

Quote of the Week

"The Second Amendment is a constitutional right. I didn't make it up, the Republican Party didn't make it up. It's in the Constitution. I think it's just as important as any of the other rights in our Constitution."

-Marco Rubio

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House Session Highlights

The House had quite an exciting week, meeting both on Wednesday and Thursday. Among the most notable outcomes were:

- **HR 6-** Resolution Commemorating Roe v. Wade (Tabled)
- **HB 135-** Repealing Castle Doctrine (Special Ordered to Next Week)
- **HB 271-** Preventing Expanded Medicaid (Killed 206-155)
- **HB 287-** Eliminating Voter ID Requirements (Killed 276-38)
- **HB 443-** Prohibiting Prison Privatization(Passed 197-136)
- **HB 573-** Medical Marijuana (Passed 286-64)
- **HB 595-** Changing Voter ID Requirements (Passed 184-122)
- **HB 621-** Decriminalize 1/4 Once of Marijuana (Passed 214-115)
- **HB 630-** Modifying NH Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (Passed)
- **HB 659-** Increase Tobacco Tax by 20 cents (Passed 193-167)
- **HB 665-** Relative to video lottery and table gaming (Killed 249- 65)
- **HB 678-** Legalize video gaming (Tabled)

Democrats Continue to Mislead About Budget Deficit

Grasping at straws, New Hampshire Democrats have noticeably been trying to pin a \$40million budget deficit on the prior Republican legislature. There are many important points to cover on why this claim is ridiculous.

1) State coffers are currently shy roughly \$41million. At least \$34million (83%) of that of that is a result of shortfalls in the Medicaid Enhancement Tax revenue. In short, Hospitals are not paying their tax bill and there is currently ongoing litigation regarding the rate of the tax. At some point, the Hospitals may pay some or all of this amount. It's out of our hands. Regardless of when or how this revenue is received, arguing that it is the fault of Republicans is just plain misleading.

2) Revenue estimates used to generate the FY2012-13 budget, not including the MET tax situation, are off \$7million dollars. This \$7million discrepancy represents less than 1% of the total dollars spent in the FY2012-13 budget. Thanks to the leadership of Rep. Norm Major (R-Plaistow) and the Ways & Means committee last term, Republicans stayed within 1% of our revenue estimates. Given all the variables that go into the process, this is a great achievement.

During the last term, Democrats called these Republican revenue estimates too low. Well, it turns out they weren't low enough. Now they're saying they were too high? We'd rather be off by less than 1% than what we

were left with in 2011 at this time.

3) People in glass houses shouldn't throw stones. We all remember one of the main reasons why the Democrats were tossed out of office in 2010. They crafted a state budget built around highly inflated revenue estimates that left us with an \$800million budget deficit. The party that left New Hampshire with an \$800million deficit is now criticizing a Republican budget that is off \$7million.

You can't make this stuff up.

ICYMI (In Case You Missed It)

Hassan Keeping Tabs

On Wednesday, legislators were invited to attend a luncheon put on by the Granite State Coalition Against Expanded Gaming.

Rep. Peter Sullivan (D-Manchester) took to Twitter and said the following:

“Governor’s staff standing in back of room writing down names at anti-gambling lunch. Creepy and inappropriate.”

First the Governor instructs [Executive Branch employees to lobby legislators](#), and now it seems she wants her own staff to stalk them!

Eaton’s “Trump Card”

A video of Rep. Dan Eaton has surfaced in which he refers to HB299, which is a language fix that would allow the state board to authorize additional charter schools, as a great political “trump card” for budget negotiations in June.

HB 299 had previously passed the House Education committee and the full House on a voice vote.

This is truly a sad display of partisanship.

[Watch the video here.](#)

[Read Charlie Arlinghaus’s Article here.](#)

Delaney Resigns

On Tuesday, Attorney General Michael Delaney announced that he will not seek reappointment. This raised many questions due to Delany’s opposition to Gov. Hassan’s irresponsible budget which included \$80 million in onetime gaming revenue.

