

1 Governmental Issues Parliamentary Procedure

Students will discuss and vote on current political issues using the Robert Rules.

Currently, no legislation.

Proposed Change: Introduce a New Hampshire state law that states, "All video games with 'excessive' violence will be labeled with an '18' and sale to minors is strictly prohibited. Violators may receive up to \$1,000 in fines."

- Should New Hampshire restrict sale of violent video games to only adults?
 - Violent Video Games
 - 97% of 12-17 year olds in the US played video games in 2008, thus fueling an \$11.7 billion domestic video game industry. In 2008, 10 of the top 20 best-selling video games in the US contained violence.
 - The 2008 study Grand Theft Childhood reported that 60% of middle school boys that played at least one Mature-rated game hit or beat up someone, compared to 39% of boys that did not play Mature-rated games.
 - California passed a law in 2005 that would have required violent video games to include an "18" label and criminalized the sale of these games to minors. On June 27, 2011, the US Supreme Court ruled 7-2 in *Brown vs. Entertainment Merchants Association* that the law violated free speech rights.
 - Liberal
 - Video game advocates contend that a majority of the research on the topic is deeply flawed and that no causal relationship has been found between video games and social violence. They argue that violent video games may reduce violence by serving as a substitute for rough and tumble play and by providing a safe outlet for aggressive and angry feelings.
 - Conservative
 - Violent video games have been blamed for school shootings, increases in bullying, and violence towards women. Critics argue that these games desensitize players to violence, reward players for simulating violence, and teach children that violence is an acceptable way to resolve conflicts.

2 Governmental Issues Parliamentary Procedure

Students will discuss and vote on current political issues using the Robert Rules.

5.8 No tenured/continuing contract teacher shall be suspended, reprimanded, reduced in rank or compensation, or subjected to any adverse personnel action without just cause. No tenured/continuing contract teacher shall receive an evaluation which results in reprimand, suspension, reduction in rank or compensation without just cause.

6.2.B.2. If after terminating all non-continuing contract staff it remains necessary to terminate continuing contract staff, the school board shall consider the following factors: certification, academic preparation, professional growth, job performance, experience in certified area and/or job classification and ability. Seniority will be given weight in making the final determination.

Proposed Change: Remove all tenure and replace with, "If there is a need to terminate staff, the school board shall consider the following factors: certification, academic preparation, professional growth, job performance, experience in certified area and/or job classification and ability."

- Should Moultonborough School District abolish tenure for teachers?
 - Tenure
 - Teacher tenure is the increasingly controversial form of job protection that public school teachers in all states receive after 1-7 years on the job. As of 2008, 2.3 million teachers have tenure.
 - Before Massachusetts introduced teacher tenure in 1886, women were sometimes dismissed for getting married, becoming pregnant, wearing pants, or being out too late in the evenings.
 - In a June 1, 2009 study by the New Teacher Project, 86% of school administrators said "they do not always pursue dismissal" of poorly performing teachers because of the costly and time consuming process.
 - Liberal
 - Proponents of tenure argue that it protects teachers from being fired for personal or political reasons, and prevents the firing of experienced teachers to hire less expensive new teachers. They contend that since school administrators grant tenure, neither teachers nor teacher unions should be unfairly blamed for problems with the tenure system.
 - Conservative
 - Opponents of tenure argue that this job protection makes the removal of poorly performing teachers so difficult and costly that most schools end up retaining their bad teachers. They contend that tenure encourages complacency among teachers who do not fear losing their jobs, and that tenure is no longer needed given current laws against job discrimination.

3 Governmental Issues Parliamentary Procedure

Students will discuss and vote on current political issues using the Robert Rules.

Medicaid is a joint state and federal program that provides health insurance coverage to low-income children, senior citizens, expectant mothers, and people with disabilities. At present, adults who do not fall into one of these categories typically do not qualify for Medicaid in New Hampshire, no matter how low their income is. In an average month, approximately 137,000 New Hampshire residents – or one-tenth of the state’s population -- relied on Medicaid during FY 2011. Federal funding for Medicaid is a fixed percentage of program costs; for New Hampshire, it is always at least 50 percent. In other words, for every dollar New Hampshire spends on Medicaid, the federal government puts up at least 50 cents.

