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House Republican Leader Statement on House Action on SB415

CONCORD - House Republican Leader Gene Chandler (R-Bartlett) offered the following statement relative to the House vote on SB415, a bill that would deposit the remaining surplus funds from FY2013 into the Rainy Day fund. Democrats on the Finance committee proposed the bill be sent to interim study. The committee recommendation passed in committee on party lines, 13-10. The committee recommendation of "Refer for Interim Study" passed the full House by a vote of 151-127.

House Republican Leader Gene Chandler (R-Bartlett)

"What is there to study? In just the last month, we've done all of the work an interim study committee could possibly do. Just look at the New Hampshire's Rainy Day fund balance. It's just \$9.3million, which is not enough to run state government for more than a day and a half. We've also seen two major bond rating agencies issue negative credit alerts on the state's financial outlook citing our low reserve fund balance as a factor in their analysis. What other piece of negative news could we possibly be waiting for?"

"Former State Treasurer Cathy Provencher testified in January that we should strive to have 5%-10% of general fund unrestricted revenue in reserves. Our current balance represents just 0.7% - less than 1% - of general fund unrestricted revenue. Passing SB415 would be a small but important and necessary step in reaching that goal. I'm sorry House Democrats would rather spend the surplus rather than use it to contribute to our financial security."

100% House Republicans: Put Money in Rainy Day Fund

100 percent of House Republicans voted against Interim Study and for putting the money in the Rainy Day fund. We don't need a study to figure out we should build up our Rainy Day fund. When compared to other New England States, New Hampshire ranks dead last with our \$9.3 million Rainy Day Fund. 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

05/22/2014	Last Day to form Committees of Conference
06/04/2014	House Session- 10am
06/07/2014	Candidate Training (Details TBA)
06/16/2014	Committee to Elect House Republicans Golf Tournament

House Session Action

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

SB 202, relative to the elements of the crime of burglary. (This bill was amended to contain the repeal of the death penalty) Passed (226-110)

SB 207, relative to paycheck equity. Passed (223-103)

SB 390, prohibiting discrimination against employees who are victims of domestic violence and establishing a committee to study the protection of employees from domestic violence. Passed (141-187)

SB 120, relative to political contributions and expenditures and relative to reporting by political committees. Passed (186-119)

SB 415, transferring surplus revenues to the revenue stabilization reserve account. Interim Study 151-127

SB 389, relative to the enforcement of motor vehicle laws by officers of the fish and game department. Passed 219-72

SB 319, relative to access to reproductive health care facilities. Passed (162-100)

SB 307, establishing a committee to review Citizens United amendments to the United States' Constitution. Passed (183-87)

SB 369, relative to the Medicaid Enhancement Tax. Passed (247-28)

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.

HB 1188, relative to paycheck equity. Passed (Voice Vote)

HB 569, relative to the placement of all new electric transmission lines in New Hampshire. Tabled (Voice Vote)

HB 256, relative to establishing a voluntary hike safe card for fish and game search and rescue operations, relative to deputy fish and game conservation officers, and relative to the commission on sustainability of the fish and game department. Passed (Voice Vote)

HB 292, relative to registration fees for commercial, private and pleasure vessels. Passed (Voice Vote)

HB 496, relative to driving privileges for certain first-time DWI offenders. Passed (Voice Vote)

HB 1415, establishing a robotics education fund in the department of education. Passed (Voice Vote)

HB 1449, relative to the requirements for filing a charter school application. Killed (Voice Vote)

HB 1409, establishing a commission to study housing discrimination against individuals who receive federal housing assistance or who have been victims of domestic violence, stalking, or sexual assault. Passed (24-0)

HB 1613, relative to payment of the Medicaid Enhancement Tax. Passed (13-11)

Where Do Your Highway Fund Dollars Go?

New Hampshire's Highway Fund is funded by a combination of motor vehicle registration fees, operators' licenses, gasoline road toll, and other special charges or taxes with respect to the operation of motor vehicles or the sale or consumption of motor vehicle fuels.

As you may know, article 6-a of the New Hampshire constitution allows highway fund revenue for other purposes:

[Art.] 6-a. [Use of Certain Revenues Restricted to Highways.] All revenue in excess of the necessary cost of collection and administration accruing to the state from registration fees, operators' licenses, gasoline road tolls or any other special charges or taxes with respect to the operation of motor vehicles or the sale or consumption of motor vehicle fuels shall be appropriated and used exclusively for the construction, reconstruction and maintenance of public highways within this state, including the supervision of traffic thereon and payment of the interest and principal of obligations incurred for said purposes; and no part of such revenues shall, by transfer of funds or otherwise, be diverted to any other purpose whatsoever.

