

Quote of the Week

"No freeman should ever be debarred the use of arms"

-
Thomas Jefferson

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House Session Recap

This week the House voted on the following bills:

HB 135- Repealing Stand Your Ground (Passed 189-184)
98% of Republicans voted against this bill.

HB 185- 25% increase in Home Heating Oil Fee (Passed 194-156)
95% of Republicans voted against this bill.

HB 398- Relative to leave time for state employees (Killed 182-177)
This was a division vote.

HB 411- Repealing future reduction in vessel registration fee (Passed 189-153)
93% of Republicans voted against this bill.

HB 420- Establish Red, Yellow and Orange as State Colors (Tabled)
This was a division vote.

HB 451- Repealing license requirement to conceal carry (Killed 224-144)
83% of Republicans voted in favor of this bill.

HB 615- Relative to NH national guard retention scholarship (Tabled)
This was a voice vote.

HB 617- 67% increase in the Gas Tax (Passed 189-153)
92% of Republicans voted against this bill.

Dems Kill Study on Retirement Alternative

Last month, House Bill 455 was found inexpedient to legislate by a narrow, partisan vote of 10-8 in the House Executive Departments and Administration Committee. This bill would have established a committee to study the use of a cash balance retirement plan for new state employees and other groups electing to participate. HB 455 would simply allow the legislature to study its options. That fact that the current pension system is underfunded is common knowledge. Less known is the fact that the unfunded liability is over \$1 billion dollars. This system, left as is, will require ever increasing contribution rates for the foreseeable future, until it becomes completely insolvent.

The Cash Balance Plan has been previously identified as one potential solution for the growing concern of new workers being added to the system, an imminent problem that requires our immediate attention. A cash balance plan allows for the benefits and growth potential of a defined contribution plan, but with the safety and retiree security of a defined benefit plan.

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ICYMI (In Case Your Missed It)

AG Shortlist: Casino Lobbyist Leads

The [NH Journal](#) reported that Lucy Hodder is the front runner to be Governor Hassan's choice for AG. Hodder is a former top casino lobbyist who now serves as Governor Maggie Hassan's legal counsel.

This appointment would create a blurry line between what should be an independent AG's office and Governor Hassan.

Even members of the Governor's own party have their worries about such an appointment. Democrat Rep. Peter Sullivan tweeted the following about a possible Hodder appointment:

["Nominating a casino lobbyist attorney general is not acceptable. This isn't about party, it's about ethical government."](#)

Rep. Sanborn Comments on Gas Tax

"This is yet another tax increase on the backs of those who can least afford it. We are very concerned about the impact of a gas tax increase on the working families and small businesses in our state during these tough economic times. Now is not the time to be discouraging economic growth. We need to focus on getting the 40,000 people in New Hampshire who are looking for work back to work. Further burdening our business community and forcing our consumers to pay more at the pump is a step in the wrong direction."

Important Dates

- **House Republicans Press Conference On House Budget-** Monday, April 1st at 11:30am
- **House Finance Budget Presentation-** Monday, April 1st at 1:00pm in Representatives Hall
- **Republican Caucus-** Wednesday, April 3rd at 9:00am in LOB 305-307 (*Open to House Republican Members Only*)
- **House Session-** Wednesday, April 3rd at 10:00am

Leader Chandler's Comments on "Stand Your Ground" Repeal

CONCORD – Today House Republican Leader Gene Chandler (R-Bartlett) offered the following comments on the passage of HB135, a bill that would repeal the "Stand Your Ground" law in New Hampshire. The bill passed by a vote of 189-184.

"Retreat is not something responsible New Hampshire citizens should be forced to do when faced with a deadly threat. Our right to self defense and defense of other innocent victims should not be limited to the walls in which we reside. Claims that current law would result in increase violence are unfounded. Our citizens should not be asked to risk life and limb in retreat simply because there are a handful of thugs who might try and abuse this law. I'm deeply disappointed that the House would vote to restrict the rights of our people and give the benefit of doubt to violent attackers. It's simply unconscionable."

