

September 21, 2017
No. 37

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

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



**First Year of the 165th Session of the
New Hampshire General Court**

SENATE CALENDAR

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2017

FINANCE, Room 103, SH

Sen. Daniels (C), Sen. Reagan (VC), Sen. Giuda, Sen. Morse, Sen. D'Allesandro, Sen. Feltes

1:30 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION ON THE FOLLOWING RE-REFERRED BILLS

SB 219-FN-A, relative to a one-time allowance for certain state retirees.

SB 240-FN-L, relative to the monitoring and treatment of contaminated wells.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2017

PUBLIC AND MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS, Room 102, LOB

Sen. Gray (C), Sen. Ward (VC), Sen. Birdsell, Sen. Kahn, Sen. Woodburn

10:00 a.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION ON PENDING LEGISLATION

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2017

ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES, Room 103, SH

Sen. Avarð (C), Sen. Bradley (VC), Sen. Innis, Sen. Fuller Clark, Sen. Feltes

9:15 a.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION ON PENDING LEGISLATION

MEETINGS

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2017

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

9:30 a.m.

NH Department of Revenue
109 Pleasant Street
Concord, NH

Regular Meeting

COMMITTEE TO STUDY LICENSURE OF ALCOHOL AND DRUG COUNSELORS (SB 54, Chapter 194:5, Laws of 2017)

10:00 a.m.

Room 103, SH

Organizational Meeting

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2017

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON LACTATION (RSA 275:76)

9:00 a.m.

Room 102, LOB

Subcommittee Meeting

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

9:00 a.m.

Room 305, LOB

Regular Meeting

PERMISSIBLE FIREWORKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RSA 160-C:13)

10:00 a.m.

NH Fire Academy
98 Smokey Bear Blvd.
Concord, NH

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

COMMITTEE TO STUDY THE LAWS RELATING TO CONDOMINIUM AND HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATIONS (RSA 356-B:70)

1:30 p.m.

Room 202, LOB

Regular Meeting

INTERBRANCH CRIMINAL AND JUVENILE JUSTICE COUNCIL (RSA 651-E:2)

2:00 p.m. Room 204, LOB Regular Meeting

NH LAND AND COMMUNITY HERITAGE AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS (RSA 227-M:4)

3:00 p.m. Sanborn Mills Farm Regular Meeting
7097 Sanborn Road
Loudon, NH

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2017**OVERSIGHT COMMISSION ON MOTOR VEHICLE FINES (RSA 262:45)**

8:30 a.m. Room 204, LOB Organizational Meeting

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

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

COMMITTEE TO STUDY MENTAL HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICE BUSINESS PROCESS ALIGNMENT AND INFORMATION SYSTEM INTEROPERABILITY (SB 147, Chapter 116:1, Laws of 2017)

10:00 a.m. Room 101, LOB Regular Meeting

PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE (RSA 187-A:28-a)

10:00 a.m. Room 103, LOB Regular Meeting

COMMISSION ON THE SEACOAST CANCER CLUSTER INVESTIGATION (RSA 126-A:74)

11:00 a.m. Room 205, LOB Organizational Meeting

COMMISSION TO EVALUATE THE DIRECT CARE WORKFORCE AND PREPAREDNESS OF LONG-TERM CARE AND SUPPORT SERVICES FOR AGING ADULTS WITH DEMENTIA OR OTHER COGNITIVE BRAIN INJURIES (RSA 151-E:21)

1:00 p.m. Room 206, LOB Organizational Meeting

DEMOGRAPHIC STUDY COMMITTEE (HB 219, Chapter 99:1, Laws of 2017)

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

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2017**COMMISSION TO STUDY AND RECOMMEND IMPROVEMENTS TO THE NEW HAMPSHIRE HIKING TRAILS NETWORK (RSA 216-F:7)**

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

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

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

COMMITTEE TO STUDY TRANSMISSION, DISTRIBUTION, GENERATION, AND OTHER COSTS IN THE STATE'S ELECTRICITY SYSTEM (SB 125, Chapter 83:1, Laws of 2017)