As we've mentioned before, RSA 9:9b was enacted to limit how much the state could divert for purposes other than highway block grant aid.

9:9-b Allocation of Gross Appropriations From Highway Fund. –

For each fiscal year of the biennium, gross highway fund appropriations net of highway block grant aid, shall be allocated in the operating budget as follows:

I. Department of transportation, including the office of information technology: Not less than 73%.

II. Department of safety: Not to exceed 26 percent.

III. Other projects that comply with part 2, article 6-a of the New Hampshire constitution, relative to the use of highway funds: Not to exceed 1%.

In the current budget (FY 2014-2015), RSA 9:9b was suspended, which allowed the state to divert more than the 27% allowed by RSA 9:9b. In the previous budget (FY2012-2013), RSA 9:9b was not suspended, but funds greater than 27% were diverted anyway. Unfortunately, both parties are guilty.

The budgeting process has become too accustomed to dipping into funds meant for other dedicated purposes. In fact, in the House Democrats' version of HB2, they gave the Governor the power to sweep any amount of funds out of any dedicated fund. Thankfully, that provision was not a part of the final budget.

While SB367, the bill increasing the gas tax, contains language earmarking the new revenue for specific DOT and infrastructure purposes, given the history of legislatures' propensity to dip into both highway and other funds, even if prohibited by law, it's fair to say we can't be certain this new revenue will go where it is intended either.

Before we raise taxes or fees, it's important to take a hard look at how the current revenue is spent.

We thought it would be helpful to list where Highway Fund dollars are being allocated, so we went page by page through HB1, and pulled out each line item that was funded by highway funds.

The full list from HB1 as passed in 2013 follows on the next pages...

HB1 PAGE	DEPARTMENT	DIV/OFFICE	ITEM	FY 2014	FY 2015	TOTAL
112	JUDICIAL BRANCH	SUPREME & SUPERIOR COURTS	SUPREME & SUPERIOR COURTS	\$600,000.00	\$600,000.00	\$1,200,000.00
113	JUDICIAL BRANCH	CIRCUIT COURT	CIRCUIT COURT	\$1,400,000.00	\$1,400,000.00	\$2,800,000.00
154	DEPT OF JUSTICE	JUSTICE DEPT HIGHWAY	WITNESS FEES	\$366,682.00	\$366,682.00	\$733,364.00
175	AGCY OF HWY SAFETY	HIGHWAY SAFETY	HIGHWAY SAFETY ADMINISTRATION	\$450,179.00	\$463,204.00	\$913,383.00
250	DEPT OF SAFETY	OFFICE OF POLICY - PLANNING	OFFICE OF POLICY - PLANNING	\$83,014.00	\$84,072.00	\$167,086.00
251	DEPT OF SAFETY	OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER	RETIREEES HEALTH INSURANCE	\$4,261,198.00	\$4,427,658.00	\$8,688,856.00
251	DEPT OF SAFETY	OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER	BUREAU OF HEARINGS	\$2,141,668.00	\$2,211,589.00	\$4,353,257.00
252	DEPT OF SAFETY	OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER	OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER	\$1,656,904.00	\$1,786,250.00	\$3,443,154.00
252	DEPT OF SAFETY	OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER	GRANTS COORDINATOR	\$115,595.00	\$116,609.00	\$232,204.00
253	DEPT OF SAFETY	OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER	PROPERTY UPKEEP	\$110,000.00	\$110,000.00	\$220,000.00
254	DEPT OF SAFETY	DIV OF ADMINISTRATION	BUSINESS OFFICE	\$537,814.00	\$586,644.00	\$1,124,458.00
251	DEPT OF SAFETY	DIV OF ADMINISTRATION	CENTRAL MAINTENANCE	\$308,714.00	\$371,847.00	\$680,561.00
255	DEPT OF SAFETY	DIV OF ADMINISTRATION	COPY CENTER	\$210,381.00	\$214,077.00	\$424,458.00
255	DEPT OF SAFETY	DIV OF ADMINISTRATION	EQUIPMENT CONTROL	\$1,288,638.00	\$1,299,682.00	\$2,588,320.00
256	DEPT OF SAFETY	DIV OF ADMINISTRATION	WAREHOUSE EXPENSES	\$55,000.00	\$55,000.00	\$110,000.00
256	DEPT OF SAFETY	DIV OF ADMINISTRATION	POSTAGE	\$60,000.00	\$60,000.00	\$120,000.00
256	DEPT OF SAFETY	DIV OF ADMINISTRATION	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	\$8,385,075.00	\$8,555,258.00	\$16,940,333.00
257	DEPT OF SAFETY	DIV OF ADMINISTRATION	ROAD TOLL ADMINISTRATION	\$822,965.00	\$845,181.00	\$1,668,146.00
257	DEPT OF SAFETY	DIV OF ADMINISTRATION	ROAD TOLL AUDIT	\$847,234.00	\$869,919.00	\$1,717,153.00
258	DEPT OF SAFETY	DIV OF MOTOR VEHICLES	DRIVER LICENSING	\$3,423,075.00	\$3,488,657.00	\$6,911,732.00
259	DEPT OF SAFETY	DIV OF MOTOR VEHICLES	MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION	\$1,402,173.00	\$1,465,671.00	\$2,867,844.00
260	DEPT OF SAFETY	DIV OF MOTOR VEHICLES	CERTIFICATE OF TITLE	\$1,683,424.00	\$1,733,069.00	\$3,416,493.00

