

## Quote of the Week

*“Beginning with the stimulus, Obama has repeatedly inserted the government into the free market for political reasons - and with disastrous results”*

-  
*Reince Priebus*

## *This Week's Issue:*

Session Review	1
Senate Budget	1
ICYMI	2
Meet a New Member	3
Next Week Preview	4
Notes From GOP Leader	4

## House Session Review

The House was in session this week finishing up the remaining bills from last week's calendar.

Here is a list of some of the bills that the full House voted on:

**SB 96**, relative to vexatious litigants.  
*Passed w/ amendment (198-130)*

**SB 100**, authorizing electronic payment of payroll.  
*Killed (235-93)*

**SB 143-FN**, relative to benefits for unemployed persons who are attempting to establish a business.  
*Passed (183-149)*

**SB 153-FN**, relative to legislative approval of collective bargaining agreements entered into by the state.  
*Killed (191-135)*

**SB 11-L**, relative to water and sewer utility districts and water or sewer utility districts  
*Passed w/ amendment (254-74)*

## Senate Budget Highlights

On Tuesday, the State Senate [sent out a release detailing the Senate's work in wrapping up discussions on the State Budget](#). Here are some of the highlights of the proposed Senate budget:

- **Revenues:** The Senate budget relies on realistic revenue estimates that recognize an increase in business taxes over the House based on recent strong returns in the BPT and BET, but are more conservative in other traditional revenue categories, including a reduction of more than \$100 million from expected Medicaid Enhancement Tax (MET) revenues.
- **No Tax Increases:** Senate budget writers removed the 12-cent gas tax and 20-cent tobacco tax passed by the House as well as House-passed tax increases on salt-water fishing and marriage licenses.
- **Education:** The Senate budget increases the combined general fund appropriation to the University and Community College Systems by over \$100 million in addition to directing a total of \$24.5 million to fully fund the UNIQUE Scholarship program. The budget also increases adequate education grants to cities and towns by nearly \$4 million over the biennium, removes the moratorium on new charter schools and provides funding for four new charter schools and stops efforts to repeal the School Choice Scholarship Program.

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## ICYMI (In Case You Missed It)

### Senate Committee Kills HB688

On Tuesday, the Senate Commerce Committee recommended to kill (ITL) House Bill 688.

HB 688 would have allowed the state insurance department to participate in the implementation of the exchange portion of Obama Care.

This bill will next be up for a vote in front of the full Senate.

[More information surrounding this vote can be found here:](#)

### House Committee Retains SB3

On Wednesday, the House Public Works and Highways committee retained SB3, the bill that would eliminate the tolls on Exit 12 in Merrimack.

SB3 originally called for removing 3 toll booths in Merrimack, but was amended by the Senate to include just the one on Exit 12, which brings in roughly \$500,000 per year according to Turnpike administrators.

By retaining the bill, it means that the committee will not have to take action on it until next session.

## Important Dates

- **Republican Caucus-** Wednesday, June 5th at 9:00am in LOB 305-307 (*Open to House Republican Members Only*)
- **House Session-** Wednesday, June 5th at 10:00am
- ★ **Committee to Elect House Republicans Fundraiser-** Friday, June 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00pm in the Grappone Center in Concord. Tribute to Rep. Charlie Bass and the Bass Family. More Details to Come.

## Senate Budget Highlights Continued

- **HHS:** The Senate budget provides nearly \$24 million more to the department than was appropriated by the House. This includes full funding for the DD waitlist, restoration of the breast and cervical cancer screening and prevention program, and a significant increase in payments to county nursing homes. In addition, the Senate maintained the House's level of funding for the CHINS program, domestic violence prevention and mental health services.
- **Uncompensated Care:** After realizing honest MET revenues, the Senate increased funding for the state's uncompensated care program by \$20 million over the House's budget to ensure both critical access hospitals as well as the state's larger hospitals receive reimbursement for a portion of the uncompensated care they provide.
- **Expanded Medicaid:** The Senate budget removes provisions expanding Medicaid in New Hampshire opting instead to study the long-term costs of expansion via a bipartisan commission. The commission is charged with issuing a report by next December on a wide range of issues including the use of private insurers to cover New Hampshire residents and the impact expansion will have on taxpayers, patients, and providers.
- **Dedicated Funds:** The Senate budget removes provisions requested by the governor that would have granted her significant authority to raid dedicated funds to fill potential budget shortfalls. The Senate also ended the governor's planned raid of the Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) fund, allowing the full \$8.5 million raised by the program to be spent on conservation as intended by law.
- **No New Programs:** The Senate took steps to invigorate the economy by continuing business tax reductions and incentives rather than repealing them and proposing new programs that grow government. Budget writers believe strongly that the first priority should be funding the level of government we currently have before creating any new programs.