The real answer to whether Delaney was forced out or not might come with who is chosen as his successor. If the next AG goes against the precedent of years and years of AG opposition to gaming, you might just have your answer.

[Read GOP Chairman Jennifer Horn’s comments here.](#)

Important Dates



Republican Caucus W/ Budget Presentation from Republican Finance Members-

Wednesday March 27th at 9:00am in LOB 305-307 (*Open to House Republican Members Only*)

- **House Session-** Wednesday March 27th at 10:00am and tentatively on Thursday March 28th.

Understanding the State House

BILLS ON THE FLOOR OF THE HOUSE

All bills may be acted upon the day after the committee report appears in the House Calendar. Any amendments proposed by the committee which make material changes in the original bill must be printed in the calendar.

Action on bills is taken on the second reading on the floor of the House or Senate. Debate, if any, is held and amendments are made at this time.

A bill is considered killed when the House or Senate votes to adopt the committee report of "Inexpedient to legislate," or when a motion from the floor to "Indefinitely postpone" is adopted.

After a bill has passed the body of the Legislature in which it originated, it is sent on to the other body where it goes through similar procedures, except for bills containing an appropriation.

All text taken from:

<http://www.nh.gov/nhinfo/bills.html>

AMENDED BILLS

Every bill must be passed in identical form by each of the two bodies, Senate and House, before it is sent to the Governor.

If a bill has been amended by the non-originating body, it is sent back to the originating body for concurrence. At this point, there are three options:

- The originating body concurs, or agrees, and the bill is sent to the Governor.
- The originating body nonconcur, or does not agree, and requests a Committee of Conference between the two bodies. In this case, the Senate President and the House Speaker normally appoint a conference committee of members of both houses to work out a compromise.
- The originating body does not concur, no Committee of Conference is requested, and the bill dies.

All reports of conference committees must be distributed to the members of each body before action can be taken. The originating body acts first on a conference committee report.



Press Release on Voter ID Changes Why Medicaid Should Not Be Expanded

CONCORD –House Republican Whip Shawn Jasper (R-Hudson) and Deputy Republican Whip Andy Renzullo (R-Hudson) offered the following comments in reaction to the passage of HB 595, a bill that repeals some photo identification requirements scheduled to take effect September 1, 2013. The bill passed by a vote of 184-122.

Shawn Jasper (R-Hudson) House Republican Whip

“Last session, we passed a reasonable voter ID law in order to ensure that our elections are fair and clean. It’s unfortunate that just a few months later some would like to eliminate some of these measures, which a bipartisan majority of voters support. The Attorney General’s office is still investigating over a thousand people who cast ballots during the last election without an ID, and have not responded to verification mail sent to their registered address. Before we start repealing sections of the law that haven’t even taken effect yet, we should have time to evaluate the current program in its entirety.”

Andy Renzullo (R-Hudson) Deputy House Republican Whip

“Our current voter ID law is a common sense measure that brings honesty and transparency to our elections. By eliminating parts of this law, House Democrats have made it harder to ensure the integrity of the ballot box and guarantee that our ‘one person, one vote’ principle is not diluted by dishonest votes.”

On Wednesday, the House voted to ITL HB 271, a bill which would have protected New Hampshire from plots to expand Medicaid, causing higher costs to taxpayers, and less money for those who most need it. The vote was 206-155, with Republicans unilaterally opposing the creation of additional unfunded mandates.

Here are the facts about expanded Medicaid and what it would mean for New Hampshire.

- Federal government dollars are not free money. If you pay federal taxes, than you are paying for this massive government expansion no matter where the money comes from.
- The federal government has indicated that it will fully fund the expanded coverage for three years, and then drop funding to 90%, which leaves New Hampshire taxpayers on the hook for that 10%, amounting to nearly \$250,000,000 by some estimates.
- After 10 years, the federal government has not been able to commit to funding the expanded coverage at any level. This means NH taxpayers could be left on the hook for the whole of the cost of this program. As we’ve learned, the federal government commitment to fund similar mandates has been historically questionable. This was illustrated with special education programs, where the Federal government promised 40% funding, but in reality delivered only 17%. When we are \$16 trillion in debt, the likelihood that a future congress would seek to cut or end funding expanded Medicare to cover debt payments is very plausible.

