

# How to Take Part in the Legislative Process Following Our Bill Watch Section? Want To Do More?

## A Bill Gets Introduced, Then Goes to Committee, Then What?

Each year the NH Legislature mulls over between 800-1200 proposed bills to see if they should become NH Law. They are called LSRs or Legislative Service Requests at the proposal stage.

Once a bill has been introduced in January, it gets a House (HB) or Senate (SB) Bill designation number and is referred to any one of a number of committees for study, and a public hearing. There are sometimes also CACR's or Constitutional Amendment Concurrent Resolutions and HCR or House Concurrent Resolutions as well.

Here is where the voter can step in and start to influence the adoption process.

The bill will be scheduled for a hearing in a committee.

You may either write to the committee or if you feel you are able to testify to speak for or against the bill, you may appear at the hearing, sign in, and when your name is called, actually speak to the committee.

Recommendations: When writing, also CC the sponsors of the bill if they are not part of the committee. When testifying, don't repeat what others have said, simply state that you agree with previous testimony, add anything you have to add. Have with you written testimony or other documents that might support what you have to say to leave with the committee.

Once the hearing is over, the committee will decide if the bill "Ought to Pass" (OTP) or is "Inexpedient to Legislate" (ITL). At this point it is time to write to your OWN legislators to support or oppose the bill. Tell everyone you know to do the same.

When writing or emailing your legislators and/or committees, always state your name, town and phone number. This is helpful because the committee may want to contact you for more information or your local legislator might want to confirm that you are in his or her district.

It doesn't matter if you are not in the district of each of the committee members, everyone should write to them. Many bad bills can be stopped this way.

Please see the <http://www.cnht.org/news/> section of CNHT's website for all the tools you'll need to be active and on Bill Watch. There you will find Bill Texts and Analyses, Dates, Times, and Locations of Committee Hearings, and Committee Members' contact information.

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