## Meet a New Member

### Rep. Rick Levasseur



It's no surprise that Rick ran for State Representative, since he's been involved in politics since he was a boy in Lawrence, Mass. In his home-town of Hudson, Rick has chaired the Budget Committee, and has served on the Conservation Commission and Zoning Board. He also has served as Hudson GOP chair and on county and state Republican committees.

Rick serves on the House Science, Technology and Energy committee and approaches the policy issues from a practical view point, having worked in that field in the Air Force and for many years at Honeywell as a Process Control Engineer.

Rick and his wife Sandi returned to New Hampshire approximately 5 years ago, after spending time in Florida. Please stop by and say hello to Rick at seat 319 and ask him about his ideas on taking back the Majority in 2014 and beyond.

### Rep. Mike Sylvia

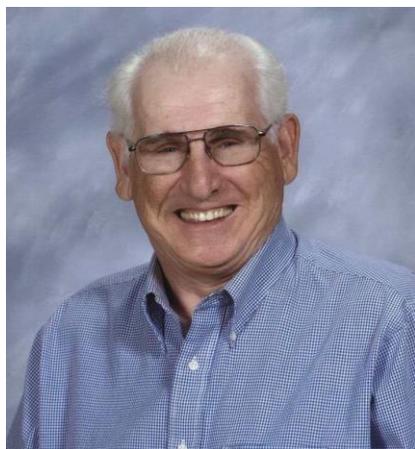


Mike moved to New Hampshire in 2010 to be part of the Free State Project. He has worked for Federal Express for 29 years, and had an opportunity to transfer from Ithaca to their Laconia facility.

His boss has been very flexible with scheduling so he can serve in the NH House, especially during the lake region's off-season. He enjoys living in the small rural town of Belmont, particularly because of his interests in hiking, running and nature.

Mike serves on the Judiciary Committee and has become increasing involved and interested in county government. Please stop by and introduce yourself to Mike at seat 3112.

### Rep. Dick Marston



Dick has been active in Manchester's Ward 12 for quite some time, having been appointed once to Selectman, and having served as Ballot Clerk and Moderator. Because of these roles, Dick believes he's been able to have good input in the House Election Law committee. While he is enjoying his role as State Representative, he is also seriously considering a run for Alderman in the upcoming Fall election.

Dick has always been an entrepreneur, recently owning a glass business, and currently operating a small cleaning company. His degree is from New Hampshire College.

Dick will be celebrating his 9th anniversary to his wife Deanna next month. From a previous marriage he had 2 girls and 2 boys, and now has a couple of grandchildren. Dick loves baseball and regularly does umpiring for many different leagues. He is proud be going to the Little League World Series as an usher for the 3rd year in a row. Please stop by and introduce yourself to Dick at seat 457.

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LINKS:

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[NH GENERAL COURT](#)

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**Next Week Preview**

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

**SB 27-FN**, relative to monitoring by the DOE of programs for children with disabilities.

**SB 41**, revising the New Hampshire business corporations act, RSA 293-A

**SB 47**, relative to a surviving spouse's right to retain a Purple Heart plate

**SB 123-FN-L**, relative to the use of proceeds from the RGGI program.

**SB 189-FN**, relative to the licensure of fuel gas fitters and plumbers board

**SB 198**, relative to the authority of county correctional officers

**Senate Action**

Here are some of the more attention grabbing items that the full Senate voted on this Thursday.

**HB 261-FN**, relative to the assistance program for 2-parent families with dependent children.  
*Passed w/ amendment*

**HB 394-FN**, relative to transfer of funds by the liquor commission.  
*Killed*

**HB 481-FN**, limiting the state's authority to seek reimbursement for public assistance.  
*Passed*

**HB 140**, relative to the committee on legislator orientation.  
*Passed w/ amendment*

**HB 314**, raising limits on single wagers in games of chance and relative to gross revenues received by charitable organizations participating in games of chance.  
*Passed w/ amendment*

**HB 520**, establishing a committee to study implementing Keno in New Hampshire.  
*Tabled*

**Notes From the Republican Leader**

As we are now heading into Committees of Conference (CofC), I wanted to take a moment to remind members that if they wish to be placed on CofC, they should ask their committee chairman. The Speaker of the House is responsible for appointing members to a CofC, but they often take the recommendations of their Chairs.

The CofC process can be confusing for members; especially new members, so as always if you have any questions feel free to contact me or a member of the House Republican Office.

Have a great weekend,

Gene

