

# Legislative Program

## 2023-2024

Department of NH VFW Auxiliary Legislative 2023-2024

Be An Advocate-Be Informed-Be Engaged

### December 2023 General Information

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This and last month are very busy months for us all in both our personal lives and with our auxiliaries. I hope you were all able to get out and vote last month. Luckily, we have a short break before we are back at it again in the coming weeks with kids Christmas parties and senior dinner. Last month I provided some information on the overall role of the legislative branch. This month we will explore what specifically the legislative branch does.

The Constitution states “all legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.” How does a bill become a law? All laws begin as an idea. To introduce that idea, the following steps are taken:

- A representative has to sponsor the bill.
- The bill gets assigned to a committee for study.
- If released by the committee, the bill is put on a calendar to be voted on, debated or amended.
- If the bill passes by a majority, the bill then moves to the Senate.
- In the Senate, the bill is assigned to another committee and if released, debated and voted on. Again it must be passed by a majority of the Senate.
- Lastly, a conference committee made of House and Senate members work out any differences between the House and Senate versions of the bill.
- The resulting bill returns to the House and Senate for final approval.
- The President has 10 days to sign or veto the bill.

So as you can see from the above it is a weighty process, however, it is a necessary one to be sure that all parties are happy enough with the bill that it is able to pass by the majority.

I will be back next month with more information regarding our legislative program.

Tammy L. Baker  
Department of NH VFW Auxiliary  
Legislative Chair 2023-2024