

2010 BILLS REFERRED TO INTERIM STUDY

These proposals, if recommended by the standing committees, would have to be filed as entirely new legislation in the 2011 session. These are the bills NHAC is watching. There are no legislative meetings permitted in July.

HB 380 – relative to long-term care

This bill was retained by the House Health Committee during the 2009 session and referred to interim study this year. It would establish guidelines for state long-term care policy and set up a statutory long-term care commission. NHAC has urged caution on this bill as there are fiscal implications in setting up what appear to be guidelines and standards for the state's long-term care delivery systems before the real policy discussions take place with the people who are actually paying for and delivering long-term care. There is also concern that the commission is consumer driven (majority of members) and would have broad policy making recommendation authority.

HB 661 – relative to family leave insurance

The House Commerce retained this bill during the 2009 session and referred it to interim study this year. HB 661 would create a family insurance program to allow parents to take time off to care for a new child or an ill family member and would establish benefits for up to 6 weeks at \$250 per week contingent upon receipt of federal funds. There were many questions about how this state provision would work in conjunction with the Federal Medical and Family Leave Act and there were many questions about the fiscal impact on state and local governments.

HB 662 – relative to paid sick leave for employees

The House Labor Committee retained this bill during the 2009 session and referred it to interim study this year. The bill would require employers to provide paid sick leave for employees. As the committee worked through the bill we successfully proposed amendments which would exempt local government employers. However the bill was never voted out of committee so NHAC continues to pay attention to any recommendations that might be made to proceed with the concept next session.

HB 1619 – requiring law enforcement officers to record interviews of suspects in felony cases

This bill was retained in the 2009 session and referred for interim study this year. The House Criminal Justice Committee has concerns about cost to both the state and local subdivisions. NHAC is watching because of the cost which would have to be incurred by the sheriff's departments.