

House/Senate Schedule
March 19, 2018

TUESDAY, MARCH 20 – COMMITTEE HEARINGS

SENATE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, Room 101, LOB Sen. Bradley (C), Sen. Avard (VC), Sen. Gray, Sen. Fuller Clark, Sen. Hennessey

HB 1782-FN, establishing a committee to study insurance payments to ambulance providers and balance billing by ambulance providers.

EXECUTIVE SESSION MAY FOLLOW

SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE, Room 103, LOB Sen. Birdsell (C), Sen. Gannon (VC), Sen. Ward, Sen. Watters, Sen. Cavanaugh

1:30 p.m. HB 1364, relative to use of amber lights on vehicles.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21 – COMMITTEE HEARINGS

SENATE EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE, Room 101, LOB Sen. Carson (C), Sen. Reagan (VC), Sen. Gannon, Sen. Soucy, Sen. Cavanaugh

9:00 a.m. HB 1421-FN, relative to the regulation of event tents.

9:15 a.m. HB 1676-FN, repealing the licensing requirement for open-air shows and repealing the laws related to the keeping of billiard tables.

9:45 a.m. HB 1427-FN, relative to membership in the retirement system for certain officials.

10:00 a.m. HB 1823-FN, relative to layered amortization of retirement system liabilities.

EXECUTIVE SESSION MAY FOLLOW

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21 – COMMITTEE REPORTS COMING TO THE FLOOR

HOUSE

CONSENT CALENDAR

FINANCE

HB 407-FN, requiring workers' compensation to cover prophylactic treatment for exposure. OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. Rep. J. Tracy Emerick for Finance. This bill requires workers' compensation to cover prophylactic treatment for an identified occupational exposure for first responders, which is critically needed coverage for those who respond to a variety of scenes from car accidents to responding to a simple 911 call or to a greater tragedy. The bill adds hepatitis C virus to the already previously identified bloodborne diseases eligible for prophylactic treatment. It adds a new paragraph that establishes such treatment for airborne diseases. The definition for post-exposure prophylaxis treatment was added. This treatment means preventive medical treatment started after an identified critical exposure or unprotected exposure in order to prevent infection and the development of disease. Expenses associated with the medical evaluation and recommended post-exposure prophylaxis treatment for emergency responders, county and state corrections officers and public safety workers should be paid by the employer's insurance carrier or third-party administrator and such treatment will be provided without prejudice as to the issue of the causal relationship of any subsequently diagnosed bloodborne disease of airborne disease to such workers. Vote 26-0.

REMOVED FROM CONSENT

COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

HB 1214, prohibiting the sale of certain furniture with flame retardant chemicals. REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY. Rep. John Hunt for Commerce and Consumer Affairs. This bill seeks to ban all flame retardant chemicals in new residential upholstered furniture. The bill, however, includes an exemption from the ban for any flame retardants used in upholstered furniture in public facilities. Flame retardants have been used in upholstered furniture and other consumer products to decrease the ability of the material to ignite, however there have been concerns about long term health issues. The committee believes that while the issue of the health affects of certain chemicals on the public and our firefighters is important to address, there is a need for additional study to determine the practical effect on consumers, retailers, wholesalers and manufacturers in our state. The state of Maine is the only state in the country that has passed a similar law, but it has not yet gone into effect. There are also proceedings at the national level, by the US Environmental Protection Agency, the Consumer Product Safety Commission and the National Fire Protection Association related to both the federal regulation of chemical flame retardants and a national furniture flammability standard. We believe additional study at this time is appropriate to review the experience in Maine and monitor the proceedings at the federal level to determine any future New Hampshire action. Vote 20-0.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION

HB 1759-FN, regulating the use of drones. INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. Rep. J.R. Hoell for Executive Departments and Administration. The intent of this bill was to create a new chapter to regulate the use of drones by the government and private citizens. The committee supports this intent, but after reviewing the text, we found many details that needed to be cleaned up. There is no declaration that evidence obtained by surveillance without a warrant is not admissible in court. There is a requirement for reporting the use of a drone to the Attorney General within 5 days of the initiation of use that is too cumbersome and excessive. The restrictions regarding use of drones by nongovernmental entities restricted the use of drones to use as surveillance mechanisms for the protection of private property. The bill needs additional work and with the current workload of the committee and the lack of time before the reporting deadline, it was deemed too incomplete to correct in time. Vote 17-0.