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

COMMITTEE TO STUDY BALANCE BILLING BY HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS (HB 329, Chapter 20:1, Laws of 2017)

10:00 a.m. Room 212, LOB Regular Meeting

COMMITTEE TO STUDY CERTAIN INVESTMENTS BY MUNICIPALITIES (SB 72, Chapter 37:1, Laws of 2017)

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

COMMISSION TO EVALUATE THE EFFECTIVENESS AND FUTURE OF THE PREMIUM ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (RSA 126-A:5-e)

1:00 p.m. Room 100, SH Regular Meeting

COMMITTEE TO STUDY SUBSIDIES FOR ENERGY PROJECTS PROVIDED BY THE RENEWABLE PORTFOLIO STANDARD (SB 51, Chapter 81:1, Laws of 2017)

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

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2017

JOINT COMMITTEE ON EMPLOYEE CLASSIFICATION (RSA 14:14-C)

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

COMMISSION TO STUDY ALLOWING PHARMACISTS TO PRESCRIBE OR MAKE AVAILABLE VIA PROTOCOL ORAL CONTRACEPTIVES AND CERTAIN RELATED MEDICATIONS (RSA 318:47-k)

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

COMMITTEE TO STUDY MEDICATION SYNCHRONIZATION (SB 64, Chapter 81:1, Laws of 2017)

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

COMMITTEE TO STUDY TEMPORARY SEASONAL DOCKS (HB 195, Chapter 161:1, Laws of 2017)

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

COMMITTEE TO STUDY THE RESCHEDULING OF ELECTIONS (SB 248, Chapter 216:1, Laws of 2017)

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

DECENNIAL RETIREMENT COMMISSION (RSA 100-A:57)

10:00 a.m. Rooms 210-211, LOB Regular Meeting

INTERBRANCH CRIMINAL AND JUVENILE JUSTICE COUNCIL (RSA 651-E:2)

10:30 a.m. Room 204, LOB Subcommittee Meeting - Bail Reform

COMMISSION TO STUDY PROCESSES TO RESOLVE RIGHT-TO-KNOW COMPLAINTS (RSA 91-A:8-a)

1:30 p.m. Room 208, LOB Regular Meeting

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

2:00 p.m. NH Medical Society Regular Meeting
7 North State Street
Concord, NH

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2017

FISCAL COMMITTEE (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
Office of Professional Licensure
and Certification
Real Estate Commission
Performance Audit Report
September 2017

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

10:00 a.m. Room 202, LOB Organizational Meeting

PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE OVERSIGHT COMMISSION (RSA 228:107)

10:00 a.m. Room 201, LOB Regular Meeting

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

11:00 a.m. Room 202, LOB Organizational Meeting

OVERSIGHT COMMISSION ON CHILDREN'S SERVICES (RSA 170-G:19)

1:00 p.m. Room 103, SH Nomination Subcommittee Meeting

NEW HAMPSHIRE CANADIAN TRADE COUNCIL (RSA 12-O:22)

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

MONDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2017**COMMITTEE TO STUDY EDUCATION FUNDING AND THE COST OF AN OPPORTUNITY FOR AN ADEQUATE EDUCATION (HB 356, Chapter 190:1, Laws of 2017)**

10:00 a.m. Room 209, LOB Regular Meeting

TASK FORCE ON WORK AND FAMILY (RSA 276-B:2, I)

1:15 p.m. Room 207, LOB Regular Meeting

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2017**COMMISSION TO REVIEW CHILD ABUSE FATALITIES (RSA 169-C:39-k)**

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

COMMISSION TO STUDY NARCAN (RSA 126-A:69)

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

DEMOGRAPHIC STUDY COMMITTEE (HB 219, Chapter 99:1, Laws of 2017)

10:00 a.m. Room 202, LOB Regular Meeting

JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE TO EXAMINE THE INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF THE DIVISION FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES (HB 517, Chapter 156:244, Laws of 2017)

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

OVERSIGHT COMMISSION ON CHILDREN'S SERVICES (RSA 170-G:19)