Proposed Changes: Under the ACA, states can extend Medicaid coverage to adults ages 19 through 64 with incomes up to \$15,856. If New Hampshire were to elect to do so, by 2021, another 48,000 people would be able to take part in Medicaid. Critically, the federal government will pay the lion’s share of the costs. More specifically, under the ACA, the federal government pays 100 percent of the costs for expanded coverage from 2014 through 2016 and no less than 90 percent thereafter. Consequently, according to NH DHHS, New Hampshire would see a net increase in Medicaid costs of only about \$18 million between FY 2014 and FY 2020 under the expansion. Further, these costs would be offset by \$64 million in revenues and savings elsewhere in the budget, leaving the state with a net savings of roughly \$45 million.

- Should New Hampshire extend healthcare to needy families?
 - Extending Medicaid in New Hampshire
 - 46.3 million people in the US were uninsured in 2008 according to the US Census Bureau. In 2007, health care expenditures totaled \$2.2 trillion - 16.2% of the US economy. Health care is the largest industry in the US, employing more than 14 million people.
 - New Hampshire has the opportunity to accept federal funds to extend Medicaid to more NH families.
 - Approximately 100,000 Granite Staters meet these criteria; of that total, nearly 75,000 are workers. In turn, close to 33,000 of these workers lack health insurance.
 - Liberal
 - Proponents of the right to health care argue that it would stop medical bankruptcies, improve public health, and reduce overall health care spending. They say that no one in the richest nation on earth should go without health care. A June 12-16, 2009 poll shows that 64% of Americans say health care should be a right.
 - Conservative
 - Opponents argue that using tax revenue to provide health care to all Americans amounts to socialism and would decrease the quality and availability of health care for those who work hard to get medical coverage. They say it is not the government's responsibility to guarantee health coverage.
 - Opponents have called it a "socialist" and "unconstitutional" government takeover of the health care system that will increase the cost of health care, decrease the quality, and entrench a new entitlement. They say the law will increase the nation's deficit \$340-\$700 billion over the next decade.

4 Governmental Issues Parliamentary Procedure

Students will discuss and vote on current political issues using the Robert Rules.

HB 573-- Patients with qualifying medical conditions to register with the state Department of Health and Human Services to possess up to two ounces of marijuana at a time. The department will also register four non-profit alternative treatment centers (ATCs) to grow and sell marijuana to patients. Patients could also designate a caregiver to pick up their medicine for them, but neither patients nor caregivers may cultivate marijuana under any circumstances. Caregivers typically could assist no more than five patients.

Proposed Changes: Allow adults 21 and older to cultivate up to six plants for personal use, in addition to creating a system for taxing and regulating the cultivation, production, and sale of marijuana.

- Should New Hampshire expand it's medical marijuana law?
 - Medical Marijuana
 - HB 573 will go into effect in 2015
 - HB 337, a law attempting to decriminalize medical marijuana in New Hampshire, was struck down in the State House of Representatives, losing 239-112.
 - Liberal
 - Proponents of medical marijuana argue that it can be a safe and effective treatment for the symptoms of cancer, AIDS, multiple sclerosis, pain, glaucoma, epilepsy, and other conditions. They cite dozens of peer-reviewed studies, prominent medical organizations, major government reports, and the use of marijuana as medicine throughout world history.
 - Conservative
 - Opponents of medical marijuana argue that it is too dangerous to use, lacks FDA-approval, and that various legal drugs make marijuana use unnecessary. They say marijuana is addictive, leads to harder drug use, interferes with fertility, impairs driving ability, and injures the lungs, immune system, and brain. They say that medical marijuana is a front for drug legalization and recreational use.

5 Governmental Issues Parliamentary Procedure

Students will discuss and vote on current political issues using the Robert Rules.

159:6 License to Carry

I. (a) *The town shall issue a license to such applicant authorizing the applicant to carry a loaded pistol or revolver in this state if it appears that the applicant has good reason to fear injury to the applicant's person or property or has any proper purpose, and that the applicant is a suitable person to be licensed. Hunting, target shooting, or self-defense shall be considered a proper purpose.*

(b) *The license shall be in duplicate and shall bear the name, address, description, and signature of the licensee. The original shall be delivered to the licensee and the duplicate shall be preserved by the people issuing the same for 4 years.*

II. *No photograph or fingerprint shall be required or used as a basis to grant, deny, or renew a license to carry for a resident or nonresident, unless requested by the applicant.*

159:7 Sales to Felons

No person shall sell, deliver, or otherwise transfer a pistol, revolver or any other firearm, to a person who has been convicted, in any jurisdiction, of a felony.

