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NHSBA Legislative Update- June 12, 2026

1 message

The New Hampshire School Boards Association

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To: szadravec@sau50.org

Fri, Jun 12, 2026 at

11:38 AM



June 12, 2026

**Many Bills Still Awaiting the Governor's
Signature or Veto**

**Potential Impact of HB 1300 and HB 1610 on
Local Districts**

**Upcoming Opportunity for
Student School Board Members**

Dear NHSBA Members,

More than 50 education/governance related bills are still awaiting action by Governor Ayotte as of this morning, Friday, June 12, 2026. Once a bill **formally lands on the Governor's desk** after adjournment, New Hampshire law dictates that the **Governor has five days** (excluding Sundays and holidays) to sign it into law. If the **Governor chooses not to sign a bill within that window, it does not automatically become law as it would during the active session**; instead, it faces a "pocket veto" and quietly dies, meaning the legislature cannot vote to override it. However, the **timing as to when bills are officially considered "on the Governor's desk" is not always predictable** or well publicized. Simply because a bill has been "enrolled" does not automatically begin the 5 day clock, however, we anticipate a number of bills to be addressed by Governor Ayotte this week and next.

HB 1300 and HB 1610 are two bills awaiting action by the Governor. While these two bills have significant impact on districts independently, it is the interplay between these bills which could be far more impactful, should a district pass a "tax cap" under HB 1300, and also be a district that has annually retained year-end unassigned funds. **Should these two bills be signed into law, this could have a major effect on school district finances and on decisions that districts may need to make before the end of this fiscal year.** These bills could change both how much money a district may keep at year-end and how future local school taxes may be limited.

As the end of fiscal year 2026 is quickly approaching, school boards and administrators should understand the possible effects now, so they can **decide whether any action is needed before June 30, 2026**. The information below provides a plain-language summary of the bills, explains why their combined impact may matter, and outlines steps districts may want to consider. **If the bills become law, a more detailed legal analysis will follow in a later legislative update.**

- **House Bill 1300** would put a local school district tax cap question on the November 2026 State election ballot (with no opportunity for debate, and no explanation of the far-reaching consequences).
- If approved by three-fifths of voters, the **cap would begin with fiscal year 2028 (July 1, 2027–June 30, 2028)**.
- That means the **cap could affect the budget developed during the winter of 2026–2027**.

- In general, **the district could not raise more in local school taxes than the prior year, adjusted for inflation and taxable property growth, unless voters approve an override** by a three-fifths majority.

But the greater significance and likely impact on district finances is the workings of House Bill 1300 in conjunction with House Bill 1610.

- **House Bill 1610** would require districts each year to vote on whether they may keep any year-end unassigned general fund balance.
- **Any retained amount would be limited** to 3% of the current year's budget appropriation, and could only be used upon a showing of an emergency and approval by the Commissioner of Education.
- Unlike House Bill 1300, this bill **would take effect immediately if signed.**
- As a result, **unassigned funds still on hand at midnight on June 30, 2026 would instead reduce taxes for fiscal year 2027** rather than remain available to the district (sounds good, but...)
- **By lowering the taxes for 2027, that lower number becomes the basis upon which the cap from HB 1300 is based, even though the unassigned balance is a result of prudent spending during the current year.**
- In short, a **one-time tax reduction could make it harder for a district to raise enough funds to support the district's current programs and services.**

Districts should closely monitor the Governor's action on both bills before making final year-end financial decisions. However, **because the timeline is short, districts that may be affected should begin reviewing their options now, so they are prepared to act quickly if either or both bills become law.**

Irrespective of whether your community supports the long-term intent of the two bills, it is crucial that boards and administrators review the current unassigned fund balance in their districts, and determine what if any action may be taken to mitigate the short-term impact on the next two fiscal year budgets. Any district planning to use funds before June 30, 2026 should

make sure the spending is properly authorized and committed before year-end.

