

Quote of the Week

“Men hang out their signs indicative of their respective trades; shoe makers hang out a gigantic shoe; jewelers a monster watch, and the dentist hangs out a gold tooth; but up in the Mountains of New Hampshire, God Almighty has hung out a sign to show that there He makes men”

-
Daniel Webster

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Legislative Week Review

The House was not in session this week, but on Thursday the Senate voted on a number of bills. Here are a few highlights of the Senate Action:

HB362 - banning corn-based ethanol-Killed (Voice Vote)

HB443 - prohibiting prison privatization-Killed (13-11)

HB450 - relative to the annulment of criminal records- OTP/A (Voice Vote)

HB621 - decriminalizing less than one ounce of marijuana- Killed (Voice Vote)

HB178 - requiring binding arbitration in labor disputes-Passed (Voice Vote)

Committees of Conference, Enrolled Bills & More

We're now entering the period when the House will receive amended House bills from the Senate and vice versa. There are a number of different steps in the process. We thought we would provide a brief review of these procedures

COMMITTEES OF CONFERENCE

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 non-concurs, 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.

If a committee of conference is requested, traditionally they consist of 4 members of the House and 3 members of the Senate, except budget bills which is 5 and 4. The first named member of the body who originated the bill will call the first meeting of the committee of conference. Members can be replaced on the committee by the Speaker or Senate President. Rules prohibit any subject matter not included in either body's version of the bill from being added during the committee of conference process. The members of the committee of conference must vote unanimously to approve the committee report.

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. The report will receive an up or down vote or the body can request a new committee of conference.

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ICYMI (In Case You Missed It)

Senate Committee Votes to Kill HB135

On Tuesday, the Senate Judiciary Committee voted 4-1 to recommend ITL on HB135, which repeals "Stand Your Ground."

This bill would repeal the current law which allows a person to use deadly force in self-defense and instead force the person to retreat. The passage of this bill would restrict the basic rights that citizens have and send the entirely wrong message.

The bill now goes to the floor of the Senate where the full Senate will vote on it.

House Committee Votes to Ban Lead Jigs

[On Tuesday, the Fish and Game Committee voted 9-6 to recommend OTP on SB 89, a bill to ban lead sinkers and jigs that weigh an ounce or less.](#)

House Republican Leadership opposed the bill, and will continue to do so when it comes to the full House floor.

The NH Department of Fish and Game has been a vocal opponent of this bill along with fishermen and businesses across the state.

Altogether, SB89 is based off on lofty evidence surrounding lead and loon populations. This legislation will have a massive negative economic impact on the fishermen and business around the state, forcing them to switch to more expensive tackle that will cost thousands of dollars and the lack of clear enforcement within the bill is also worrisome.

Important Dates

- **Republican Caucus-** Wednesday, May 8th at 9:00am in LOB 305-307 (*Open to House Republican Members Only*)
- **House Session-** Wednesday, May 8th at 10:00am

Information on Committees of Conference Cont....

ENROLLED BILLS

When a bill has passed both houses, it is sent to the Committee on Enrolled Bills for the purpose of enrolling. This committee carefully examines the bill for clerical errors or formal imperfections. In case of such errors, it reports them back to both houses for amendment in those particulars only.

Once the enrolling reports are read in each house, the bill is signed by the Senate President or the Speaker of the House. (This is an administrative function only and does not carry power of veto by refusal.) The bill is then forwarded to the Secretary of State.

The bill is transmitted to the Governor by the Secretary of State. It may be recalled from the Governor any time before it is acted upon, by a majority vote of the Senate or House, whichever last had possession.

THE FINAL ACCEPTANCE OR REJECTION OF A BILL

If the legislature has not adjourned, the Governor has five days in which to sign the bill, veto the bill, or allow the measure to pass without signature. When the bill is signed, it becomes law; if it is neither signed nor vetoed, it becomes law without signature.

If the bill is vetoed, it returns to the body where it originated, with a veto message. This veto, to be overturned, must have a two-thirds roll call vote in each body. It then becomes law without the Governor's signature. Without the two-thirds affirmative vote in both bodies, the veto is upheld.

If the Legislature has adjourned, the Governor has five days (excluding Sundays and holidays) in which to sign the bill. If it is not signed, the bill dies. This is the "pocket veto." Each bill carries in its final paragraphs the specific date that it is to go into effect.



