

Final Status of a Few Topics of Interest to NHLRA from the 2007 New Hampshire Legislative Session

LABOR ISSUES

Bill #	Title	NHLRA Position	Final Status	Cost/Savings to our industry
HB 81	Increasing from 2 hours to 4 hours the minimum time an employee called into work must be paid.	Opposed	Killed	What would this cost your business?
HB 99	Prohibiting 16 and 17 year olds enrolled in school from working later than 9:00 pm on any night before a school day.	Opposed	Rewritten so 16 & 17 year old graduates don't need Wrk. Cert.	Employers would have been subject to \$1,000 civil penalty if 16 or 17 year old worked later than 9:00 pm on a school night.
HB 123	Requiring the passage of at least 10 hours before any employee may be required to work again.	Opposed	Killed	How would this have affected your scheduling?
HB 366	Declaring that no person except law enforcement or emergency personnel may be required to work on Thanksgiving or Christmas.	Opposed	Killed	How would you have been able to be open for business on one or both of these days?
HB 514	Increasing the minimum hourly wage from \$5.15 to \$7.25 and the minimum tip wage from \$2.38 to \$3.27.	Opposed on tip wage	Enacted into Chapter Law 24	Tipped employees hourly wage will be increased by \$.89/hour.
HB 605	Requiring employers to participate in a new program which would verify the employment eligibility of new hires, to find illegal immigrants.	Opposed	Killed	Would have added much more paperwork and bureaucracy to hiring new employees.

TAX ISSUES

HB 599	Requiring renewal of rooms and meals tax license every two years. Current law provides that license is valid until business ceases operation.	Monitored	Enacted into Chapter Law 147	License renewal fee will be \$5
HB 925	Establish a 1% tax on businesses with payrolls more than \$10,000 / week.	Opposed	Kept for further study	What would this cost your business?

LIQUOR ISSUES

HB 323	Establishing a committee to study New Hampshire Liquor Commission revenues, enforcement, and training.	Supported	Enacted into Chapter Law 170	Will look at fairness of how the Liquor Commission enforces liquor laws.
HB 334	Extend legal hours of sale of alcoholic beverages from 1:00 am. to 2:00 a.m.	Monitored	Killed	
HB 432	Raising the minimum age at which a person may be in a cocktail lounge without a parent or legal guardian or adult spouse from 18 to 21.	Opposed	Kept in Committee for further study	What would this have done to your food service in the cocktail lounge area?

SMOKING ISSUES

HB 42	Prohibiting smoking in restaurants and cocktail lounges.	Opposed	Enacted into Chapter Law 203	Smoking will be prohibited in restaurants and cocktail lounges as of September 17, 2007.
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HEALTH INSURANCE ISSUES

HB 461	Allowing health insurance purchasing alliances.	Supported	Kept in Committee for further study.	Would enable associations to coordinate health insurance purchasing for members.
SB 135	Establishing a commission to study lowering the cost of health insurance for small businesses.	Supported	Enacted into Chapter law 192	What percentage is the cost of health insurance to your entire costs of business?

OTHER ISSUES

HB 324	Prohibiting the use of artificial trans fats in the preparation of food.	Opposed	Killed	
HB1	Increasing State funding for tourism promotion to \$2.25 million per year.	Supported	Enacted into Law	

Contact NHLRA for Other Issues we followed during the 2007 Legislative Session.