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Republican Review

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Quote of the Week

“Back in 2008, candidate Obama called \$10 trillion national debt ‘unpatriotic’ - serious talks from what looked to be a serious reformer. Yet by his own decisions, President Obama has added more debt than any other president before him, and more than all the troubled governments of Europe combined.”

Paul Ryan

This Week's Issue:

Session Review	1
Senate DRA Amendment	1
ICYMI	2
MediScam Report	3
Meet a New Member	3
Next Week Preview	4
Notes From GOP Leader	4

Week In Review

The House was not in session this week, be here is a list of some of the import items that took place during the week:

House Action:

Joint Finance and Ways and Means Committee recommended ITL on [SB 152](#)-gaming bill (23-22)

Commerce Committee recommended OTP/A on [SB 126](#)-Auto Dealers bill (15-2)

Senate Action:

Ways and Means Committee recommended Rerefer on [HB 617](#)- gas tax (3-2)

Ways and Means Committee had a public hearing on non-germane amendment regarding DRA for [HB 520](#)- Keno study committee

House Republicans Comment on Senate Amendment

CONCORD - Today House Republican Leader Gene Chandler (R-Bartlett) and Rep. Pat Abrami (R-Stratham) offered the following comments following the hearing on a Senate proposed amendment that would block the Department of Revenue Administration from being able to use tips received by employees in their calculation of Business Enterprise Tax owed by businesses.

House Republican Leader Gene Chandler (R-Bartlett)

“I’m hopeful that the Department of Revenue Administration would not try to seek new and interesting ways to circumvent the legislative process to reach into the pockets of our small business owners. A clear reading of existing statutes prohibits this type of taxation. The livelihoods of many restaurateurs and their employees are at stake. This amendment is good for business and our State’s hospitality industry. I’m happy the Senate is working to address this issue, and we will work to ensure the House concurs with this amendment.”

Rep. Pat Abrami (R-Stratham), House Ways & Means Committee

“Our State’s business community would appreciate transparency and predictability in how taxes are assessed. In this instance, it appears as if the DRA has taken it upon themselves to reinterpret their rules. The State’s hospitality industry employs tens of thousands of people. Without this amendment, each one of these employees is subject to becoming an increased tax burden to their employers. If we’re looking to help our job creators in this recovering economy, we need to step in and prevent the DRA’s new nickel-and-diming scheme.”

ICYMI (In Case You Missed It)

Senate Committee Acts on Gas Tax

On Tuesday, the Senate Ways and Means Committee had an executive session on HB617, which is an increase in the gas tax.

The committee voted 3-2 to recommend rerefer on the bill. This means the bill will now go to the full Senate where the Senate can agree with the recommendation of rerefer, in which case the bill would go back into committee early next year or they could simply just flip the committee recommendation and vote to kill (ITL) the bill once and for all.

Sen. Morse (R-Salem) and Sen. Odell (R-Lempster) voted against the rerefer motion, while Sen. Rauch (R-Derry), Sen. D'Allesandro (D-Manchester) and Sen. Hosmer (D- Laconia) voted for it.

Joint House Committee ITLs Gaming Bill

On Wednesday, the Joint House Finance and Ways and Means Committee by a vote of 23-22 recommended to kill (ITL) SB 152, the gambling bill.

SB152 is said to establish one high-end, highly regulated casino in New Hampshire and would require the lottery commission to regulate, license, and enforce the provisions for video lottery and table games operated at a gaming location.

SB152 will now be voted on by the full House on Wednesday. There is expected to be much debate, and if the ITL report is overturned, than multiple floor amendments will most likely be brought forward.

The Governor is said to be actively pressuring freshman Democrat members to vote for the bill for fear of its failure and the possible political ramifications for her.

Important Dates

- **Republican Caucus-** Wednesday, May 22th at 9:00am in LOB 305-307 (*Open to House Republican Members Only*)
- **House Session-** Wednesday, May 22th at 10:00am
- **Memorial service for former House Speaker Harold Burns-** May 25th at 11:00 a.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church in Whitefield.
- ★ **Committee to Elect House Republicans Fundraiser-** Friday, June 21st at 6:00pm in the Grappone Center in Concord. Tribute to Rep. Charlie Bass and the Bass Family. More Details to Come.

Josiah Bartlett Center Report on MET

On Monday, the [Josiah Bartlett Center for Public Policy](#) released a report by Grant Bosse titled "[Meet the MET](#)".