Meet a New Member

Rep. Bruce Hodgdon



As a business owner himself, Bruce knows first hand how excessive state regulations and red tape make it hard to expand economically and add jobs. He started his company Hodgdon & Son, Inc. back in 1990 and does site work and excavating for numerous development projects in the area.

Bruce is a native of Northwood, where he and his son operate the company and much of his family lives. Bruce feels very fortunate to have his 2 children and 6 grand children all live nearby.

Since Bruce owns commercial trucks, he finds the Transportation committee a great match for his background and interests. His expertise and involvement has been very helpful in the House Business Caucus.

For his first stint in politics, Bruce is finding the role of Representative very enjoyable and rewarding. Please stop by and say hello (seat 4-85).

Knowing he was about to wrap up 6 rewarding years on the School Board, Bob decided to run for State office and try something new.

Bob has worked in the lighting business for 30 years, starting as an electrical engineer and now focusing on sales and management. He balances working full-time while serving in the legislature.

He didn't have much experience with Children and Family law before he joined that committee, but he's enjoying the challenge tremendously and increasingly understanding the difficulties many families face in the courts.

Bob is married and has three children, two of which have graduated college. The youngest is finishing his sophomore year at the University of Maine. In his spare time, Bob enjoys skiing, riding motorcycles and playing softball.

Bob lives in E.Kingston and can be found on Session days in seat 4-71.

Rep. Bob Nigrello



Rep. Emily Sandblade



Emily decided to run for state office, because she was impressed with what Republicans were able to accomplish last session, and wanted to be a part of that effort. Like most of us, Emily is focused on "making sure government is extremely careful with tax payer money," and realized the need to get more involved in order to truly make a difference.

Emily been involved in politics for 25 years, was recently Secretary of the Manchester Republican Committee, and now is Membership Director for the NH Liberty Alliance.

Having been in business for 27 years, Emily is very knowledgeable and interested in business issues and finds the Commerce committee a rewarding experience. Emily writes educational software for math and sciences, working on contracts with a number of different companies.

Just recently, Emily earned her Master Gardener Certificate. You can find her knitting, another major past time, during Session days in seat 3-94.

House Republican Office

107 N MAIN ST.
NH STATE HOUSE – ROOM 307
CONCORD, NH 03301

PHONE:
603-271-3665

FAX:
603-271-8566

E-MAIL:
info@nhhousegop.com

WEBSITE:
nhhousegop.com

FACEBOOK:
[NHHouseGOP](https://www.facebook.com/NHHouseGOP)

TWITTER:
[NHHouseGOP](https://twitter.com/NHHouseGOP)

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Next Week Preview

The House will be in session next week. Here is a quick glimpse of some of the bills that the full House will be voting on:

SB137- relative to sibling visitation rights. (Regular Calendar)

SB 173- relative to criminal background checks for individuals volunteering or applying for employment at licensed child care facilities. (Consent)

SB 30- making technical corrections to tax laws. (Consent)

Republican 2012-2013 Budget Will Leave a Surplus

With revenue data in for the month of April, it's safe to say that any budget deficit that Democrats claimed may have been looming has been filled. According to Revenue Focus, the monthly report by the Department of Administrative Services, year to date receipts from traditional taxes, exclusive of MET, Recoveries MTBE and tobacco settlement, were \$40.3million or 2.2% ahead of plan. Total YTD revenues including MET and recoveries but excluding MTBE and tobacco settlements, were still above plan by \$6.6million or 0.3%.

Once again, despite the numerous variables that change during each biennium, Republican revenue estimates adopted by the House in 2011, are off by less than one third of one percent. We still have 2 months before the end of the fiscal year. It's safe to say that barring some unforeseen emergency, the 2012-13 budget, built from Republican revenue estimates and adopted by the Republican lead House, will produce a surplus.

Our apologies to the NHDP for all the time they've spent wishing it would fail. Reasonable revenue estimates and responsible spending plans have proven reliable through 22 months of a 24 month budget cycle.

Notes From the Republican Leader

On Wednesday, Rep. Lynne Ober and I attended a taping of "[Legislators Lounge](#)", which is a public access show in Derry.

The show is hosted by Rep. Jim Webb and Rep. Brian Chirichiello, who are both Republicans from Derry.

During the show we spoke about a range of issues such as legislative operations and the budget.

Have a great weekend!

-

Gene

