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House Republican Leader Comments on Senate Passage of SB413

CONCORD - House Republican Leader Gene Chandler (R-Bartlett) offered the following statement in reaction to the State Senate vote on SB413, relative to access to health insurance coverage. The bill passed the Senate by an 18-5 vote. The bill will likely be heard in the House Finance Committee on Monday.

House Republican Leader Gene Chandler (R-Bartlett)

“House Republicans aren’t convinced this bill is the right solution for New Hampshire. There are a number of Republican members who won’t vote for any program tied to the failed Obamacare law. There are concerns about how the state will be able to pay for this type of entitlement expansion in perpetuity and if that could lead to significant budget problems down the road. This type and scale of program represents the largest increase in spending New Hampshire has seen for some time, and it is dependent on funding from the federal government who can’t seem to keep many promises.”

“If New Hampshire does go down this road, we need assurances that we’re not in the slightest way getting in over our heads. Waivers should be in place before any aspect of any program moves forward. Cost and participation estimates are just estimates. There should be some mechanism by which the program cost or enrollment cannot balloon out of control. House Republicans will offer amendments to help reduce our exposure to fiscal disaster, but we cannot eliminate our reasonable doubts or erase the potential for problems.”

House Republican Leader Statement on Republican Effort to Cut Meals Tax

CONCORD - House Republican Leader Gene Chandler (R-Bartlett) offered a statement following the defeat of a Republican sponsored bill that would have provided an 11% cut in the tax on meals in New Hampshire, from 9% to 8%. The bill was defeated by a vote of 184-148.

House Republican Leader Gene Chandler (R-Bartlett)

“Republicans will continue to explore reasonable ways to lower the tax burden on our hard working citizens. While some would like you to believe the meals tax is primarily paid by those who visit our state as tourists, the reality is that you and I pay it on our morning coffee or bagel, our grilled cheese at lunch, or our pizza dinner with the family. Lowering taxes like the meals tax is something I hope we continue to discuss as ways to help families keep more of their hard earned money in their own pockets.”

Important Upcoming Dates & Events

Monday, March 10	10:00AM	House Finance Committee Hearing on SB413
Tuesday, March 11	ALL DAY	Town Meeting Day / Exec Council D1 Election
Wednesday, March 12	9:00AM	Republican Caucus
Wednesday, March 12	10:00AM	House Session
Thursday, March 13	9:00AM	House Session

ICYMI: HOUSE SESSION RECAP

DEM MAJORITY KILLS FREE MARKET HEALTH CARE BILL

In a roll call vote of 167-132, the House killed HB1539, a bill that would change the repeal date of the certificate of need law from June 30, 2016 to June 30, 2015.

The minority of the committee believed this board is no longer useful, and 17 states have already repealed the certificate of need without a negative impact on health care costs. Having the date moved up would increase free market principles and competition.

BILL FORCING LANDLORDS TO ACCEPT SECTION 8 TENANTS & OTHERS TABLED

HB1409 was tabled on Thursday by the House in a vote of 220-47. This bill would prohibit housing discrimination against recipients of rental assistance and victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

As the minority blurb states, the business community believes section 8 vouchers require higher levels of bureaucratic compliance and higher insurance costs. This entitles people to special treatment and higher entitlement that has no limitations.

Stay tuned: there is a possibility this bill may come off the table in the coming weeks!

REP. RICHARDSON (R-LANCASTER) LEADS FIGHT TO KEEP LOTTERY WINNERS' NAMES PRIVATE

The committee report of Inexpedient to Legislate was overturned on Thursday for HB 1244. The vote of ITL failed 149-150. Rep. Kurk made the motion for Ought to Pass, which passed on a division vote of 172-130.

HB 1244 prohibits the NH lottery from disclosing the names of lottery winners except upon written consent of the person.

The bill will now move on to the Senate.

EFFORT TO STUDY TO ELIMINATION OF B.E.T. LOOPHOLE FAILS ON PARTY LINE VOTE

In a vote of 173-163, the House killed a bill that would study the elimination of the Business Enterprise Tax loopholes.

The minority of the committee wanted to place HB1509 into a study committee in order to study applying the B.E.T to a small number of 501(c)(3) organizations that look and behave like for-profit businesses. This would still exempt small "mom and pop" 501 (c)(3) organizations.

House Republican Leader Statement on Bill Prohibiting Electronic Devices While Driving

CONCORD - House Republican Leader Gene Chandler (R-Bartlett) offered the following statement relative to the House passage of HB1360, a bill that would prohibit reasonable use of phones and electronic devices while driving. The bill passed by a 192-133 vote.

House Republican Leader Gene Chandler (R-Bartlett)

"We have good, reasonable laws on the books that prohibit distracted driving of any kind, whether those distractions are food related, pet related, person related or phone related. This bill unfairly suggests all users of cellphones or electronic devices are distracted. The vast majority of drivers have been operating their vehicles safely for years, even before hands-free technology hit the market. We should be enforcing distracted driving laws as they stand, rather than ending the use of cellphones for everyone."

