

Quote of the Week

“The first requisite of a good citizen in this republic of ours is that he shall be able and willing to pull his own weight.”

Theodore Roosevelt

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Budget Deal Reached

The House Republican Office will be supporting the budget on Wednesday June 26th. While any budget has items that some of us don't like and which we would do differently, we believe this budget is worthy of our support.

We asked the Senate to consider a number of Republican issues from charter schools to no tax or fee increases, to reasonable revenue estimates, and they came through in grand style and I believe deserve our support.

We believe this budget represents the Republican view point in most areas and will be a strong platform that our constituents will support.

Budget Highlights

The committee of conference report on HB 1 (the budget bill) and HB 2 (the trailer bill) is one that fiscal conservatives can support. Largely following the Senate versions of the two bills, the budget is balanced using reasonable revenue estimates without new or increased taxes or fees. Compared to the current biennial budget, it represents a 2.8% increase in general fund spending.

Key Provisions

- Four business tax reductions passed in the 2011-12 session but delayed in the House budget will take effect as planned.
- There will be no increase in the gas or cigarette taxes.
- There will be no Medicaid expansion in the budget. A study commission will present a report by October 15th. Future legislative action is required if the state is to participate in expanded Medicaid.
- Charter school funding for current schools, approved schools and new schools is in the budget.
- Additional funding was provided for the Veterans Home to cover past unpaid utility bills and continue to provide a high level of care.
- Adequate education aid for 58 cities and towns has been increased by raising the so-called "cap" on the maximum increase in state aid from 105.5% to 108%.
- Increases in the Salt Water Fishing license fee and Marriage License fee were removed.

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ICYMI (In Case You Missed It)

CofC on Medical Marijuana

On Tuesday, Senate and House members met in a Committee of Conference (CofC) for HB 573, relative to the use of cannabis for therapeutic purposes, which is also known as Medical Marijuana.

In the end, CofC members adopted an amendment from Sen. Styles and the House relinquished their position of having a section allowing for patients to grown their own medical marijuana at home.

This CofC report will now head to the full House and Senate to be approved and will then head to the Governor’s desk before it becomes law.

No Agreement on HB442 CofC

On Wednesday, lawmakers from the House and Senate met to negotiate HB442, which would prohibit residency restrictions for registered sex offenders and offenders against children.

The Senate amendment called for a study committee on the subject comprised of 5 House members appointed by the Speaker. The House would not yield its position though so no agreement was reached.

Important Dates

- **Special Republican Caucus-** Tuesday, June 25th, at 11:00am in LOB 305-307 *(Only Open to House Republicans)*
- **Republican Caucus-** Wednesday, June 26th, at 9:00am in LOB 305-307 *(Only Open to House Republicans)*
- **House Session-** Wednesday, June 26th, at 10:00am

★ **Committee to Elect House Republicans Fundraiser-** TODAY- Friday, June 21st at 6:00pm in the Grappone Center in Concord. Tribute to Rep. Charlie Bass and the Bass Family.

Rep. Joe Osgood Sworn In



Rep. Osgood (Left) and Republican Leader Chandler (Right)

On Wednesday, Rep. Joe Osgood (R) was officially sworn in as a State Representative by the New Hampshire Executive Council.

Rep. Osgood is a returning member from the town of Claremont in Sullivan County and recently won a special election after the resignation of Tom Donovan (D).

Rep. Osgood will be serving on the Legislative Administration Committee and sitting in Section 3.

With the addition of Rep. Osgood, the House Republican Caucus now consists of 180 members.

Meet a New Member

Rep. John Mullen



When he's not puttering around his home in Middleton or enjoying his 4 grandchildren, John spends most of his time thinking about government and how to make it run more like a business.

John retired in 2007, after spending 29 years in sales and marketing for Tyco Electronics. During his last 8 years at the company, he was assigned to New Hampshire, and decided to stay here with wife and high school sweetheart, Jill.

John never really got involved in government until he retired, but then decided it was his time to give back. He has served as Selectman and on the Planning Board and Heritage Commission.

John finds RR&D a good match, because he is very interested in economic development and is concerned about overbearing DES regulations and the loss of the NH Advantage. Please stop by and say hello to John in seat 382.

Rep. Chuck Fink



Chuck is finding it quite difficult to balance running his business and the demands of the State House, but he prides himself on keeping his commitment and showing up to vote every Wednesday Session day.

Chuck is a natural healing doctor, who uses several "tools" to help people - nutritional testing and consulting, cold laser therapy, and chiropractic treatments.

Chuck lives in Belmont with his wife, and enjoys having all 8 grandchildren between the ages of 5 and 11 at his house to play in the pool.

Please say hello to Chuck on session days at seat 370, or in the Legislative Administration Committee.

Budget Overview and “Almost End of Session Republican Lunch”

We would like to remind elected Republican House Members that the House Republican Office will be holding a Special Caucus on Tuesday, June 25th at 11:00am in LOB 305-307 where we will be holding a budget overview presentation.

Rep. Kurk, Rep. Ober, and Rep. Weyler have been invited to be on hand to answer any of your questions relating to the budget.

Afterwards we will be having an “Almost End of Session Republican Lunch”.

Note: We will still be having our standard caucus before session on Wednesday, June 26th at 9:00am where we will go over the various Committee of Conference reports that will be up for a vote during session.

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Budget Deal Reached Continued

- A provision allowing for the Governor to raid dedicated funds was deleted.
- The School Choice Tax Credit program passed last year will remain in effect.
- A reporting date was extended for an existing commission to study and report on the regulatory environment for expanded gambling.
- The state will pick up more of the counties' costs for poor residents' long-term care than had been proposed in the House budget, thereby helping the county tax payer.
- A loan and repayable grant was made to help the North Country's Tri-County Community Action Program out of its current financial crisis and allow it to continue to provide services to its thousands of clients.
- The budget funds \$16.9 million in general funds and \$37 million in total funds for four labor contracts providing for a 6.2% cost-of-living increase for state employees, their first in several years. The cost of these contracts was not known to House or Senate finance committees during the budget process. It was first presented to the conference committee by the Governor's labor negotiator. The funds to cover the cost came from unexpected revenues received in the current fiscal year from existing taxes.
- There are two major "back-of-the-budget" cuts in personnel: one is for \$7 million in general funds at HHS; the other is for \$10 million in general funds and \$25 million in overall funds from all Executive branch agencies.

There were very few differences in program and service spending levels in the House and Senate versions of the budgets.

Notes From the Republican Leader

Just a reminder that tonight is the Committee to Elect House Republicans fundraiser honoring Charlie Bass and his family for their service to New Hampshire and the country.

It's not too late to attend! There will be tickets available at the door, and they are \$50 each or \$35 for currently elected House members. It starts at 6pm at the Grappone Center in Concord. Stop by and support the Committee to Elect House Republicans and regain the majority in 2014!

We look forward to seeing you there!

-
Gene