HB1 PAGE	DEPARTMENT	DIV/OFFICE	ITEM	FY 2014	FY 2015	TOTAL
260	DEPT OF SAFETY	DIV OF MOTOR VEHICLES	FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY	\$1,720,347.00	\$1,751,855.00	\$3,472,202.00
261	DEPT OF SAFETY	DIV OF MOTOR VEHICLES	OPERATIONS	\$5,453,279.00	\$5,643,284.00	\$11,096,563.00
261	DEPT OF SAFETY	DIV OF MOTOR VEHICLES	CREDIT CARD FEES	\$354,000.00	\$385,900.00	\$739,900.00
262	DEPT OF SAFETY	DIV OF MOTOR VEHICLES	ADMIN-DIV OF MOTOR VEHICLES	\$1,722,647.00	\$1,784,818.00	\$3,507,465.00
262	DEPT OF SAFETY	DIV OF MOTOR VEHICLES	PUPIL TRANSPORTATION	\$117,328.00	\$119,671.00	\$236,999.00
263	DEPT OF SAFETY	DIV OF MOTOR VEHICLES	INTERNATL REGISTRATN PROGRAM	\$431,471.00	\$455,739.00	\$887,210.00
264	DEPT OF SAFETY	DIV OF STATE POLICE	COMMERCIAL ENFORCEMENT	\$5,093,769.00	\$5,223,730.00	\$10,317,499.00
265	DEPT OF SAFETY	DIV OF STATE POLICE	STATE POLICE COMMUNICATIONS	\$814,679.00	\$849,559.00	\$1,664,238.00
265	DEPT OF SAFETY	DIV OF STATE POLICE	MCSAP GRANT	\$820,371.00	\$812,853.00	\$1,633,224.00
266	DEPT OF SAFETY	DIV OF STATE POLICE	TRAFFIC BUREAU	\$21,021,713.00	\$21,474,270.00	\$42,495,983.00
266	DEPT OF SAFETY	DIV OF STATE POLICE	AUXILIARY POLICE	\$87,196.00	\$87,197.00	\$174,393.00
267	DEPT OF SAFETY	DIV OF STATE POLICE	AIRCRAFT TRAFFIC SURVEILLANCE	\$127,043.00	\$201,320.00	\$328,363.00
268	DEPT OF SAFETY	DIV OF STATE POLICE	ENFORCEMENT	\$5,727,044.00	\$5,801,781.00	\$11,528,825.00
268	DEPT OF SAFETY	DIV OF STATE POLICE	HAMPTON BEACH DETAIL	\$145,878.00	\$145,877.00	\$291,755.00
268	DEPT OF SAFETY	DIV OF STATE POLICE	N.L.E.T.S	\$62,000.00	\$62,000.00	\$124,000.00
269	DEPT OF SAFETY	DIV OF STATE POLICE	STATE POLICE WITNESS FEES	\$282,558.00	\$282,559.00	\$565,117.00
269	DEPT OF SAFETY	DIV OF STATE POLICE	AMMUNITION	\$126,360.00	\$126,360.00	\$252,720.00
270	DEPT OF SAFETY	DIV OF STATE POLICE	STATE POLICE FORENSIC LAB	\$2,268,918.00	\$2,374,201.00	\$4,643,119.00
270	DEPT OF SAFETY	DIV OF STATE POLICE	STATE POLICE EVIDENCE ACCOUNT	\$31,500.00	\$31,500.00	\$63,000.00
271	DEPT OF SAFETY	DIV OF STATE POLICE	TOXICOLOGY LAB	\$1,319,840.00	\$1,538,293.00	\$2,858,133.00
271	DEPT OF SAFETY	SPECIAL EXPENSES	STATE OVERHEAD CHARGES	\$1,000,000.00	\$1,000,000.00	\$2,000,000.00
272	DEPT OF SAFETY	SPECIAL EXPENSES	WORKERS COMP - HIGHWAY	\$427,500.00	\$427,500.00	\$855,000.00
272	DEPT OF SAFETY	SPECIAL EXPENSES	UNEMPLOYMENT - HIGHWAY	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$30,000.00
463	DEPT OF TRANS	AERO, RAIL & TRANSIT	RIDESHARE-BIKE-PED PROGRAM	\$193,892.00	\$199,461.00	\$393,353.00
464	DEPT OF TRANS	ADMINISTRATION	EXECUTIVE OFFICE	\$1,263,193.00	\$1,292,371.00	\$2,555,564.00