The New Hampshire House Republican Office
in conjunction with
The New Hampshire Federation of Republican Women
& **The New Hampshire Republican State Committee**

invites all prospective legislative candidates and those seeking to learn more about the New Hampshire Legislature to our

Open House Day 2014
Tuesday, April 3rd
8:30am – 2:00pm

Tentative Agenda:

8:30 am	Registration Opens
8:45 am	Coffee / Breakfast
9:00 am	Opening remarks from House Republican Leaders & Party Leaders
9:40 am	Introduction / Pairing with mentors for the day
10:00 am	Attend policy committee hearings with mentor
11:00 am	Tour of the State House
Noon	Lunch at Upham Walker House (adjacent to the State House)
1:00 pm	Meet in Representatives Hall with presentation from House Clerk's Office / optional additional tour of state house
Wrap Up	Q&A with House Leadership/closing remarks & next steps

To register, please visit:

ElectHouseRepublicans.com

and fill out the quick registration form

For questions, please email:
info@electhouserepublicans.com

or call:
603-271-3665

Thank you for your interest in public service and learning more about your State government!

PRE-CROSSOVER SESSION SCHEDULE

Due to the amount of House bills for this session and reporting deadlines, as previously announced we will be meeting for House session on Wednesdays and Thursdays until Cross over when we return from break. For planning purposes, below is a tentative schedule for House sessions until Crossover:

Wednesday, March 12- all day
Thursday, March 13- all day
Wednesday, March 19- all day
Thursday, March 20- afternoon
Tuesday, March 25 (if necessary to catch up)
Wednesday, March 26- all day
Thursday, March 27- all day

Note: Half day sessions will begin at 1:00pm, and all day sessions will begin at the usual 10:00am unless otherwise indicated by the Speaker.

REP. ROWE (R-AMHERST) RESPONDS TO CONSTITUENT ON MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE

Subject: minimum wage increase

Thank you for your letter regarding increasing the New Hampshire minimum wage.

I share your underlining concern as to poor and middleclass workers not having good paying employment. Over the past decades there has developed a disparity between the wages of labor and management. This is not good for America in the long run. I remember when New Hampshire wages were appallingly low after the Second World War. Then most of the major manufacturing corporations left our state. Following their departure the local businesses that supported the major manufactures failed. We experienced a twenty year depression that was more severe the 30s. Then Sanders Associates and Digital Equipment established here and wages shot up. From that time on wages varied based on the New Hampshire economy. They dropped during recessions and increased when there were worker shortages. When I practiced law here I had a business client who was so desperate for workers that he purchased a company just for the work force.

While I agree with your underlying goal, I disagree that increasing the minimum wage is the answer. Consider that there are currently about 13,000 New Hampshire residents that receive the minimum wage. Of these the vast majority are restaurant servers or other jobs where the real income is based on tips. These workers earn four to six times the minimum wage. Then there are the school children who are working part time or summers. Increasing the minimum wage may eliminate jobs for them. This leaves a small number of family workers that earn the current minimum wage. Small the number may be, but it is unacceptable.

The answer to increasing wages for all, is not a quick legislative fix. Consider the fact that New Hampshire is no longer a business friendly state. We have high business taxes and regulations. Energy costs are high. The cost of living is high. Further we have a constitutional provision that does not allow us to give special tax treatment to encourage business to relocate to New Hampshire. Now raising the minimum wage will further discourage any industry relocating to New Hampshire, or stifle growth for current companies.

I'll conclude by saying that there are no quick fixes. We should look to the future – twenty years or more. Let New Hampshire build a strong business foundation that will stand for decades to come.

While I share your goal, I feel that raising the minimum wage will be counterproductive and I will vote against the bill.

Rep. Robert Rowe
Amherst, New Hampshire

Do You Get Our News Clips?

March 12-13 Session Preview

Every weekday, the House Republican Office compiles the top news articles, editorials and columns from around the state that deal with New Hampshire politics and government.

Our daily email is sent out by midmorning and contains links to the source publications.

From Concord to Washington, and beyond, we've got you covered.

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HB1282, consumer protection for propane fuel users
 HB1170, repealing the death penalty in NH
 HB1620, relative to the use of drones
 HB1392, removing the restriction on the number of pupils eligible to transfer to a chartered public school
 HB1403, establishing a state minimum hourly wage
 HB1633, relative to expanded gaming in New Hampshire
 HR24, urging Congress to investigate Benghazi
 HB1141, relative to restoring moneys to the department of health and human services
 HB1307, prohibiting state and political subdivisions from acquiring military equipped vehicles which are not readily available in an open national commercial market
 HB1541, allowing health insurance policies to be sold without mandates.

Note from the Republican Leader:

House Republicans,

There will be two important bills coming up on the House Floor next week. I want to let you know ahead of time that we will be whipping HB1403 and HB1411, so please be on alert for an email or call from your committee whip.

HB1403 is the bill to establish a state minimum wage. When government increases the minimum wage, it not only forces them to pay a higher starting wage, but causes them to adjust the wages of their other employees. This bill is hurtful to employers, who should not be subject to further government intrusion into the hiring and management practices of their business.

HB1411 reopens the 2014/2015 budget, contrary to long-standing House practice, by increasing appropriations to the department of health and human services by \$7 million. Second, this bill spends part of the surplus from the 2012/2013 state budget, thus decreasing the amount that would otherwise go into the rainy day fund.

I hope you will join me in opposing these two bills that are bad for NH.

Gene G. Chandler

IN MEMORIAM

Last week, Representative Amy Perkins (R-Seabrook) passed away after a long battle with cancer. She was serving in her third term as a NH House member and member of the Legislative Administration committee.

We extend our thoughts and prayers to Amy's family, including her husband Rep. Koko Perkins. She will be tremendously missed by all at the NH House.

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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