159:8 License to Sell

III. *No pistol, revolver, or other firearm shall be delivered to a purchaser not personally known to the seller or who does not present clear evidence of his identity; nor to a person who has been convicted of a felony.*

Proposed Change: Add "after a background check" to I.A., and add "Before the sale of a firearm, the purchaser's name and address will be submitted to the state."

- Should New Hampshire increase regulation on concealed handgun permits?
 - Concealed Handguns
 - New Hampshire is a "shall issue" state. In other words, law enforcement is required to issue a license to carry a loaded, concealed handgun unless the person applying for the license is a felon or otherwise prohibited from possessing a firearm.
 - Liberal
 - Opponents of concealed carry argue that increased gun ownership leads to more gun crime and unintended gun injuries. They contend that concealed handguns increase the chances of arguments becoming lethal, and that society would be safer with fewer guns on the street not more.
 - The United States has a much higher homicide rate, and firearm homicide rate, than European countries, which generally have stricter firearms regulations.
 - "Although guns can and have been used successfully in self-defense in the home, a gun in the home is 22 times more likely to be used to kill or injure in a domestic homicide, suicide, or unintentional shooting than to be used in self-defense."
 - Other potentially dangerous items, including automobiles, are regulated heavily by the federal government.
 - Conservative
 - Proponents of concealed carry say that criminals are less likely to attack someone they believe to be armed. They cite the 2nd Amendment's "right of the people to keep and bear arms," and argue that most adults who legally carry a concealed gun are law-abiding and do not misuse their firearms.
 - In the past two decades the homicide rate in the United States has decreased, even as firearm ownership has increased.
 - Criminals do not follow laws, so regulations on firearms only hurt legal gun owners
 - The second amendment protects the right to own firearms, but does not protect the right to own an automobile or other potentially dangerous items. Firearms therefore should be subject to fewer regulations.

6 Governmental Issues Parliamentary Procedure

Students will discuss and vote on current political issues using the Robert Rules.

In New Hampshire, the following restrictions on abortion were in effect as of October 1, 2013:

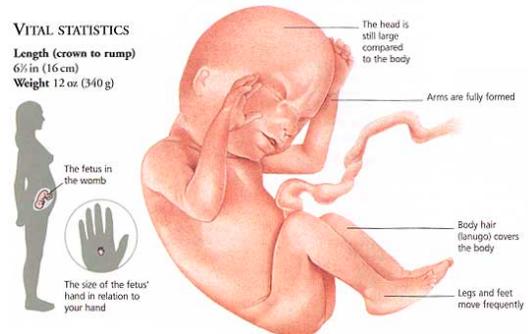
1. The parent of a minor must be notified before an abortion is provided.
2. Public funding is available for abortion only in cases of life endangerment, rape or incest.

Other key legislation:

1. New Hampshire law allows abortions after viability (capable of living), even in cases where the mother's life or health is not endangered.
2. In New Hampshire, assisting suicide is a felony.

Proposed Changes: There are three proposed changes to the abortion laws in New Hampshire.

1. To prohibit abortions after twenty weeks of pregnancy.
2. To deny partial-birth abortions. In a partial-birth abortion, a fetus capable of living outside the womb is partially extracted before aborted. Doctors who violate the ban under the new law can be charged with a felony, jailed for up to 10 years and fined up to \$100,000. The mother cannot be prosecuted.
3. To allow for government funding of abortions under new healthcare laws.



- Should New Hampshire pass these restrictions on abortions?
 - Variations exist in arguments on both sides of the debate. Some pro-choice proponents believe abortion should only be used as a last resort, while others advocate unrestricted access to abortion services under any circumstance. Pro-life positions range from opposing abortion under any circumstance to accepting it for situations of rape, incest, or when a woman's life is at risk.
 - Liberals
 - Proponents, identifying themselves as pro-choice, contend that abortion is a right that should not be limited by governmental or religious authority, and which outweighs any right claimed for an embryo or fetus. They argue that pregnant women will resort to unsafe illegal abortions if there is no legal option.
 - Conservatives
 - Opponents, identifying themselves as pro-life, assert that personhood begins at conception, and therefore abortion is the immoral killing of an innocent human being. They say abortion inflicts suffering on the unborn child, and that it is unfair to allow abortion when couples who cannot biologically conceive are waiting to adopt.