HB1 PAGE	DEPARTMENT	DIV/OFFICE	ITEM	FY 2014	FY 2015	TOTAL
464	DEPT OF TRANS	ADMINISTRATION	DEBT SERVICE	\$11,288,269.00	\$11,026,129.00	\$22,314,398.00
465	DEPT OF TRANS	ADMINISTRATION	TRANSFERS TO OTHER AGENCIES	\$7,383,698.00	\$7,477,295.00	\$14,860,993.00
465	DEPT OF TRANS	ADMINISTRATION	GENERAL FUND OVERHEAD	\$3,289,337.00	\$3,344,160.00	\$6,633,497.00
466	DEPT OF TRANS	ADMINISTRATION	COMPENSATION BENEFITS	\$9,928,763.00	\$10,191,510.00	\$20,120,273.00
466	DEPT OF TRANS	DIV OF FINANCE	DIVISION OF FINANCE	\$1,835,700.00	\$1,920,000.00	\$3,755,700.00
467	DEPT OF TRANS	DIV OF POLICY & ADMINISTRATION	OFFICE OF FEDERAL COMPLIANCE	\$457,660.00	\$470,859.00	\$928,519.00
467	DEPT OF TRANS	DIV OF POLICY & ADMINISTRATION	HUMAN RESOURCES BUREAU	\$568,718.00	\$587,628.00	\$1,156,346.00
468	DEPT OF TRANS	DIV OF POLICY & ADMINISTRATION	EMPLOYEE TRAINING	\$34,425.00	\$9,425.00	\$43,850.00
468	DEPT OF TRANS	DIV OF POLICY & ADMINISTRATION	OFFICE OF STEWARDSHIP & COMPLI	\$537,569.00	\$554,532.00	\$1,092,101.00
469	DEPT OF TRANS	OPS DIV HIGHWAY	ASSET MAINTENANCE & PRESERVATI	\$233,486.00	\$244,506.00	\$477,992.00
470	DEPT OF TRANS	OPS DIV HIGHWAY	MECHANICAL SERVICES	\$18,277,785.00	\$16,444,799.00	\$34,722,584.00
471	DEPT OF TRANS	OPS DIV HIGHWAY	HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE BUREAU	\$50,995,947.00	\$52,619,603.00	\$103,615,550.00
472	DEPT OF TRANS	OPS DIV HIGHWAY	BRIDGE MAINTENANCE	\$4,375,785.00	\$4,494,316.00	\$8,870,101.00
473	DEPT OF TRANS	OPS DIV HIGHWAY	TRAFFIC OPERATIONS	\$4,828,874.00	\$4,899,017.00	\$9,727,891.00
474	DEPT OF TRANS	OPS DIV HIGHWAY	MAINTENANCE CRITICAL REPAIR	\$272,189.00	\$284,854.00	\$557,043.00
475	DEPT OF TRANS	OPS DIV HIGHWAY	TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT CTR	\$995,975.00	\$937,720.00	\$1,933,695.00
476	DEPT OF TRANS	OPS DIV HIGHWAY	INMATE MAINTENANCE CREW	\$74,736.00	\$74,909.00	\$149,645.00
476	DEPT OF TRANS	OPS DIV HIGHWAY	SALTED WELLS	\$259,829.00	\$266,662.00	\$526,491.00
479	DEPT OF TRANS	OPS DIV HIGHWAY	LIFT BRIDGE OPERATIONS	\$1,287,284.00	\$1,333,510.00	\$2,620,794.00
479	DEPT OF TRANS	OPS DIV HIGHWAY	WINTER MAINTENANCE	\$21,961,374.00	\$22,625,906.00	\$44,587,280.00
480	DEPT OF TRANS	OPS DIV HIGHWAY	WELCOME CTRS & REST AREA OPS	\$1,478,609.00	\$1,554,491.00	\$3,033,100.00
481	DEPT OF TRANS	PROJECT DEVELOPMENT	TRANS PLANNING BUREAU	\$1,508,635.00	\$1,574,738.00	\$3,083,373.00
482	DEPT OF TRANS	PROJECT DEVELOPMENT	HIGHWAY DESIGN BUREAU	\$1,513,456.00	\$840,468.00	\$2,353,924.00
483	DEPT OF TRANS	PROJECT DEVELOPMENT	RIGHT-OF-WAY BUREAU	\$1,558,523.00	\$1,663,718.00	\$3,222,241.00
483	DEPT OF TRANS	PROJECT DEVELOPMENT	ENVIRONMENTAL BUREAU	\$871,195.00	\$918,818.00	\$1,790,013.00

