



State of New Hampshire

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CONCORD

December 28, 2020

House Colleagues:

I want to inform you of the details for the upcoming House session on Wednesday January 6th at the University of New Hampshire. As noted by the Clerk in the last two calendars, we have both a constitutional obligation to meet pursuant to Part II, Article 3 and a statutory requirement to elect a new Speaker of the House.

First and foremost, please know that I take the health and safety of all our members and staff very seriously, which is why we plan to host what we believe to be the most risk-mitigated session of the House yet during this pandemic, in a socially distanced, inside-your-own-vehicle manner, on January 6. It is our belief that the extra precautions of members voting and debating from the comfort of their own vehicles, spread apart across the largest parking lot on UNH's campus, will allow us to do our business effectively and efficiently. Given the circumstances of the situation we face and recognizing the important business which must be conducted on January 6, we believe that every reasonable accommodation has and will be made to allow all members to participate. Ultimately, every member must determine for themselves, based upon their own circumstances, as they have at previous sessions, whether they will attend.

As has been previously mentioned, the New Hampshire Supreme Court has given their opinion that holding a House session remotely, either wholly or in part, would not violate Part II, Article 20 of the New Hampshire Constitution. However, the Court also provided that the House has the authority to adopt rules of proceedings and therefore prescribe a method to determine a quorum. The House has not adopted a rule which allows it to meet remotely, either wholly or in part, and until such a time as the members adopt such a rule, we are obligated to meet in-person. Additionally, in researching how to stand up a remote session, the anticipated cost in establishing a secure voting mechanism would be in excess of \$300,000. In the absence of a rule which permits remote participation, such an expense cannot be justified at the present time, nor is it possible to resolve the significant logistical requirements of a remote session given the short timeframe and the unique challenges of the 400-member House.

Further details of the session will be published in this week's calendar, including arrival times, specific entrance protocols, restroom facilities, etc. Please bring your calendar with you as it will also contain amendments to House Rules proposed by the Rules Committee that we will be voting on after the election of Speaker.

Also included with this letter is a report created by UNH and reviewed for safety purposes by the State Fire Marshal and the Department of Public Health. We hope that it addresses any health-related concerns you may have.

Just as the previous administration thought “outside the box” in creating an effective means of holding session in a risk-mitigated manner, please know that this administration will continue to meet the challenge and allow the House to conduct its business.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Sherman Packard". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'S' and 'P'.

Rep. Sherman A. Packard

Acting Speaker



UNH POLICE DEPARTMENT

18 Waterworks Road

Durham, NH 03824

"A Nationally Accredited Law Enforcement Agency"

STATION (603) 862-1427 FAX (603) 862-1966



NH General Court – Legislative Session @ UNH

January 6th, 2020

PUBLIC HEALTH MEASURES & EMERGENCY MEDICAL RESPONSE CAPACITY

PARKING LOT SPECIFICATIONS:

- **Size:** Lot A is 288,361 square feet spread over approximately 6.7 acres
- **Spots:** Lot A has 917 parking spots divided into (4) sections
- **Spaces:** each parking space is 8' wide and 18' long
- **Aisles:** each aisle is approximately 25' wide

PROCESS:

- Members will be directed to parking spots and will be primarily oriented facing south.
- Members will be parked in alternating parking spots, *i.e.* with a parking spaces separating each vehicle, AND staggered from the row in front of them.

○ |X| |X| |X| |X| |
 ○ | |X| |X| |X| |X|

AISLE

○ |X| |X| |X| |X| |
 ○ | |X| |X| |X| |X|

AISLE

○ |X| |X| |X| |X| |
 ○ | |X| |X| |X| |X|

- Ample space exists for Members to stand periodically outside their vehicle, stretch, and still be physically-distanced from other members and staff.
- Section 1: 4' raised 12' x 16' platform alongside Main Street
- Sections 2 & 3: large "movie theater"-type screen with audio speakers

- Event will be simulcast on FM transmitter for members to also listen while inside of their vehicles.

MEMBERSHIP:

- As the Members arrive at UNH, the vehicles will be staged and as they proceed to the entrances of Lot A, they will each have an individual bag, the contents of which will include:
 - (1) Bottle of hand sanitizer
 - (2) additional facemasks
 - (1) biohazard or paper waste disposal bag
 - Bottle(s) of water
 - Additional bottles of water will be available & Members are authorized to bring their own, as well.
 - Miscellaneous documents/paperwork/etc.
- UNH Conferences & Catering will be provide box lunches at the same time the members receive their bags to eliminate need for members to leave their vehicles.
- Staff will be present to remove discarded lunch items from the Members at their individual parking spots to limit movements of the Members around Lot A.
- (2) trash dumpsters will also be in the parking lot.
- Regardless of where Members are positioned in any of the parking lot sections, they can exit the parking lot at any point, and will not be blocked-in or limited in their capacity to come-and-go.
- EXPECTED ATTENDANCE: 300 – 400 vehicles