As Republicans, we believe in limited government and strong personal liberties. For this reason, we should oppose Obamacare at every opportunity. Medicaid expansion is a major step in its implementation. This bill would eliminate the high risk exposure to our state.

When something sounds too good to be true, it usually is.

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Next Week's House Session Preview

Next week's house session will cover some of the following bills:

HB 617- increasing the gas tax.

Quick Analysis: It's back! As amended by the Democrats on the House Ways and Means Committee, this bill seeks a 12 cent or 67% increase in the Gas Tax.

Leadership Stance: ITL.
No increase in gas tax!

HB 135- relative to physical force in defense of a person and relative to the definition of non-deadly force.

Quick Analysis: This bill was special order (rescheduled) this week to be on next week's house calendar. This bill seeks to do away with our "Stand Your Ground Law".

Leadership Stance: ITL

HB 185- relative to the fuel oil discharge cleanup fund.

Quick Analysis: This bill is a 25% increase in fuel (home heating) oil.

Leadership Stance: ITL

Gas Tax Update: Ways and Means GOP Reject Tax

The House Ways & Means committee approved an amended version of the Gas Tax bill, HB 617, on Tuesday by an 11-7 vote.

Even at 12 cents versus 15 cents, the tax would take \$92million out of the pockets of NH consumers each year.

increase go directly to roads and bridges, with no diversion of funds to other state agencies.

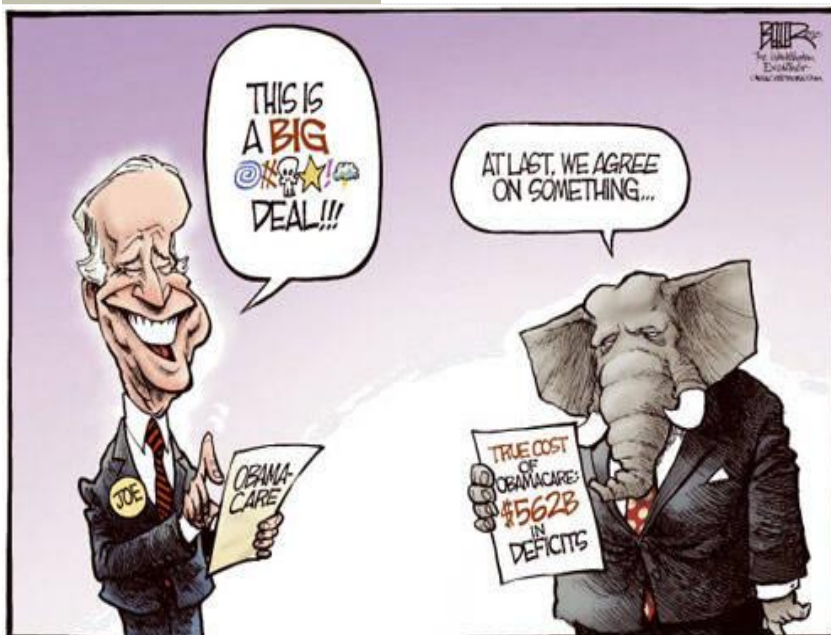
The committee amended the bill to reduce the tax by 3 cents, making the increase 12 cents over the next 3 years. Republicans on the committee voted unanimously against the amendment and the bill as amended agreeing that any increase is unacceptable.

It's mighty generous of the Democrats to offer to reduce an 83% increase in the tax to a 67% increase.

Republicans on the committee agreed that this was a good approach, but voted against the amendment and the bill because it still included the unacceptable tax increase.

If there is a silver lining to the bill, the amendment also included a provision to ensure that all revenue generated from the tax

Members of the Senate continue to state that any tax increase is DOA in the upper chamber.



State House Trivia

Question:

Prior to Councilor Burton, who held the title of longest serving Executive Councilor?

Send Answers to:
info@nhhousegop.com

Last Week's Answer: Stewart Lamprey