In addition, it is **critical for school board members to discuss the potential impacts of these bills** on your districts and communities, with other locally elected legislators and officials. **Any advocacy-related actions should, however, be directed to the Governor's office**, as these bills are currently awaiting her approval or veto.

A full list of education/school board governance **bills which have now been passed and are heading to the Governor for signature, or those which have already been signed, can be found here:**

**Updated NHSBA Bill List- Bills Which Have Been
Signed/Passed As of 6/12/2026**

NHSBA will continue to share information about bills which are signed into law, as well as any other significant legislative updates, over the next few weeks. The **2026 NHSBA Legislative Summary will also be published over the summer**, outlining policy implications of these bills, practice impacts and tasks assigned within each piece of legislation signed into law.

NHSBA continues to track and follow close to 70 bills which are continuing to move forward. You can see the up-to-date, current status of all bills being followed by NHSBA at this live link:

[Bill Tracking List-NHSBA](#)

NHSBA Info to Superintendents:
Edvance Cohort
Applications Are Officially Open for Student
Board Members

Dear Superintendents,

NHSBA requests that **school superintendents please pass this information along to your student school board member** representatives.

Applications are officially open for the Edvance Cohort! The **National Student Board Member Association is excited to partner with Diligent and the Consortium of State School Boards Associations to empower the next generation of student leaders through advocacy, governance, policy, and meaningful impact.** If you're passionate about making a difference in your school, district, or community, this opportunity is for you.

Applications close July 31.

Apply here:

[https://learn.diligent.com/Edvance Cohort Inquiry](https://learn.diligent.com/Edvance_Cohort_Inquiry)

The Edvance Cohort
A joint initiative between

Diligent | **COSSBA** | **nsbma**

EDVANCE COHORT

*The Edvance Cohort is a **national program** that **trains and supports student board members** in **district governance, policy, and community engagement**.*

Apply Today

Program Benefits

- Leadership & advocacy
- Governance & policy
- Student voice strategies
- National networking

- **START** Conference: **Student governance & advocacy training**
- **STEPS** Conference: Turning **policy** ideas into **action**
- **BUDGET** Training: Understanding **district finance & equity**
- **COSSBA** National Conference (Dallas, TX): **National networking & leadership experience**

APPLY HERE
[LEARN.DILIGENT.COM/EDVANCE_COHORT_INQUIRY](https://learn.diligent.com/edvance_cohort_inquiry)

Applications Open Now
Rolling admissions through **July 31, 2026** or until the cohort is **full**.



OTHER RESOURCES:

The **NH Department of Education** posts recently released several **Technical Advisories** in response to passed legislation or current **issues**. A copy of these, and other TA's released by the Department, can be found at this link:

[NH Department of Education Technical Advisories](#)

COSSBA RESOURCES FOR NHSBA MEMBERS:

Founded by state school boards associations in 2022, the **Consortium of State School Boards Associations (COSSBA)** is a non-partisan, national alliance dedicated to sharing resources and information to support, promote and strengthen state school boards associations as they serve their local school districts and board members. NHSBA was one of the original founding members of COSSBA.

COSSBA offers **trainings, resources, and other advocacy tools** for our members. You can learn more about these, and other offerings at their website:

[COSSBA EVENTS](#)

***ONGOING REMINDER- NOTE TO OUR NHSBA MEMBERS*:**

NHSBA members have reached out with questions or references to trainings, workshops or publications regarding school board governance which are being provided by groups not associated with NHSBA.

We would like to remind our members that **ALL NHSBA COMMUNICATIONS will come from our NHSBA email addresses, with the NHSBA logo, and will be directly linked to our official website.** Direct emails and responses to inquiries will also be generated solely from the four staff members at NHSBA.

If you receive any other training information, emails, presentations, etc. which do not originate from an NHSBA email address, or are not linked to our website directly, these offerings are not affiliated with NHSBA. We appreciate your attention to this matter.

As always, please feel free to reach out if we can be of any assistance.

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