

Legislative Liaison Updates

February 22, 2012

HB1305 Re-Establish Pole Tax Exemption. For a third year in a row, the House killed an effort to reinstate the property tax exemption for telecommunication poles and conduits. With action on the House floor on February 15, 2012, it was overwhelmingly defeated by a vote of 181-113 with strong bi-partisan support. It was clear that this bill caught the attention of legislators at the local level whose efforts in communicating the negative impact to their Representatives was instrumental in defeating this bill. It really shows how effective the local voice is in guiding the decisions in Concord which is democracy at its best. I thank the Dover City Council for unanimously taking a position against this bill and allowing a letter be sent to the local Representatives indicating this. However, as noted in last report, Fairpoint Communications did receive temporary authorization from the DUC to place a specific charge on their bills to customers that would be tagged a "Municipal Property Tax Surcharge". The public should be made aware of this deceiving tactic having it appear as a burden stemming from the municipality and not from the normal course of business. Additionally, the concern is this monthly \$.99 per line charge will likely generate more revenues for the company than the expense of the tax.

Updates on previously reported bills:

HB1498 Repeal of dog licensing requirements. I reported on this early in the session. This bill came out of committee with a unanimous recommendation of Inexpedient to Legislate (ITL) and was voted on the House floor last week as ITL rendering it dead.

HB1515 relative to the Land Use Change Tax. Voted on the House floor as ITL, rendering it dead.

HB1540 relative to conservation easements on public land. Voted on the House floor as ITL, rendering it dead.

HB1545 relative to control of land received or acquired by a conservation commission. Out of committee last week with unanimous recommendation to ITL. Vote today on House floor.

HB1586 relative to acquisition of land for conservation purposes. Out of committee last week with unanimous recommendation to ITL. Vote today on House floor.

SB228 Repeal of NHRS Pension Spiking Provision. Out of committee last week with 3 to 2 recommendation of Ought to Pass (OTP). Scheduled to go to Senate floor on March 7, 2012. As reported before, the passage of this would be quite favorable as it would eliminate a huge financial burden on Dover and other communities. Legislation was passed last year that will ultimately reduce or eliminate many of the causes of spiking.

SB246 Amend the Spiking Formula. Out of committee last week with 3 to 2 recommendation to ITL. Scheduled to go to Senate floor on March 7, 2012. As reported before, killing this bill would be favorable as the formulation is complicated and time consuming and the end result would be similar to the spiking provision.

Respectfully Submitted,

Councilor Bill Garrison