PARKING LOT PROTOCOLS:

- Overall event is designed to have minimal touchpoint surfaces and designed for the Members to primarily remain in their vehicles.
- Members are to wear face masks while outside of vehicles when unable to physically distance by at least 6 feet and when any staff member approaches a vehicle when a vehicle window is down.
- There will be (10) portable toilets inside of Lot A – (8) traditional / (2) ADA-compliant larger sized portable toilets.
- Hand sanitizer pump bottles and sanitizing wipes will be on a table at all the portable toilet areas.
- Members and staff are to use hand sanitizer prior to touching the portable toilets and again after using the portable toilets.
- Members and staff are to keep their face mask on while in the portable toilets to reduce the potential for aerosolized virus within the enclosed space.
- UNH Facilities personnel will operate several “open-air” vehicles in the parking lot to provide transport of members to/from the restroom facilities.
 - Masks will be respectfully required of any member seeking transport as only UNH personnel actively in our testing protocol are allowed to work the event.

- Roaming Safety Marshalls will be working throughout the arena to encourage continued use of PPE, and minimizing the amount of time Members are out of their vehicles.
- No concessions are being offered during the event.
- Members will have dedicated personnel to each section of the parking lot who will have microphones on 3' poles brought to the Members at their individual vehicles to minimize the movement of Members throughout the parking lot.
- Microphones will be disinfected by staff after each speaker's use.
- Bottled water being provided to Members
- There will be an absence of any authorized smoking areas, or outside gathering areas for Members during the event.
- Member of the General Court & UNH personnel will coordinate the parking of the vehicles.

EVENT STAFF:

- ALL event staff, *i.e.* UNH personnel and contractors, will submit to temperature screening & questions the morning of the event before being allowed to work inside of the Whittemore Center.
- ALL UNH personnel and vendor/contractor personnel must be actively in our UNH COVID-19 Testing Protocol, and have a negative test just prior to the event.
- ALL law enforcement, security, fire, and EMS personnel working the event will have temperature screening and questions the morning of the event.
- ALL event staff & contractors shall wear facemasks throughout the entire event.

MEDICAL RESPONSE:

- Durham Fire Department (DFD) maintains a full Event Action Plan (Fire & EMS) for the session.
- Durham Fire Department personnel will have (3) firefighters [(1) Captain / (2) firefighters] dedicated to the event and parking in the adjacent lot to address medical needs of Members, in addition to their normal Shift compliment.
 - BOTH the Durham Fire Department & McGregor Memorial Ambulance personnel have extensive experience responding to events located in parking lots, and emergency vehicles can navigate the parking lot with no issues.
- There is no fire suppression system requiring on-site monitoring.
- Pre-event Med-Flight landing zone (LZ) has been established – firm communication lines with (3) providers exist.
- Area medical facilities: Wentworth Douglas Hospital (Dover), Portsmouth Regional Hospital, Portsmouth Emergency Care in Dover, & Exeter Hospital.
- Medical care room will be set-up with appropriate medical equipment as well as stretchers and wheelchairs for movement of Members, as needed.
- McGregor Memorial Ambulance Corps (MMAC) will have (2) paramedics assigned to either a dedicated paramedic-intercept vehicle or an ambulance for the event, in addition to the normal number of apparatus they maintain.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS:

- Additional facemasks, face shields, hand sanitizer, and sanitizing wipes will be available to anyone upon request.
- Portable heater units will be deployed to the area of the elevated platform for those who will be outside for the duration of the event.
- A small enclosed area is being secured should paperwork need to be secured/organized or paper ballots counted, and wind becomes a challenge by those members of House leadership and staff who will be working in/about the platform area.
- CO & fine particulate matter – AIR MONITORING:
 - UNH & the Office of the State Fire Marshall have conferred surrounding the potential risk brought about by carbon monoxide and/or fine particulate matter brought about by the exhaust of so many vehicles idling in the parking lot. Given the wide-open area coupled with a prevailing wind, neither should present as an issue.
 - However, out of an abundance of caution, UNH has coordinated with the Durham Fire Department to conduct air-monitoring throughout the entire event so as to prevent/respond to any concerns presented by the Members.
- Security will be provided by NH General Court – Protective Services
- **LE Agencies involved:** UNH Police, NH State Police, Town of Durham Police, NH Information & Analysis Center
- Maps & instructions will be provided prior to the event
- LED Message Board roadside signs as well as uniformed law enforcement personnel will assist in navigating Members to the appropriate staging & parking lot areas.
- Should there be any additional Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requests for accommodations, these should be submitted to the General Court's ADA representative in advance of the session.