1:00 p.m. Room 206, LOB Regular Meeting

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2017**PUBLIC SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE COMMISSION (RSA 198:15-z)**

11:00 a.m. Room 209, LOB Regular Meeting

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2017**NEW HAMPSHIRE DRINKING WATER AND GROUNDWATER ADVISORY COMMISSION (RSA 485-F:4)**

9:00 a.m. Rooms 210-211, LOB Regular Meeting

DECENNIAL RETIREMENT COMMISSION (RSA 100-A:57)

10:00 a.m. Rooms 201-203, LOB Regular Meeting

DEMOGRAPHIC STUDY COMMITTEE (HB 219, Chapter 99:1, Laws of 2017)

10:00 a.m. Room 202, LOB Regular Meeting

COMMISSION TO STUDY PROCESSES TO RESOLVE RIGHT-TO-KNOW COMPLAINTS (RSA 91-A:8-a)

1:30 p.m. Room 208, LOB Regular Meeting

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2017**COMMISSION TO STUDY ENVIRONMENTALLY-TRIGGERED CHRONIC ILLNESS (RSA 126-A:73)**

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

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2017**COMMITTEE TO STUDY MENTAL HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICE BUSINESS PROCESS ALIGNMENT AND INFORMATION SYSTEM INTEROPERABILITY (SB 147, Chapter 116:1, Laws of 2017)**

10:00 a.m. Room 101, LOB Regular Meeting

DEMOGRAPHIC STUDY COMMITTEE (HB 219, Chapter 99:1, Laws of 2017)

10:00 a.m. Room 202, LOB Regular Meeting

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2017**WELLNESS AND PRIMARY PREVENTION COUNCIL (RSA 126-M:3)**

9:30 a.m. Room 205, LOB Regular Meeting

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2017**COMMISSION TO STUDY ALLOWING PHARMACISTS TO PRESCRIBE OR MAKE AVAILABLE VIA PROTOCOL ORAL CONTRACEPTIVES AND CERTAIN RELATED MEDICATIONS (RSA 318:47-k)**

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

DECENNIAL RETIREMENT COMMISSION (RSA 100-A:57)

10:00 a.m. Rooms 210-211, LOB Regular Meeting

DEMOGRAPHIC STUDY COMMITTEE (HB 219, Chapter 99:1, Laws of 2017)

10:00 a.m. Room 202, LOB Regular Meeting

COMMISSION TO STUDY PROCESSES TO RESOLVE RIGHT-TO-KNOW COMPLAINTS (RSA 91-A:8-a)

1:30 p.m. Room 208, LOB Regular Meeting

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2017**STATE SUGGESTION AND EXTRAORDINARY SERVICE AWARD EVALUATION COMMITTEE (RSA 99-E:1, I)**

9:30 a.m. Room 101, LOB Regular Meeting

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

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

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

10:00 a.m. Room 308, LOB Regular Meeting

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2017**LEGISLATIVE YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL (RSA 19-K:1)**

1:00 p.m. NHTI Community College Regular Meeting
Crocker Sweeney Building
Room 225
Concord, NH

MONDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2017**NEW HAMPSHIRE VETERANS HOME BOARD OF MANAGERS (RSA 119:3-a)**

9:00 a.m. NH Veterans Home Regular Meeting
Tarr South Conference Room
139 Winter Street
Tilton, NH

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2017**DEMOGRAPHIC STUDY COMMITTEE (HB 219, Chapter 99:1, Laws of 2017)**

10:00 a.m. Room 202, LOB Regular Meeting

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2017**ADVISORY COUNCIL ON LACTATION (RSA 275:76)**

11:00 a.m. Room 102, LOB Regular Meeting

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2017

ADMINISTRATIVE RULES (RSA 541-A:2)

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

DECENNIAL RETIREMENT COMMISSION (RSA 100-A:57)

10:00 a.m. Rooms 210-211, LOB Regular Meeting

DEMOGRAPHIC STUDY COMMITTEE (HB 219, Chapter 99:1, Laws of 2017)

