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Attached to the email with the Republican Review, we have included two files. The first is a description of key roll call votes on key bills in 2014. The second file is a list of all the Democrat members of the House, listed by county, and how they voted on these key bills.

Op-Ed: Rebuilding New Hampshire's Rainy Day Fund Should be a Priority

By: Republican Leader Rep. Gene Chandler

New Hampshire's Rainy Day Fund - sometimes called the Revenue Stabilization Account - was drained of \$80 million by the Democrat controlled legislature to maintain or increase spending levels, rather than making spending cuts, during the recent recession.

Under the 2012-2013 Republican budget, New Hampshire was left with a surplus. While most of the money in the surplus was used to help fund the 2014-2015 budget, there is about \$15 million left over. The debate in the legislature this year has been whether or not we should spend some of it, or save all of it.

Just one month ago, House Democrats passed a bill, HB 1411, that spends a large portion of the \$15 million surplus. They have also passed a bill, HB 1635, that spends some of the projected surplus from the current budget, which we can't even be sure will actually materialize. Given the frail condition of our Rainy Day Fund, we find this type of legislation to be irresponsible. Thankfully, HB 1411 was defeated in the Senate. We hope HB 1635 meets the same fate. Both set terrible precedent by reopening the budget to increase spending.

Republicans in the House and Senate agree that we need to begin rebuilding our Rainy Day Fund. In a presentation to the Senate Finance Committee in January, State Treasurer Cathy Provencher agreed. She said in order to maintain New Hampshire's credit rating, we should strive to have a balance equal to 5%-10% of unrestricted general fund revenue. In New Hampshire, 5% would equal about \$70 million, 10% would equal about \$140 million.

Our current balance of \$9.3 million equals just 0.7% of General Fund Unrestricted Revenue. That's not enough to run our state government for more than 2 days.

Our research into how New Hampshire stacks up to our New England neighbors when it comes to financial security reveals that we rank dead last in both overall reserve balance, as well as when that balance is compared to the overall population of the state. New Hampshire has just \$7 in the Rainy Day Fund per capita. The next highest is Maine, with \$45 per person. Massachusetts leads New England with \$205 per person. We often boast about the New Hampshire Advantage, but in this case, we are far from a role model for our neighbors.

Important Dates & Events

05/07/2014	Republican Caucus – 9am LOB 305-307
05/07/2014	House Session – 10am
05/08/2014	Last Day to report on all remaining Senate Bills
05/15/2014	Last Day to act on all remaining Senate Bills
06/16/2014	Committee to Elect House Republicans Golf Tournament

Rebuilding NH's Rainy Day Fund Should be a Priority (continued)

It's no wonder then, that a leading rating agency, Standard & Poor's, last week issued a report downgrading the outlook from stable to negative on New Hampshire's general obligation and state-guaranteed bonds citing, "Relatively low reserves, with a Rainy Day Fund balance of less than 1% of expenditures," and, "Low pension funding level, currently 56.7%, well below that of most other states, which we believe could result in additional pressure on future budgets," in addition to concern over the recent Medicaid Enhancement Tax court rulings that could result in loss of significant revenue. Days after the Standard & Poor's report, another major rating agency, Moody's, labeled New Hampshire as "credit negative."

We were warned by our State Treasurer in January that without a significant change in policy in regards to our Rainy Day Fund, we could see our credit rating drop. While our reserve balance is not the sole factor in the ratings change, it does compound the problem and affects our ability to address potentially major issues like what we face with the recent Medicaid Enhancement Tax court rulings, that could leave New Hampshire with a major hole in funding. When situations like this occur, even though we realize it will not cover the whole shortfall, it is important to have a reserve account that could help offset the impact if we were to experience a financial emergency.

It's time to bring New Hampshire back from the brink. SB415, a bill that would deposit the entire \$15 million surplus into the Rainy Day Fund, is currently before the House Finance committee, and will likely be voted on by the entire House in the coming weeks. We have the chance to begin to rebuild New Hampshire's financial security. \$15 million may not get us to our goal, but it is a small and important step. Even if the Medicaid Enhancement Tax issue is resolved, our current situation is a prime example of why having sufficient funds in reserve is the responsible thing to do.

