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NHSBA Legislative Update – January 6, 2017

Dear NHSBA Members –

This is the first of NHSBA’s regularly distributed Legislative Updates. While the New Hampshire Legislature has not yet begun hearings on bills, this Update contains important information relative to School Building Aid and information relative to all pending bills affecting or impacting school districts and school board governance.

Important Message Regarding School Building Aid:

The New Hampshire Legislature has embarked on its 2017-2018 biennium session. Many issues will come before the Legislature that affect New Hampshire’s public schools and school board governance. One vital issue that requires significant school board attention is School Building Aid. The budget process has already begun and the NH Department of Education has requested \$50 million (the maximum allowed by law) for School Building Aid in each year of the biennium.

For the past eight years, the Legislature has suspended any new School Building Aid funding. While the Legislature has continued to fund the “tail” of Building Aid (money for school districts that were eligible to receive such Aid prior to the moratorium), many communities have postponed needed new construction or renovation of aging facilities. Some districts have gone it alone to build new facilities without any State Aid. However, this continued downshifting of costs has placed a heavy burden on the local taxpayers.

NHSBA has long advocated the return of and full funding of School Building Aid. Such advocacy is consistent with NHSBA II:A, II:C, II:D, and II:N – all relative to school funding.

NHSBA advocates that the NH Legislature restore School Building Aid. The state has an interest in and shares responsibility for providing a quality education, which requires safe, efficient facilities in which to learn.

Governor-elect Sununu has expressed support of funding School Building Aid, as has NH House of Representative leadership. However, it is imperative that State representatives hear directly from local school boards and their concerns on the lack of funding. NHSBA urges its members to contact their state representatives, attend legislative hearings, and provide written letters of support for the return of School Building Aid.

To find your State Representatives and State Senators, go to this link and select your town from the list. Your legislators names and contact information will be displayed.

<http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/house/members/wml.aspx>

School boards are also encouraged to e-mail the House Finance Committee via the following link:

HouseFinanceCommittee@leg.state.nh.us

It is essential that you participate in this important process to bring attention to the conditions of your schools. Taxpayers cannot address this alone. School Building Aid must be restored for the benefit of our communities, our businesses and our economy.

Listing of 2017 Legislative Service Requests/Proposed Legislation Impacting School Board Governance and School District Operations

2017-0018	HB	Title: relative to appropriations in petitioned warrant articles.
2017-0031	HB	Title: prohibiting family members from serving on the same town, city, or school district board or committee.
2017-0037	HB	Title: relative to withdrawal from a cooperative school district.
2017-0040	HB	Title: relative to vacancies in the office of moderator.
2017-0047	HB	Title: relative to chartered public school boards of trustees.
2017-0058	HB	Title: relative to funding for kindergarten programs.
2017-0062	HB	Title: repealing the education tax credit.
2017-0065	HB	Title: relative to bonds for public employees.
2017-0073	HB	Title: prohibiting an employer from using credit history in employment decisions.
2017-0081	HB	Title: prohibiting the implementation of common core in public elementary and secondary schools.

2017-0083	HB	Title: establishing a narcan and naloxone bulk purchase fund.
2017-0095	CACR	Title: relating to natural rights of children. Providing that children have a natural right to be protected by their parents.
2017-0096	HB	Title: relative to out-of-home placements under the child protection act.
2017-0102	HB	Title: relative to the use of drones.
2017-0132	SB	Title: relative to classification of certain state employee positions.
2017-0133	SB	Title: prohibiting collective bargaining agreements that require employees to join or contribute to a labor union.
2017-0146	HB	Title: prohibiting possession of a firearm at a polling place.
2017-0156	HB	Title: relative to the calculation of average daily membership in residence and average daily membership in attendance.
2017-0157	HB	Title: relative to the composition of the withdrawal committee in a cooperative school district.
2017-0159	HB	Title: relative to school district policies regarding objectionable course material.
2017-0169	SB	Title: relative to non-academic surveys administered by a public school to its students.
2017-0171	SB	Title: prohibiting the state from requiring implementation of common core standards.
2017-0177	HB	Title: requiring schools to post the state telephone numbers to report child abuse.
2017-0182	SB	Title: relative to enrollment eligibility for regional career and technical education programs.
2017-0185	HB	Title: relative to school attendance in towns with no public schools.
2017-0186	HB	Title: relative to a code of ethics for certified educational personnel.
2017-0188	HB	Title: relative to police attendance at public meetings and functions.
2017-0215	HB	Title: relative to assessments administered to pupils in grades 3 through 8.

2017-0216	HB	Title: prohibiting collective bargaining agreements that require employees to join or contribute to a labor union.
2017-0218	HB	Title: relative to the laws governing chartered public schools.
2017-0219	HB	Title: relative to the requirements for filing a chartered public school application.
2017-0220	HB	Title: relative to chartered public school teacher qualifications.
2017-0222	HB	Title: relative to criminal records checks in the employee application process.
2017-0226	SB	Title: including qualifying donations to career and technical education centers as expenditures for the research and development tax credit against business profits taxes.
2017-0227	SB	Title: establishing a tax credit against business profits taxes for donations to career and technical education centers.
2017-0228	HB	Title: relative to the cost of fiscal analysis of legislation relating to the retirement system.
2017-0229	HB	Title: reducing business taxes, repealing certain taxes, establishing an income tax, and requiring payment by the state of a portion of retirement system contributions of political subdivision employers.
2017-0240	HB	Title: prohibiting discrimination based on gender identity and expression.
2017-0241	HB	Title: repealing the education tax credit program.
2017-0243	HB	Title: relative to technical corrections to the education tax credit statute.
2017-0251	HB	Title: relative to municipal record retention and conversion.
2017-0280	HB	Title: requiring state employees and state public officials to display their employee identification badges when attending meetings and hearings of the general court.
2017-0285	HB	Title: prohibiting employment discrimination on the basis of genetic information.
2017-0299	SB	Title: relative to employer immunity for disclosure of certain worker employment information.