"How high does the cliff have to be to ensure a safe retreat? 2 feet? 4 feet? 6 feet? Do we really expect this decision to be made while under the threat of violence?"

Meet a New Member

Rep. Richard Meaney



If you're in Health and Human Services, you already know Rep. Richard Meaney, who is well known for doing his homework, showing up prepared, and asking the tough questions.

It's an ideal committee for him to serve, and as a former Health Care Executive with a Master degree in Health Care Administration, he brings much industry knowledge to the tough policy debates.

In fact, last week was his first time at the well, and he ably did so, speaking in support of HB271, stating that NH will not expand Medicaid.

When asked why he decided to serve, Richard replied, "I ran because it's the right thing to do. I have a daughter and I want to make sure New Hampshire is a great place for her to live."

Richard is a retired Army Officer and lives in Goffstown with his family. He has served as Chair of the Goffstown-Weare Republican Committee, and on the Goffstown Budget Committee and Planning Board

If you haven't meet Richard yet, please take the time to say hello and introduce yourself. He sits in seat 484.

Rep. Frank Byron

While Frank Byron is new to the House of Representatives this year, he is no stranger to politics, having served in local government since 1996 in his hometown of Litchfield. There he is currently a Selectman, and has served in this capacity for many years, as well as on the Litchfield Planning Board and Conservation Commission.

Frank ran on a platform focused on growing jobs in our state. He spent many years as



a senior operations manager in the biotech manufacturing industry, driving down to Massachusetts and watching countless New Hampshire residents do the same. As a member of the House Business Caucus, he is eager to improve the climate for doing business and improving the economy here.

Frank serves on the Executive Departments and Administration committee, and can be found in seat 418 on session days. On a personal note, Frank is a pilot and is working on getting becoming a certified flight instructor.

Rep. Bianca Garcia

Another new member of our caucus, Bianca Garcia, is enjoying ED&A committee and the variety of departments and topics they address.

Bianca is enjoying the House and feels it's a nice balance to her dual careers in real estate and in music. Bianca is a classical music soloist, who also performs Principal Flute in the

Granite State Symphony Orchestra and with the Chamber Orchestra in Boston.

Bianca ran for office because she felt she was needed to present a firm, conservative stance. She enjoys expressing conservative ideas, especially to young people, in engaging ways and motivating people in the community to think about the issues. This is also true with sharing her love of traditional music by making it interesting to the younger generation.

Bianca sits next to her sister, Representative Marilinda Garcia, in seat 538. Please stop by and say hello.



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Next Week's House Session

Next week's House session will focus on the HB1 and HB2 which are the House Budget bills.

Here is a sneak peak into what to expect from the Democrat House Budget:

- Expanded Medicaid
- Downshifting millions to the counties
- Moratorium on School Building Aid

- Inflated Revenues
- Moratorium on Charter Schools
- Repeal of Education Tax Credit Program
- Purposefully underfunding corrections overtime
- Highway Fund Diversions
- Business tax cut suspensions
- Increase in Gas Tax
- Increase in Tobacco Tax
- Fee Increases
- Section allowing the Governor to raid monies in over 280 dedicated funds.

The Democrats just don't get it!

Cash Balance Retirement Plan Continued...

In addition, under HB 455, the cash balance plan would only apply to new employees, ensuring that current state employees wouldn't risk losing benefits in the conversion. Yet, again, Democrat Representatives reject even the possibility of exploring alternatives that could result in lower spending and a more stable, solvent system. It was said best in the minority report authored by Rep. Shawn Sweeney; "There are reasonable arguments to be made for or against one plan or another, but no reasonable argument against researching alternatives."

Yet again yesterday, House Democrats reiterated the aversion to efficiency and cost saving measures by killing voting with their Executive Departments and Administration committee counterparts to kill this attempt to responsibly find savings, and solve a \$1 billion dollar problem in state government. This ideological aversion to responsible financial reform needs to end. We have a duty to our constituents to ensure we spend their tax dollars as efficiently as possible, and save money wherever possible.



State House Trivia

Question:

Who is the longest serving NH Speaker?

Send Answers to:
info@nhhousegop.com

Last Week's Answer: Bernie Streeter