

Republican Review

A Publication of the New Hampshire House Majority Office

Speaker Jasper on Governor's Budget Address

"...The budget that Governor Hassan presented to us raises serious questions with regard to spending and the accompanying tax and fee increases needed to fund her budget."

"I don't think that an overall increase in spending of just under a billion dollars while increasing business taxes, the tobacco tax, auto registrations and others is what the people of this state expect from us. Adding Keno into the budget when it is not yet law is also inappropriate, as we learned two years ago when she included casino gambling in her budget. But today merely starts a long budget process. We have a lot of work ahead of us and the House will now look to present a budget that will be based on existing and realistic revenues without increasing taxes."

In case you missed it, here is what Republican leaders had to say about the Governor's budget...

[Concord Monitor](#): "From the House's point of view, (Hassan's) budget is much larger than is sustainable," said Republican Rep. Neal Kurk, chairman of the House Finance Committee."

[Union Leader](#): "House Speaker Shawn Jasper, R-Hudson, said the only rail system without a public subsidy is in Disneyland."

[Nashua Telegraph](#): "I certainly understand the governor's priorities, I think there are a lot of good things in there (and) some very good attempts at innovation and consolidation to save the taxpayers money - those things make sense," said House Speaker Shawn Jasper, R-Hudson. "The problem is the revenue increases that she's seeking to fund those initiatives are in my view not realistic."

Special Election Alert

There will be a special election to fill a recently vacated seat in Rockingham District 32, covering the towns of Candia, Deerfield, Northwood, and Nottingham. The Primary will be held on March 31, and the Special Election will be held on May 19.

Republicans have two candidates who have filed to run. They are Yvonne Dean-Bailey and Brian Stone, both of Northwood.

Good luck to both of our candidates in the Primary, and we look forward to adding to our Republican Majority in the general election!

The winner will Democrat opponent former Rep. Maureen Mann. We will share her voting record in a future issue of the Republican Review.

STATS OF THE WEEK

The Governor's revenue estimates are

\$229 million

higher than the bi-partisan estimates adopted by the House. Her proposed budget spends nearly

\$1 billion

more than the current operating budget.

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IMPORTANT DATES

February 19- Last day to act on HB's going to a second committee

February 23-27- Break Week

March 5- Last day to report all HBs not in a second committee, except budget bills

March 12- Last day to act on all HBs not in a second committee, except budget bills

March 19- Last day to report all HBs, except budget bills & last day to report list of retrained bills

March 26- Last day to report on budget bills & last day to act on all HBs, except budget bills

April 2- Crossover

ICYMI: NHGOP POSTS AD FOR NH-COO

This week the [NHGOP posted a Help Wanted ad](#) on Craigslist based on the Governor's budget request for a Chief Operating Officer:

The State of New Hampshire is seeking a Chief Operating Officer to do the governor's job while she pursues other political opportunities.

Time Frame: As soon as possible through January 2017.

Job duties: Managing state departments, tracking state spending, generally running the State of NH.

Duties Retained by Governor: Bill signings and fundraisers.

Must be able to use the word "innovation". A lot. Must be able to hide potential budget shortfalls that could threaten governor's United States Senate campaign.

Must be able to manage time without supervision, because the Governor is going to be out of state. A lot.

MS Excel a plus. Send resume and cover letter to Office of the Governor, State House, 107 North Main Street, Concord, NH 03301

NH House Business Caucus Plans Red Tape Road Tour

The New Hampshire House Business Caucus announced that it will host a *Red Tape Road Tour*, a series of Roundtable discussions with business owners in a variety of industries around the state to learn what excessive and over burdensome regulations are impeding their ability to succeed.

House Business Caucus founder and Chair, Rep. Laurie Sanborn (R-Bedford) said, "We hear repeatedly from employers that the cost of complying with time consuming and unnecessary regulations – what they call "red tape" - makes our state unfriendly to operate a business. We want to learn directly from responsible businesses the specific laws and rules that are particularly onerous. Our goal will be to create legislation next year that improves the business climate of our state and helps to bolster economic growth and job creation."

Rep. Adam Schroadter (R-Newmarket), Vice-Chair of the House Business Caucus, stated "We like to think of New Hampshire as being a business-friendly state, but increasingly we are not perceived by others to be strong in this area. In fact, Forbes ranks us 35th overall but 46th in terms of regulatory environment. It's time to make it easier to do business here, not harder. I look forward to learning how we can make things better, especially for small businesses."

Rep Patrick Abrami (R-Stratham) Vice Chair of the House Business Caucus as well as Vice Chair of the Ways and Means Committee added, "It is up to government to help create a positive environment for businesses to thrive. It is the risk takers among us with ideas that create business and thus jobs for our citizens. The role of government is to regulate in a way that promotes honest competition. Any regulations should be applied in a way that is efficient for both government as well as business."

The NH House Business Caucus is a non-partisan group of State Representatives, focused on evaluating and supporting legislation to promote job creation through strong, responsible business growth and success. Since their inception 4 years ago the group has successfully helped pass numerous pro-business bills into law.

There will be a Republican Caucus on Wednesday
February 18th at 9:00am in Representative's Hall.

There will be House Session on
Wednesday, February 18th and Thursday, February 19th at 10:00am (if necessary)

PRELIMINARY TALKING POINTS ON GOVERNOR'S BUDGET ADDRESS

- **The Governor's Budget calls for total state spending to skyrocket to \$11.5 Billion.**
- **That's a 9% increase in spending (total funds), costing taxpayers nearly \$1 Billion.**
- Governor Hassan would pay for this massive spending increase with new taxes on drivers, smokers, and businesses.
- Governor Hassan's budget would increase the tobacco tax by 21 cents.
- Even after increasing the gas tax last year, she wants NH drivers to keep paying more by **increasing vehicle registration fees.**
 - