOB	Regular Meeting
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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2016**COMMITTEE TO STUDY FUNDING OPTIONS FOR THE INTERNET CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN TASK FORCE (SB 544, Chapter 160:1, Laws of 2016)**

9:00 a.m.	Room 101, LOB	Regular Meeting
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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2016**COMMISSION ON HYPODERMIC SYRINGES AND NEEDLES (RSA 318-B:26-b)**

9:00 a.m.	Room 205, LOB	Regular Meeting
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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2016**STATE SUGGESTION AND EXTRAORDINARY SERVICE AWARD EVALUATION COMMITTEE (RSA 99-E:1, I)**

9:30 a.m.	Room 101, LOB	Regular Meeting
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NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE HOUSE BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION (RSA 17-R:1)

10:00 a.m.	Room 307, LOB	Regular Meeting
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MONDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2016

NEW HAMPSHIRE CONSERVATION NUMBER PLATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RSA 261:97-d)

10:00 a.m. Room 307, LOB Regular Meeting

NEW HAMPSHIRE COMMISSION ON DEAFNESS AND HEARING LOSS (RSA 125-Q)

1:30 p.m. Room 205, LOB Regular Meeting

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2016

COMMITTEE TO STUDY FUNDING OPTIONS FOR THE INTERNET CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN TASK FORCE (SB 544, Chapter 160:1, Laws of 2016)

9:00 a.m. Room 101, LOB Regular Meeting

COMMITTEE TO STUDY THE USE OF ABANDONED RAILROAD BEDS FOR RECREATIONAL PURPOSES (SB 80, Chapter 116:1, Laws of 2015)

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

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2016

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

9:00 a.m. Rooms 306-308, LOB Regular Meeting

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MEDICAID MANAGED CARE PLAN WORKING GROUP (SB 553, Chapter 204:2, Laws of 2016)

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

COMMISSION ON POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER AND TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY (RSA 115-D)

2:30 p.m. Walker Building, Room 100 Regular Meeting
21 South Fruit Street
Concord, NH

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2016

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

9:00 a.m. Room 203, LOB Regular Meeting

GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION, TREATMENT, AND RECOVERY (RSA 12-J:1)

9:30 a.m. Grand Summit Resort & Conference Center Regular Meeting
Bartlett, NH

THERAPEUTIC USE OF CANNABIS ADVISORY COUNCIL (RSA 126-X:9)

1:00 p.m. Rooms 205-207, LOB Regular Meeting

MONDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2016

COMMISSION ON HYPODERMIC SYRINGES AND NEEDLES (RSA 318-B:26-b)

9:00 a.m. Room 205, LOB Regular Meeting

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

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

COMMITTEE TO STUDY EXOTIC AQUATIC WEEDS AND EXOTIC AQUATIC SPECIES OF WILDLIFE IN THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE (RSA 487:30)

11:00 a.m. Room 307, LOB Regular Meeting

COMMISSION TO STUDY THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE ARTS AND CULTURE IN NEW HAMPSHIRE (RSA 19-A:14)

2:00 p.m. Room 303, LOB Regular Meeting

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2016 PENDING VETO MESSAGES:**SENATE BILLS: 320, 324, 336, 381, 403, 446, 495**

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2016 BILLS REMAINING ON THE TABLE:**SENATE BILLS: 27, 131, 304, 338, 346, 351, 365, 382, 408, 413, 445, 455, 463, 470, 473, 476, 504, 520, 531, 542, 551****HOUSE BILLS: 629, 1153, 1156, 1231, 1247, 1252, 1356, 1570**

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ENROLLED BILL AMENDMENTS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE SENATE CLERK'S OFFICE FOR 2016 BILLS:**SENATE BILLS: 25, 66, 110, 127, 144, 146, 155, 210, 238, 265, 312, 324, 326, 330, 332, 336, 345, 369, 370, 375, 376, 378, 380, 383, 386, 391, 401, 406, 409, 411, 437, 439, 450, 453, 458, 464, 466, 467, 481, 482, 483, 488, 491, 495, 500, 515, 522, 523, 530, 532, 533, 543, 549, 576****HOUSE BILLS: 114, 297, 353, 356, 458, 377, 500, 512, 533, 605, 626, 659, 1105, 1116, 1144, 1165, 1195, 1197, 1204, 1208, 1210, 1227, 1239, 1245, 1264, 1283, 1289, 1293, 1301, 1303, 1307, 1331, 1332, 1339, 1349, 1354, 1357, 1377, 1388, 1391, 1396, 1428, 1430, 1461, 1503, 1531, 1547, 1553, 1588, 1584, 1589, 1590, 1595, 1616, 1618, 1637, 1644, 1664, 1665, 1685, 1696, 2016, HCR 12**

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NOTICES

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2016 – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2016

The Big E (Eastern States Exposition) celebrates its 100th anniversary this year. The New England fair opens on September 16th in W. Springfield, MA and runs through October 2nd. New Hampshire and all of the New England states operate a state pavilion on the grounds featuring the arts, tourism, agriculture, and small businesses from the state. The NH Building is managed by the NH Dept. of Agriculture, Markets & Food. You are invited to join us at the Big E and one complimentary ticket is available per legislator. The ticket may be picked up after September 5th at the NH Dept. of Agriculture, Markets & Food office at 25 Capitol St., Concord. The ticket is valid for any day of the fair. New Hampshire Day is September 23rd, with added entertainment and activities throughout the day. Visit www.thebige.com for more information about the Big E.

Senator David R. Boutin

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2016**National Drive Electric Week Celebrations on Saturday, September 17th**

All Members, Staff, and Friends are invited to the Granite State National Drive Electric Week celebrations on Saturday, September 17th. One is planned for City Plaza in front of the State House in Concord from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. next door to the Concord Farmers Market. The other in Durham at Wagon Hill Farm, 156 Piscataqua Road in Durham from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Electric cars such as the Chevy Volt, Nissan Leaf, BMW i3, and others will be on display, as well as charging stations, electric bicycles, an electric bus, and more.

Event organizers include ConVerdant Vehicles, Granite State Clean Cities Coalition, New Hampshire Automobile Dealers Association, New Hampshire Sierra Club, Plug In America and the Electric Auto Association. Information will be on hand regarding environmental benefits of electric vehicles, as well as information on charging stations and inverters. Learn more about electric achievements in New Hampshire and upcoming events. Open and free to the public. Visit www.driveelectricweek.org for details.

Senator Andrew Hosmer

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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2016

Open Democracy is holding a focus group on citizen-funded elections that will be held at 2:00 p.m. at New England College, 62 North Main Street, Concord, on September 20th. We will be joined by Susan Mottet, Senior Legislative Campaign Strategist at Every Voice, Washington D.C. Any interested parties are welcome to attend. For more information regarding this event, or if you have any questions about citizen-funded elections, please contact Olivia Zink at olivia@opendemocracy.me, or by telephone at 603-715-8197.

Senator Martha Fuller Clark

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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2016 AND THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2016

Health Services is inviting you to be refreshed or trained in CPR for adult, child and infant; use of automated external defibrillator (AED) for adult and child; and basic first aid. Classes will be held in Room 308 of the LOB on Wednesday, September 21st and Thursday, September 22nd with two sessions available each day, one at 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and one at 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. One small class in CPR/AED can save a life. Please contact the Health Services Office at 271-2757 to reserve a spot.

Senator Nancy F. Stiles

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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2016

The NH Insurance Department is holding a public hearing on the new Workers' Compensation Rate Filings on October 4th, at 10:00 a.m., room 274 at the offices of the NH Insurance Department, 21 South Fruit Street, Suite 14, Concord. Any interested parties are welcome to attend. For more information, or if you have any questions about the workers' compensation filing, please contact Sally MacFadden, Property & Casualty Actuary, at sally.macfadden@ins.nh.gov, or by telephone at 603-271-2399.

Senator Jeb Bradley, Senate Majority Leader

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LEGISLATIVE ETHICS COMMITTEE

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

Advisory Opinion 2016-3 Response to a Request for an Advisory Opinion from Senate Legal Counsel Richard J. Lehmann on Behalf of Senator Chuck W. Morse (August 22, 2016)

Senate Legal Counsel Richard J. Lehmann has submitted a request for an Advisory Opinion on behalf of Senate President Chuck W. Morse about whether, consistent with applicable statutes and the Ethics Guidelines, the Senator may accept payment for the costs of travel, lodging, and meals related to attendance at the national meeting of the Republican Legislative Campaign Committee ("RLCC"), held in Pinehurst Resort, NC.

