

**Amended** Report based on NHMA Legislative Report #5.

**House Bill 641**, which is to address the so-called ‘spiking’ charges now will include a phase in period though the effective date will be immediate upon passage. The bill also provides a credit to account for amounts previously paid into the system for anything over ‘base’ pay. The Bill also now requires an annual report of the ‘base pay’ for each employee (additional clerical expense to the cities and towns), however the legislature has failed to define ‘base pay’. In addition, there needs to be an actuarial calculator to be used in order to be able to calculate the costs to be borne by the cities and towns.

The real problem is the fact that retirements are based on gross pay rather than base pay. The legislature has not touched that issue, with good reason because the Unions would fight it tooth and nail, especially Group 2 employees who get substantial overtime.

**This bill will again be discussed on 2/11/09 in room 306 in the Legislative Office Building in Concord.**

I believe the attached letter should be sent to every one of the Senatorial and District Representatives as well as the Governor and the Executive Board

**Stimulus Money:**

The disbursement of Stimulus funds for infrastructure will not likely be kind to the State of New Hampshire. State highway, bridge and transportation enhancement projects will be allocated according to existing federal formulas, so if New Hampshire is not high on the list (and it is not) we can’t expect windfalls. As an aside, RFQ’s should be given less lead time, cutting the response to two weeks to qualify for more ‘shovel-ready’ projects. If some communities can’t ‘get it together’ available funds will go to those who are ‘shovel ready’.

There is also ‘set aside’ money available for environmental infrastructure projects. The parameters of the program were to be explained to local officials at New Hampshire Dept of Environmental Services. These will be taking place on February 6<sup>th</sup> at 9am and 1pm at DES on Hazen Drive in Concord. Advance registration is required at DES website.

**Last Minute Addition to 2/11/09 Report.... Based on Leg Report #5**

On Wednesday, Feb 11 @ 10:00 am in Room 307 of the Legislative Office Building, the House Labor Committee will hold a hearing on HB 46 which would impose binding arbitrator’s decision as final. This reverses the right of the Municipality to disagree with the arbitrator, and therefore usurps the rights of the elected representatives of the voter. This is a power grab by the unions, and all are encouraged to contact their district representatives and advise them to stop this bill.

**And....** At 1:00pm in the LOB, the House Labor Committee will consider another bill, HB 305, that would give non-emergency municipal employees the right to strike. This bill if approved could stop the registration of Cars, stop applications such as Welfare applications, building permits and other services that would not be available anywhere else, which is the reason for the law as it exists. We believe we treat our employees fairly and resent this attempt to give unions to take more power from the taxpayers.

**Then...** At 2:30 pm, the House Labor Committee will HB 500 which would repeal Senate Bill 216 passed last year that allows certification of a Union to represent a municipal employee group simply on a written notification of a majority of employees, without a confidential ballot election. Unions contend that management coerces employees but no evidence to support that contention has ever been introduced.