



NEW HAMPSHIRE NURSES' ASSOCIATION

2017 Legislative Summary

The Commission followed eleven bills over this past year which had been presented during the Legislative Town Hall Forum. This year's Legislative Town Hall Forum was held on January 26th, after a nor'easter necessitated rescheduling the event from our original date of January 24th. The Forum was attended by 112 nurses at 12 locations around the state. Panelists for the Forum included, Robert Dunn, Rep. Polly Campion, former Rep. Laurie Harding and Denise Nies, Director of the Board of Nursing.

Our lobbyist, Robert Dunn, of Devine Millimet, kept the commission members updated at our monthly meetings. NHNA members have provided testimony in support of some of these bills and signed in as supporting many others.

Joan Widmer, NHNA Nurse Executive Director, and Jeannie Gonyer, Vice Chair of the Commission on Government Affairs, tracked the bills as they moved through the legislature and prepared weekly updates on our website, under the Advocacy tab. The following table is an update of the bills NHNA tracked since the Legislative Town Hall Forum and any additional bills introduced and followed that have significance to our constituent members. Polly Campion, the only RN legislator this session, has been instrumental in keeping NHNA informed of issues of interest at our monthly CGA meetings.

Bill	Subject	Status
HB 208	Commission to Study Current Procedures for Involuntary Commitment.	NHNA was in favor of this bill. The bill passed in both House and an amended version was passed in the Senate. It moved to the House for concurrence. Result: NHNA has appointed one member to a seat on this commission.
HB 242	Changing the Definition of E-Cigarettes.	NHNA was in favor of this bill. The bill passed in the House; however, the Senate Committee on Commerce & Consumer Affairs voted that this bill ought not to pass, determining it inexpedient to legislate. Result: No further action.



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Bill	Subject	Status
HB 264	Establishing a Commission to Study Oral Contraceptives Over the Counter.	NHNA was in favor of the amended version of this bill. On April 25 th this bill was signed by Governor Sununu. Result: NHNA has appointed one member to a seat on this commission.
HB 322	Completion of a Survey at License Renewal for 8 Allied Health Professions Including Nursing.	NHNA was in favor of the bill. This bill passed in the House. On May 4 th the Senate Committee on Executive Departments & Administration voted that the bill ought to pass. Result: Signed by the Governor into law.
HB 361	Deletes Authority of DHHS to Adopt Rules r/t Childhood Immunizations.	NHNA was opposed to this bill. On March 8 th the House Committee on Health, Human Services & Elderly Affairs voted this bill as inexpedient to legislate. Result: No further action.
HB 362	Prohibiting Certain Immunization Requirements for Non-Communicable Diseases, specifically identifying Hep B as non-communicable.	NHNA was opposed to this bill. Rep McMahon (Rockingham) introduced an amendment to this bill, eliminating the language identifying Hep B and redefining non-communicable as "not infectious or transmissible from person-to-person." This amended version passed in both House & Senate. Result: Signed by the Governor into law.
HB 250	Commission to Study a Health Care for All Program.	NHNA was in favor of this bill. The bill passed in the House. On May 4 th the Senate Committee on Commerce & Consumer Affairs voted this bill as inexpedient to legislate. Result: No further action
HB 321	Commission to Study Public Options for Health Insurance.	NHNA was in favor of this bill. The House Committee on Commerce & Consumer Affairs voted this bill as inexpedient to legislate on March 8 th . Result: No further action
SB 152	Health Care Workers Criminal History Background Checks.	NHNA took the position that the state police engage enough staff so that the process is more expedient. The Senate passed an amended version of this bill which limited its provisions to licensed nursing assistants and had several other provisions. Additional amendments have been proposed in the House Committee of Executive Departments & Administration. Result: Signed into law by the Governor.
HB 112	Requiring Child-Resistant Packaging for Electronic Cigarette Cartridges	NHNA was in favor of this bill. The House Committee on Commerce & Consumer Affairs voted this bill as inexpedient to legislate on February 9 th . Result: No further action



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Additional bills we have been following since the Legislative Town Hall Forum:		
Bill	Subject	Status
SB 236	To Make the Medicaid Expansion Permanent in NH.	NHNA was in favor of this bill. On March 16 th this bill was laid on the table in the Senate pending a Federal decision on Medicaid block grants (part of the AHCA which recently passed in the House). Result: NHNA was asked to participate on a panel sponsored by New Futures to advocate for passage of this bill during the 2017-18 legislative session
HB 575	Certification of Acupuncture Detoxification Specialists.	NHNA was in favor of this bill. This bill passed in the House. On May 4 th the Senate Committee on Executive Departments & Administration voted that this bill ought to pass. Result: Signed into law by the Governor. Moved to rule making.
SB 247	Preventing Childhood Lead Poisoning from Paint and Water and Making an Appropriation to a Special Fund.	NHNA was in favor of this bill. This bill passed in the Senate. On May 4 th the House voted in favor of this bill and it moved to the House Finance Committee for the appropriations phase of this bill. Result: The bill was retained in committee.

In the fall 2017 the CGA worked on the issue of workplace violence with Senator Gray and other key stakeholders and plans to further this effort in 2018. The CGA has also started preliminary work with New Futures on Medicaid Expansion reauthorization and will also continue this effort in 2018.

Pam DiNapoli, PhD, RN, CNL

Chair, Commission on Government Affairs