10:00 a.m. Room 202, LOB Regular Meeting

COMMISSION TO STUDY PROCESSES TO RESOLVE RIGHT-TO-KNOW COMPLAINTS (RSA 91-A:8-a)

1:30 p.m. Room 208, 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 20, 2017

ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND SUSTAINABLE ENERGY BOARD (RSA 125-O:5-a)

9:00 a.m. NH PUC, Suite 10 Regular Meeting
21 South Fruit Street
Concord, NH

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

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

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

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

MONDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2017

COASTAL MARINE NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION (RSA 485-G:1)

9:00 a.m. Dover Wastewater Treatment Facility Regular Meeting
484 Middle Road
Dover, NH

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

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

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

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2017

CURRENT USE BOARD (RSA 79-A:3)

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

DEMOGRAPHIC STUDY COMMITTEE (HB 219, Chapter 99:1, Laws of 2017)

10:00 a.m. Room 202, LOB Regular Meeting

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2017

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

11:00 a.m. Room 205, LOB Subcommittee Meeting

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2017

COMMISSION TO STUDY ALLOWING PHARMACISTS TO PRESCRIBE OR MAKE AVAILABLE VIA PROTOCOL ORAL CONTRACEPTIVES AND CERTAIN RELATED MEDICATIONS (RSA 318:47-k)

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

COMMITTEE TO STUDY THE RESCHEDULING OF ELECTIONS (SB 248, Chapter 216:1, Laws of 2017)

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

DECENNIAL RETIREMENT COMMISSION (RSA 100-A:57)

10:00 a.m. Rooms 210-211, LOB Regular Meeting

DEMOGRAPHIC STUDY COMMITTEE (HB 219, Chapter 99:1, Laws of 2017)

10:00 a.m. Room 202, LOB Regular Meeting

COMMISSION TO STUDY PROCESSES TO RESOLVE RIGHT-TO-KNOW COMPLAINTS (RSA 91-A:8-a)

1:30 p.m. Room 208, LOB Regular Meeting

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

2:00 p.m. NH Medical Society Regular Meeting
7 North State Street
Concord, NH

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2017

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

9:30 a.m. Rooms 301-303, LOB Regular Meeting

MONDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2017

COMMISSION TO STUDY THE APPORTIONMENT OF GROSS BUSINESS PROFITS UNDER THE BUSINESS PROFITS TAX (RSA 77-A:23)

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

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2017

DEMOGRAPHIC STUDY COMMITTEE (HB 219, Chapter 99:1, Laws of 2017)

10:00 a.m. Room 202, LOB Regular Meeting

* * * * *

2017 BILLS REREFERRED TO COMMITTEE:

SENATE BILLS: 1, 47, 49, 55, 63, 75, 76, 84, 87, 91, 92, 98, 106, 112, 136, 151, 154, 164, 165, 169, 170, 172, 178, 183, 189, 195, 199, 214, 219, 220, 240

HOUSE BILLS: 79, 121, 122, 143, 151, 173, 225, 296, 305, 337, 342, 372, 390, 472, 549, 557, 560, 561, 574, 614

* * * * *

2017 BILLS REMAINING ON THE TABLE:

SENATE BILLS: 28, 41, 77, 94, 99, 105, 117, 145, 146, 149, 153, 174, 196, 203, 207, 223, 227, 228, 236, 244

HOUSE BILLS: 538, 649

* * * * *

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 2017-2018 BILLS:

SENATE BILLS: 2, 7, 88, 129, 132, 197, 205, 224, 240, 247

HOUSE BILLS: 79, 225, 549, 560, 561, 574

* * * * *

NOTICES

LEGISLATIVE ETHICS COMMITTEE

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

INTERPRETIVE RULING 2017-2 (September 6, 2017)

The Committee has received an inquiry regarding whether legislative employees are required to report reimbursement received from the General Court to cover expenses related to completing continuing education courses related to their position with the legislature. Examples of such continuing education courses include programs related to maintaining a registered nurse license for a position as State House Nurse and continuing legal education courses (CLE's) required to maintain active member status in the NH Bar for an employee who is an attorney with the legislature. The Committee adopts the following Interpretive Ruling pursuant to RSA 14-B:3, I (b).

Relevant Provision of Applicable Ethics Guidelines

Ethics Guidelines, Section 8, III Permitted Activities. The activities listed in this paragraph are permitted.

(c) Acceptance of expense reimbursement for the reasonable expenses for attendance, registration, travel, meals, and lodging related to a bona fide conference, meeting, seminar, or educational, cultural, or informational program related to the legislative employee's or officer's employment so long as disclosure of any such reimbursement is made no later than the last day of the month following the month during which the expense reimbursement was received. This disclosure shall be filed in the Office of the Secretary of State and shall be in a form prescribed in RSA 14-C. (Emphasis added)

The Committee Responds as follows:

A legislative employee who receives reimbursement from the General Court for expenses related to completion of continuing education programs which are related to the employee's position with the legislature must report receipt of the reimbursement on the "Honorarium or Expense Reimbursement Report," as prescribed by RSA 14-C:4.

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

For the Committee,
Donna Sytek
Chairman

[Vote: 7-0]

* * * * *

LEGISLATIVE ETHICS COMMITTEE

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

INTERPRETIVE RULING 2017-1

(September 13, 2017)

Representative Shawn N. Jasper, Speaker of the House, has requested an Interpretive Ruling on the following question:

“Is it permissible for a member of the General Court to accept free legal services in relation to a matter pending before a House or Senate committee or the Legislative Ethics Committee?”

The Committee responds as follows:

While the Ethics Guidelines and RSA 14-C do not provide an explicit exception to the gift prohibition for free legal services, the purpose of the chapter is not violated by accepting such services under certain conditions.

A legislator may accept free legal services for a matter before a legislative committee, when the attorney has no expectation of accruing some benefit from such assistance and the free services would not predispose the recipient to a sense of obligation or favoritism regarding an issue before the legislature.

Relevant Provisions of Applicable Law

14-C:1 Purpose. The purpose of this chapter is to ensure that persons charged with carrying out the duties and activities of the legislative branch of state government do so in an atmosphere that supports the independent judgment of such persons and minimizes the opportunity for inappropriate influence by persons or organizations subject to or likely to become subject to or interested in any matter or action pending in the legislative branch. To that end, this chapter defines gifts that may not be given to, solicited by, or accepted by persons subject to the provisions of the chapter and establishes requirements for the reporting of honorariums, expense reimbursements, and certain other receipts. This chapter shall be liberally construed to effect this purpose.

RSA 14-C:2 Definitions – In this chapter:

* * *

IV (a) “Gift” means:

(1) Money in any amount, whether in the form of cash, check or any other negotiable or non-negotiable instrumentality for the transfer of money.

(2) Any other tangible thing, intangible thing, service, or the use thereof having an individual value of greater than \$50.

(3) Multiple tangible things, intangible things, services, or the use thereof having an individual value \$50 or less with an aggregate value greater than \$250 from any single source during any calendar year.

RSA 14-C: 3 Prohibition on Gifts; Duty to Report

* * *

III. It shall be unlawful for any legislator or legislative employee to solicit or to knowingly accept, directly or indirectly, any gift, as defined in this chapter, or to fail to meet the reporting requirements of this chapter.

Ethics Guidelines, Section 3, Prohibited Activities.

* * *

II. Legislators shall not solicit, accept, or agree to accept anything of value from another for themselves or other persons, if the legislator receives such thing of value:

(a) Knowing or believing the other’s purpose to be the influencing of an action, decision, opinion, recommendation, or other official activity.

(b) Knowing or believing that the giver is or is likely to become subject to or interested in any matter or action pending before or contemplated by the legislator or the General Court.

Ethics Guidelines, Section 4, Permitted Activities; Permitted Gifts.

I. Nothing in section 3, Prohibited Activities, shall be construed to prohibit the following:

* * *

(h) Acceptance of anything permitted to be accepted pursuant to RSA 14-C.

Committee Analysis

Uncompensated, or so-called pro bono, legal services provided by an attorney would in all likelihood have monetary value exceeding \$50 and -- absent an explicit exception to the statutory prohibition in RSA 14-C -- would constitute a prohibited gift if a strict interpretation of the statute were applied. However, the statutory provisions must be read and interpreted in the context of the purpose of the prohibition -- "to ensure that persons ... carrying out the duties and activities of the legislative branch do so in an atmosphere that supports the independent judgment of such persons and minimizes the opportunity for inappropriate influence by persons ... subject to or likely to be subject to or interested in any matter or action pending in the legislative branch" -- and the statutory instruction to construe the law liberally to effect the purpose of the statute.

The questions are whether free professional legal services benefiting the legislator on an individual basis would predispose the recipient to a sense of obligation or favoritism regarding an issue before the legislature, or whether the rendering of such legal services should be viewed as an attempt by an attorney to curry favor improperly with the legislator. In many instances they would not. In those circumstances in which free services are offered by an attorney who is not a registered lobbyist and has no matters before the Legislature from which he or she personally could benefit, the free legal services would not violate the intent and purpose of the statute.

This reasoning can apply to matters involving complaints before the Legislative Ethics Committee, when legal services are provided to an individual, or in relation to a matter pending before a legislative committee where the services are provided for the benefit of the public or the legislative process generally.

This is not to say that there could and likely will be instances where providing free legal services to a legislator would be a prohibited gift under RSA 14-C. Members are cautioned that under some circumstances accepting free legal services from an attorney the legislator knows has active business before the general court, and who is providing services with the hope of influencing the legislator's future actions on pending matters, could violate the gift ban. A hypothetical example that readily comes to mind is where a lawyer is a registered lobbyist, provides free legal services for a legislator, and has several bills before the committee on which that legislator serves and on which that legislator will vote in the near future. Under those circumstances, the committee could very well find that the acceptance of free legal services constitutes a prohibited gift.

In specific cases, if there is doubt about whether a proposed offer of free legal services constitutes a violation of the gift prohibition, a legislator, legislative officer, or legislative employee should request an Advisory Opinion from the Committee. RSA 14-B:3, I (c).

The Committee encourages the General Court to review the issues raised in this ruling and to determine whether any changes to RSA 14-C and the Ethics Guidelines would be appropriate to clarify whether and under what conditions legislators may accept free legal services.

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
 Attorney David H. Bradley
 Honorable David W. Hess
 For the Committee,

Donna Sytek
 Chairman

[Vote: 6-1]

* * * * *

LEGISLATIVE ETHICS COMMITTEE

As a result of recent changes to RSA 14-C -- the ethics law which establishes requirements for legislators, legislative officers, and staff to report acceptance of honorariums, expense reimbursements, and free admission to certain events -- legislators, legislative officers, and staff are now required to report attendance at conferences if they received anything with a value over \$50 in connection with their attendance that was prepaid, free, or reimbursed from any source, including the General Court, NCSL, or CSG, which were formerly exempt.

If you have received stipends or are being reimbursed from the state or organizations like NCSL or CSG for registration, hotel, travel, etc., please be aware that you are required to file the "Honorarium or Expense Reimbursement" form. The deadline for this filing is the end of the month following the month during which the honorarium or expense reimbursement was received. A conference agenda must also be attached. Forms can be picked up at the Secretary of State's Office or may be downloaded from the Legislative Ethics Committee's website at: <http://gencourt.state.nh.us/ethics/default.htm>

Senator Sharon M. Carson

* * * * *

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2017 – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2017

The 2017 Big E (Eastern States Exposition) opens on September 15th in West Springfield, Massachusetts and runs through October 1st. Each of the New England states operates 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 Department 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 at the NH Department of Agriculture, Markets & Food office at 25 Capitol Street, Concord. The ticket is valid for any day of the fair. New Hampshire Day is September 22nd, with added entertainment and activities throughout the day. Visit www.thebige.com for more information about the Big E.

Senator Jeff Woodburn, Senate Minority Leader

* * * * *

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2017

On behalf of the Department of Business and Economic Affairs (DBEA) and the Division of Travel and Tourism Development (DTTD) and its co-sponsors, we invite you to attend a press conference on Thursday, September 28th at 1:00 p.m. on the State House steps as DBEA and DTTD announce their fall tourism campaign and visitor expectations for the fall tourism season. Apple cider, donuts and seasonal fruit will be served.

Senator Jeb Bradley, Senate Majority Leader
Senator Jeff Woodburn, Senate Minority Leader

* * * * *

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2017

On behalf of the New Hampshire Tree Farm Program and its co-sponsors — UNH Cooperative Extension, the NH Division of Forest and Lands, Society For the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, Granite State Division - Society of American Foresters, and the New Hampshire Timberland Owners Association (NHTOA) — we are extending you and a guest a complimentary invitation to the 2017 New Hampshire Tree Farm Field Day. This year's field day is Saturday, September 30th, at the Tomapo Tree Farm, located at 110 Storrs Hill Road, Lebanon, NH.

The following is a highlight of the day's activities (you are invited to attend any one or all of these):

- Forest Management and Maple Sugaring Tours (9:15 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.)
- Hay wagon tour of invasive species control work and county champion Butternut tree (11:30 a.m.)

- Complimentary pig roast and chicken BBQ lunch (12:30 p.m.)
- Awards Presentation
- Silent Auction and Raffle

Come to the Field Day and learn more about the New Hampshire Tree Farm Program. To register call or email Debbie Park at the NHTOA at dpark@nhtoa.org or (603) 224-9699.

Senator Jeb Bradley, Senate Majority Leader
Senator Jeff Woodburn, Senate Minority Leader

* * * * *

SENATE SCHEDULE

Thursday, October 12, 2017	First day to file legislation for 2018 Senate Session.
Thursday, November 2, 2017	Deadline for the Office of Legislative Services to accept drafting of a Senate Bill, Senate Concurrent Resolution, or Senate Joint Resolution with complete information for the 2018 Session.
Friday, November 10, 2017	Veteran's Day (State Holiday)
Thursday, November 23, 2017	Thanksgiving Day (State Holiday)
Friday, November 24, 2017	Day after Thanksgiving (State Holiday)
Thursday, November 30, 2017	Deadline for prime sponsors to sign off on legislation.
Thursday, December 7, 2017	Deadline for co-sponsors to sign off on legislation.
Thursday, December 14, 2017	Deadline to REPORT rereferred bills out of committee.
Monday, December 25, 2017	Christmas Day (State Holiday)
Monday, January 1, 2018	New Year's Day (State Holiday)
Wednesday, January 3, 2018	Convening Day.
Monday, January 15, 2018	Martin Luther King Jr./Civil Rights Day (State Holiday)
Monday, February 19, 2017	President's Day (State Holiday)
Monday, February 26, 2018 – Friday, March 02, 2018	SENATE BREAK
Thursday, March 8, 2018	Deadline for Policy Committees to ACT on all Senate bills with a fiscal impact, except bills exempted pursuant to Senate Rule 4-5.
Thursday, March 22, 2018	CROSSOVER – Deadline to ACT on all Senate bills.
Thursday, April, 19, 2018	Deadline for Policy Committees to ACT on all House bills with a fiscal impact, except bills exempted pursuant to Senate Rule 4-5.
Thursday, May 3, 2018	Deadline to ACT on all House bills.
Thursday, May 10, 2018	Deadline to FORM Committees of Conference.
Thursday, May 17, 2018	Deadline to SIGN Committee of Conference Reports.
Thursday, May 24, 2018	Deadline to ACT on Committee of Conference Reports.
Monday, May 28, 2018	Memorial Day (State Holiday)
Wednesday, July 4, 2018	Independence Day (State Holiday)
Monday, September 3, 2018	Labor Day (State Holiday)
Monday, November 12, 2018	Veterans' Day (State Holiday)
Thursday, November 22, 2018	Thanksgiving Day (State Holiday)
Friday, November 23, 2018	Day after Thanksgiving (State Holiday)
Tuesday, December 25, 2018	Christmas Day (State Holiday)