



NH Advocacy Update – 5/29/26

LeadingAge ME & NH contract lobbyist for NH: Lara McIntyre – Sheehan Phinney Capitol Group

NH Govt Affairs Committee members:

- Bret Pomeroy – Hunt Community
- Mark Latham – Taylor Community
- Carolyn O’Driscoll – RiverWoods Group
- Rebecca Daniels – Kendal at Hanover

Session Status as of 5/29/26:

- Both House and Senate had to act on all bills by May 14.
- Committees of Conference to resolve differences between House and Senate bill versions are occurring this week.
- Final session wrap-up is on June 4.
- After June 4, the legislature will recess for the summer and return in the fall to work on non-binding interim study bills.

IMPORTANT BILLS THIS SESSION:

- **BIG WIN!** Defeat of [HB 1295](#): relative to eligibility requirements for charitable and nonprofit housing projects
 - **LeadingAge ME & NH’s successful advocacy efforts led to the defeat of HB 1295!** We are grateful for Lara's behind-the-scenes work to schedule direct meetings with members of the Senate Commerce Committee, and member testimony also played a crucial role.
 - In committee discussion, members acknowledged the bill's negative impact on nonprofits, which rely on tax exemptions, and emphasized the importance of not undermining these expectations; the executive session saw quick consensus to kill the bill, with minimal discussion.
 - HB 1295 was put on the Senate consent calendar and voted down by the full Senate on May 7th.

- Members are encouraged to send thank-you emails to [Commerce Committee members](#) for their vote.

Other bills we supported:

- **PASSED: [HB 155](#):** relative to business enterprise tax returns and appropriating funds to the department of health and human services for licensed nursing facilities
 - Includes a \$2.5 million one-time appropriation to help stabilize 33 nursing homes that were adversely affected by the budget adjustment factor implemented in January, which in some cases reduced daily rates by up to \$50 per resident.
- **PASSED: [SB 663](#):** creating a Medicaid methodology working group within the department of health and human services.
 - Establishes a working group to review and potentially revise the rate setting methodology for nursing facilities, aiming to address ongoing concerns about fairness and adequacy of reimbursement.
- **PASSED: [HB 1565](#):** amended to add presumptive eligibility fund for LTC facilities
 - Establishes the policy framework for a presumptive eligibility fund, but no funding or administrative staff were appropriated, leaving it to DHHS to request resources in the upcoming budget process.
 - FYI: Last session, SB 131 provided \$300,000 to DHHS to outsource Medicaid applications, resulting in progress on eligibility determinations, and a new, shorter application for long-term care eligibility will launch July 1, though DHHS staffing shortages remain a challenge.

Other bills we opposed:

- [HB 1293](#): taxing certain properties owned by charitable or non-profit organizations. Sent to interim study.

UPCOMING:

- **Webinar on Medicaid Changes:**
 - [REGISTER](#) for a webinar on June 9th: **Medicaid Changes 101: A Briefing for NH Health Care Leaders**. Organized by a group of healthcare workforce stakeholders, to discuss Medicaid changes and their implications for providers and individuals on Medicaid.

- **CCRC Rulemaking and JLCAR Hearing Preparation:**
 - JLCAR hearing on June 19th (State House Room 100 at 9:00 A.M.) regarding final rulemaking for INS 1800 – CCRC rules. Members are urged to review the [final proposal](#) and provide feedback to Jennifer Smith jennifer.l.smith@ins.nh.gov at the Department of Insurance in advance of the hearing as they may be able to make minor adjustments prior to the hearing.

- **Summer Engagement with Lawmakers:**
 - Members are encouraged to engage with legislators and candidates during the summer to build relationships and educate policymakers about the work of their organizations. Note: NH House and Senate candidates file for election or re-election from June 3rd to June 12th.
 - Summer is also a great time to engage with your federal delegation. See LeadingAge's [Coffee with Congress Toolkit](#) for great advice on setting up and holding meetings.

- **LeadingAge Massachusetts Merger and Future Advocacy**
 - The proposed merger will not change the organization's commitment to advocating for New Hampshire members. Our lobbying contract with Sheehan Phinney Capitol Group will continue. The Govt Affairs Committee will benefit from increased awareness of policy developments in Massachusetts, which tends to take earlier and more progressive actions in the area of aging services.