

To: Dover School Board

From: Dorothea Hooper, Councilor Ward 4

Re: Legislative Report

The closing schedule for the Legislature is as follows:

May 15th ---deadline for committees to report all remaining bills.

May 22nd --- deadline to form committees of conferences to compromise on bills that both houses will accept.

May 30th ---deadline for committee of conference reports.

June 5 ---deadline to act on committee of conference reports

Session ends for the House on June 4th and the Senate June 5th.

The Casino bill was voted down by a narrow margin. The vote was 172-172 with the Interim Chair breaking the tie in favor of the committee's ITL. A motion to reconsider was brought up last week and this also failed by a larger margin.

There was a proposal last week that raised some concerns for municipalities. The NH Supreme Court ruled that the Medicaid Enhancement Tax was unconstitutional because of the way it was applied. Several different amendments were being proposed. One would expand the application of the tax to emergency ambulance services which would impose a 5% tax on municipal ambulance services. After hearing much concern, another amendment emerged from the Ways and Means Committee that exempted ambulances paid for by federal, state, or local government.

The bill giving preference to veterans in hiring for certain public employment positions had been tabled but evidently is being added to another bill which has to do with the use of firearms in the heart of the town for military or veterans

events. The bills sponsor stated that the bill was never intended to apply to cities or towns but rather state government.

There is a strong possibility that the death penalty will come under scrutiny again attached to another bill.

Bills sent to interim study (to improve the intent of the legislation) will be worked on between now and the fall. Reports have to be filed by Oct. 31st. The committees task is to determine whether the bill is "recommended for future legislation."