HB1 PAGE	DEPARTMENT	DIV/OFFICE	ITEM	FY 2014	FY 2015	TOTAL
483	DEPT OF TRANS	PROJECT DEVELOPMENT	BRIDGE DESIGN BUREAU	\$1,835,989.00	\$1,897,873.00	\$3,733,862.00
484	DEPT OF TRANS	PROJECT DEVELOPMENT	MATERIALS - RESEARCH BUREAU	\$1,017,847.00	\$769,742.00	\$1,787,589.00
485	DEPT OF TRANS	PROJECT DEVELOPMENT	CONSTRUCTION BUREAU	\$5,167,635.00	\$5,176,202.00	\$10,343,837.00
487	DEPT OF TRANS	MUNICIPAL AID	MUNICIPAL BRIDGE	\$6,803,593.00	\$6,803,593.00	\$13,607,186.00
487	DEPT OF TRANS	MUNICIPAL AID	MUNICIPAL AID APPORTIONMENT A - B	\$30,000,000.00	\$30,000,000.00	\$60,000,000.00
488	DEPT OF TRANS	CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM FUNDS	NON PARTICIPATING CONS/RECONST	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$200,000.00
489	DEPT OF TRANS	CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM FUNDS	STATE AID CONSTRUCTION	\$1,699,991.00	\$1,699,991.00	\$3,399,982.00

*All data derived from HB1 as passed in 2013. All budget line items with a fund source listed as non-federal "Highway Funds"

Note from the Republican Leader:

House Republicans & Friends,

This past week there was a presentation given by Steve Norton of New Hampshire Center for Public Policy Studies, Charlie Arlinghaus of the Josiah Bartlett Center and Kate Skouteris Asst. Commissioner of DRA on the current Medicaid Enhancement Tax situation.

For those of you who were not able to attend, our office live streamed the presentation online. For those of you who still would like to see the presentation, [you can watch it here](#). Please be advised, the audio in the Legislative Office Building isn't perfect, so you will have to turn your speakers up on your computer.

This was a valuable presentation which gives a greater understanding of the MET and New Hampshire's current situation. We hope you find this information helpful. If you are unable to get to the link, please email houserepublicans@leg.state.nh.us

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The Committee to Elect House Republicans Golf Tournament

Wentworth by the Sea in Rye, NH.

Monday, June 16th
Registration: 12pm, Shot gun start: 1pm

\$150/person - Includes: greens fees, cart rental, reception to follow

Contests will include: longest drive, closest to the pin, most honest score, and hole in one prize

For more information, including sponsorship opportunities, please contact Gene Chandler or Katie Horgan at info@electhouserepublicans.com
Or visit our website at www.electhouserepublicans.com