Relevant Provisions of Law

RSA 15-B:2, V(a)(2)

V. (a) "Gift" means: ***

(2) Any ... tangible thing, intangible thing, service, or the use thereof having more than insignificant economic value. Any such item with a value of less than \$25 is presumed to be of insignificant economic value.

RSA 15-B:2, V(b)(10)(B) and (11)

(b) Notwithstanding subparagraph (a), "gift" shall not include:***

10) Meals, beverages, lodging, or transportation associated with attendance at: ***

(B) Any event where the person is attending in an official capacity representing the state and/or the senate, house, or the agency of which the person is a member.

(11) Expense reimbursement or an honorarium.

RSA 15-B:2, IV

IV. "Expense reimbursement" shall mean any price, charge, fee, expense, or other cost which is waived, forgiven, reduced, prepaid, or reimbursed in any form for the reasonable expenses of attendance, registration, travel, meals, or lodging related to a bona fide conference, meeting, seminar or educational or informational program, when the source of such reimbursement is other than the state, a county, or the United States of America.

RSA 15-B:2, VI

VI. "Honorarium" means a payment in any form to an elected official, public official, public employee, constitutional official, or legislative employee for an appearance, speech, written article or other document, service as a consultant or advisor, or participation in a discussion group or similar activities. Honorarium does not include a payment for such activities for which the person is being compensated by the state, a county, the United States of America, or by any other employer or client, where the activity giving rise to the honorarium is not related to or associated with any public office or government employment.

Committee Analysis

The national meeting of the Republican Legislative Campaign Committee is hosted annually by the Republican State Leadership Committee for Republican Speakers, Presidents, and Leaders of the state legislatures. The agenda includes social functions, political updates, policy panels, and meetings with legislative leaders and donors to the host committee.

The Ethics Committee staff requested information about the topics to be discussed at the conference since they were not described in the brochure provided. Attorney Lehmann replied that Senator Morse would not be attending the policy panels, but would use the meeting to network with other legislative leaders. Based on this information the Committee concluded that his attendance would not meet the definition of a "bona fide conference... related to the (legislator's) office" under RSA 15-B:5. See Interpretive Ruling 2013-1.

Next the Committee considered whether the Senate President might attend this meeting under the exception in RSA 15-B:2, V(b)(10)(B) that permits acceptance of travel expenses for attendance at "any event where the person is attending in an official capacity *representing the state and/or the senate...*" (emphasis added). From the list of attendees provided to the Committee, it was clear that this was a meeting for Republican leaders invited by virtue of their office. Members were divided on whether the Senate President represented the entire Senate or only the Republican caucus at this clearly partisan event. Even after considerable discussion, the members could not reach consensus because of the lack of clarity of the language of the statute. It was suggested that remedial legislation should be filed to provide guidance in the future.

There was agreement, however, that payment of travel expenses, meals, and lodging could be considered an honorarium, "a payment in any form to an elected official... for an appearance" under RSA 15-B:2, VI.

Conclusion

Based on the information provided by Attorney Lehmann about Senator Morse's activities at the event, the Committee advises that his acceptance of the costs of travel, lodging, and meals as payment for his appearance would fall within the exemption established for "honorarium" set forth in RSA 15-B:2, VI.

Senator Morse must report his acceptance of the complimentary travel, lodging, and meals as an honorarium in accordance with RSA 15-B:6.

We appreciate the opportunity to be of assistance.

Honorable Donna Sytek, Chairman
 Senator Sharon M. Carson, Vice Chairman
 Representative Janet G. Wall
 Senator Martha Fuller Clark
 Representative David A. Welch
 Honorable John A. Graham
 Attorney David H. Bradley

For the Committee,
 Honorable Donna Sytek
 Chairman

[Vote: 7-0]

SENATE SCHEDULE

Friday, November 11, 2016	Veterans' Day (State Holiday)
Thursday, November 24, 2016	Thanksgiving Day (State Holiday)
Friday, November 25, 2016	Day after Thanksgiving (State Holiday)
Wednesday, December 7, 2016	Organization Day
Monday, December 26, 2016	Christmas Day (State Holiday)