2017-0313	HB	Title: relative to the per pupil cost of an adequate education.
2017-0314	HB	Title: relative to compliance with state and federal education mandates.
2017-0315	HB	Title: relative to chartered public school funding.
2017-0319	CACR	Title: relating to public education. Providing that the general court shall have the authority to define standards of accountability, mitigate local disparities in educational opportunity and fiscal capacity, and have full discretion to determine the amount of state funding for education.
2017-0333	HB	Title: relative to implementation of alternative academic standards by a local school board.
2017-0334	HB	Title: relative to documenting the improvement of non-proficient readers.
2017-0336	HB	Title: limiting jurisdiction of the superior courts over certain adequate education statutes and adequate education grants.
2017-0337	HCR	Title: relative to the definition and cost of an adequate education.
2017-0338	HB	Title: relative to the authority of the judiciary to review provisions of certain education statutes.
2017-0369	HB	Title: relative to real estate leased for a public charter school.
2017-0370	HB	Title: relative to information available to members of school boards or school budget committees.
2017-0371	HB	Title: relative to certain citizens having standing to sue school boards.
2017-0373	HB	Title: relative to default budgets.
2017-0374	HB	Title: establishing a commission to study processes to resolve right-to-know complaints.
2017-0377	HB	Title: relative to reports to the public employee labor relations board.
2017-0381	HB	Title: relative to the submission of school emergency response plans.
2017-0408	HB	Title: relative to high school students participating in New Hampshire's dual and concurrent enrollment program.

2017-0413	HB	Title: relative to eligibility for a chartered public school charter.
2017-0415	HB	Title: relative to the adoption of a default budget.
2017-0418	HB	Title: relative to amendments to warrant articles.
2017-0421	HB	Title: establishing a commission to study costs of requests for information under the right-to-know law.
2017-0438	SB	Title: relative to warrant articles that have been submitted to the department of revenue administration.
2017-0503	HB	Title: relative to awarding attorney's fees under the right-to-know law.
2017-0506	HB	Title: relative to the calculation of average final compensation under the retirement system for certain members.
2017-0510	HB	Title: establishing an independent commission as an additional authorizing entity for chartered public schools.
2017-0513	HB	Title: relative to grounds for denial of a chartered public school application.
2017-0518	HB	Title: relative to pro se litigants under the right-to-know law.
2017-0521	HB	Title: relative to petition articles in the warrant of a cooperative school district.
2017-0537	HB	Title: establishing a New Hampshire student access grant program.
2017-0538	HB	Title: relative to remedies under the right-to-know law.
2017-0576	HB	Title: relative to requirements for certain warrant articles.
2017-0625	HB	Title: relative to retirement system contributions by and on behalf of retirees employed by retirement system employers.
2017-0636	HB	Title: relative to the retirement system assumed rate of return for the biennium beginning July 1, 2017.
2017-0637	HB	Title: establishing a committee to study requiring passengers on school buses to wear seat belts.
2017-0648	HB	Title: establishing a cash balance pension plan for new hires and non-vested employees.

2017-0649	HB	Title: relative to the age for vested deferred retirements, age of dependents on a retiree health plan, and allowing retired judges to participate in the retiree health plan.
2017-0650	HB	Title: increasing the age at which a pension begins for non-vested and newly-hired group I members.
2017-0651	HB	Title: relative to contributions by employers of part-time employees receiving retirement system pensions.
2017-0664	HB	Title: allowing computer science classes to count towards the mathematics and science graduation requirements.
2017-0665	HB	Title: establishing education savings accounts for children with disabilities.
2017-0678	HB	Title: establishing a committee to study suspensions and expulsions in middle and high schools.
2017-0679	HB	Title: requiring the department of education to collect data related to the reasons for suspension and expulsion of pupils.
2017-0687	HB	Title: relative to right to work.
2017-0688	HB	Title: relative to reimbursement of transportation costs for students attending a career and technical education center.
2017-0695	HB	Title: repealing the provisions for tax exemption for certain chartered public school facilities.
2017-0706	HB	Title: relative to public employees testifying before legislative committees.
2017-0707	HB	Title: relative to state board of education rulemaking authority over home education programs.
2017-0708	HB	Title: prohibiting the inclusion of statewide assessment results in a student's transcript without consent.
2017-0709	HB	Title: relative to student exemption from the statewide assessment.
2017-0714	HB	Title: relative to student assessment data privacy.
2017-0725	HB	Title: relative to stabilization grants for education.

- 2017-0869 SB Title: relative to participation in public school cocurricular programs offered in another school district.
- 2017-0912 SB Title: establishing education savings accounts for certain students.