Here is the summary of the report:

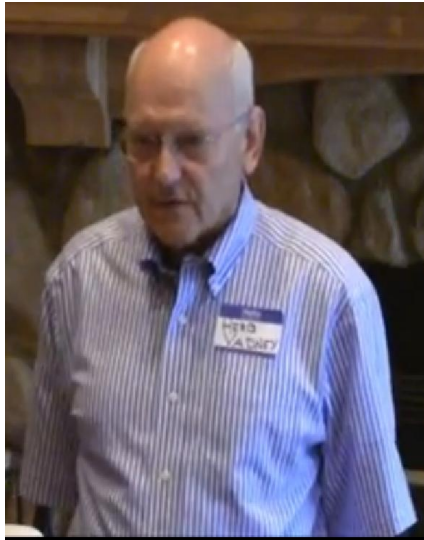
SUMMARY

New Hampshire adopted the Medicaid Enhancement Tax as a means to leverage federal matching funds without imposing any real tax liability on state hospitals. After two decades, budget writers finally ended the practice of MediScam by turning this phantom tax into a real one. Faced with a new multimillion dollar tax liability, New Hampshire hospitals took the state to court and started paying closer attention to how much they owed. As the Legislature struggles to understand a huge source of state revenue that went without much oversight for twenty years, how they change the Medicaid Enhancement Tax will have expensive implications for the state budget and state hospitals for years to come. This paper will outline the history of the Medicaid Enhancement Tax in New Hampshire, describe how the complex tax works in conjunction with the Disproportionate Share Hospital Program, and dispel some of the many misunderstandings that trip up budget writers trying to incorporate this brand new, 20-year old tax into the FY14-15 State Budget.

You can read the whole report and download a pdf copy by [clicking here](#).



Rep. Herb Vadney



Meet a New Member

One could say Herb is part of a UNH family; he earned his Bachelor degree there, as did all 4 of his grown children.

Herb is a New Hampshire native, but left the state for 30 years before choosing to return. He earned his Masters degree in Civil Engineering from the South Dakota School of Mines while he was in the Air Force working on missiles.

Now Herb is a retired Air Force Colonel and engineer, and spends much of his time devoted to public policy. He is currently serving as Selectman in Meredith, but previously Chaired the Planning Board for over a dozen years. Whether it's in town politics or in his work in the House Science committee, Herb tries to keep a nucleus of traditional New Hampshire, fiscally conservative thinking.

Herb has been married 44 years and has been making beer almost as long. Please say hello on session days at seat 228.

It comes as no surprise that Aboul was the top vote getter (higher than the President himself) in the town of Seabrook. Everyone knows Aboul, whether it's from his convenience store Richdale on Route 1, or from his two terms on the Board of Selectmen, or his Vice Chairmanship of the Rockingham Planning Commission.

Aboul was born in Bangladesh, and immigrated to the United States in 1981. He moved to New Hampshire 13 years ago to be closer to his daughter who was attending school here.

Aboul decided to run for Representative to bring the small town perspective to state government. Although his education is in political science, he wanted to serve on the Science and Energy committee because of the importance of the Seabrook Power Plant to his town.

Aboul is very proud of the fact that his daughter will be graduating from Babson with a Masters degree this month, and his son is a freshman at Bryant College in Rhode Island. Please congratulate him at seat 249.

Rep. Aboul Kahn



House Commerce Committee Clears “Auto Dealers Bill”

On Tuesday, the House Commerce Committee voted Ought to Pass with Amendment on SB126, the “Auto Dealers Bill” 15-2.

SB126 revises business practices between motor vehicle manufacturers, distributors and dealers, including rules to allow NH dealers to buy locally.

SB126 will now move to the House floor to be voted on by the full House.

The full text of the bill can be found [here](#), and the committee approved amendment can be found [here](#).

**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 on Wednesday May 22nd.

Here is a list of some of the bills the full House will be voting on:

SB 11-L, relative to water and sewer utility districts and water or sewer utility districts.

SB 31, relative to a ban on the incidental combustion of untreated wood at municipal transfer stations.

SB 47, relative to a surviving spouse’s right to retain a Purple Heart plate.

SB 89, relative to the definition of lead fishing sinkers and jigs and the penalties for prohibited sales of lead fishing sinkers and jigs.

SB 96, relative to vexatious litigants

SB 100, authorizing electronic payment of payroll

SB 126, relative to business practices between motor vehicle manufacturers, distributors, and dealers.

SB 143-FN, relative to benefits for unemployed persons who are attempting to establish a business.

SB 152, relative to video lottery and table gaming.

SB 153-FN, relative to legislative approval of collective bargaining agreements entered into by the state.

Notes From the Republican Leader

As the first half of the legislative session begins to slow down, I wanted to remind all of our elected Representatives and the activist around the state about the importance of writing Letters to the Editor and Op-Eds in your local papers.

This is a simple and easy way to connect with the voters and let them know all the good the Republicans have been doing in Concord.

As always, our staff is more than happy to assist anyone in creating these LTE’s and they are happy to give you the appropriate media contacts for your town or help you distribute them.

They can be reached at 603-271-3665.

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Gene