Republicans will also continue to propose solutions that will help reduce New Hampshire's multi-billion dollar unfunded pension liability and work to reform our tax code. We have the opportunity to learn from our current situation. Responsible spending and budgeting, responsible reserve allocation, and reforming our tax and pension systems will protect our financial stability and credit rating for future generations.

House Session Action

Included below is a recap of the action taken on a number of Senate bills by the House on Wednesday:

SB 306, establishing a commission to study New Hampshire mortgage foreclosure law, new federal regulations, and fair foreclosure practices. Passed (177-141)

SB 317, relative to trafficking persons. Passed (327-0)

SB 318, establishing the crime of domestic violence. Passed (325-3)

CACR 17, relating to natural rights. Providing that discrimination based on sexual orientation is prohibited. Interim Study (234-95)

SB 394, relative to the recognition of out of state marriages, uniform marriage recognition law, civil union recognition, and gender neutral references. Passed (217-119)

SB 366, relative to video lottery and table gaming. Killed (173-172)

**Note: SB366 will come up for a vote of reconsideration in next Wednesday's session. If reconsideration passes, there will be another vote on the ITL motion. If ITL is upheld, the bill will die. If ITL fails, the bill is open for amendments and another motion.*

Senate Session Action

The Senate met on Thursday where they voted on a number of House bills. Below are a list of attention grabbing bills and their outcome.

HB1282, relative to prepaid contracts for home heating fuel. Passed (Voice Vote)

HB256, establishing a voluntary hike safe card for fish and game search and rescue operations Passed (Voice Vote)

HB1570, establishing a paint stewardship program. Killed (Voice Vote)

HB657, requiring state agencies to submit efficiency expenditure requests as part of the biennial budget process. Passed (Voice Vote)

HB1251, repealing a limitation on appropriations for New Hampshire Public Television. Passed (Voice Vote)

HB496, relative to driving privileges for certain first-time DWI offenders. Passed (Voice Vote)

HB485, establishing keno. Killed (Voice Vote)



SAVE THE DATE

Join The New Hampshire Republican State Committee
and the Committee to Elect House Republicans

FOR AN INFORMATIVE AND ENGAGING

HOUSE CANDIDATE TRAINING

*MAY 10, 2014
10 AM-3 PM*

*New England College-Concord Campus
62 North Main Street
Concord, New Hampshire 03301*

Topics to Include:
Becoming a Candidate
Fundraising
Door Knocking/Messaging

To RSVP: <http://electhouserepublicans.com/may10/>

Further Details Forthcoming.
For questions, please contact Todd Cheewing @ [603-225-9341](tel:603-225-9341).

Together we will win back the majority in the House in 2014!

Note from the Republican Leader:

House Republicans & Friends,

If you have ever tried to listen to the live House audio on your iPhone or iPad on session days, you've probably arrived at a dead end. iPhones and iPads don't have a native app to play those types of streaming media.

Next time you're away from Concord and want to tune into the live streaming audio, there's an app you can download to make it happen. [FStream](#) is free and relatively easy to set up. Just copy the [URL](#) of the streaming media, and add it as a favorite FStream playlist. Please note, this only works when the stream is live during session.

Once set up, you'll be able to listen to live House audio on the go, or even over Bluetooth in your car if you have that feature. Imagine that. If you have any technical questions, please call the House Republican office staff at 603-271-3665.

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WENTWORTH
BY THE SEA
COUNTRY CLUB

We are excited to announce that Rep. Gene G. Chandler and the Committee to Elect House Republicans will be hosting their golf tournament on Monday, June 16th at Wentworth by the Sea, Rye, NH.

Registration is at 12noon, tee off is at 1pm, and the cost is \$150 per player. For more information, please visit:

www.electhouserepublicans.com

House Session Preview

Here's a look at what is coming up in House Session on Wednesday

SB 329, relative to advertising alcoholic beverages on billboards.

SB 370, relative to reimbursement of towns affected by the Merrimack River flood control compact and making an appropriation therefor.

SB 203, relative to permissible uses of electronic benefit transfer (EBT) cards.

SB 228, relative to notice of changes to zoning districts.

SB 281, relative to the siting of wind turbines.

SB 246, relative to penalties for speeding.

SB 366, relative to ignition interlock device violations and interlock device removal protocols.

SB 241, establishing the division of economic development fund.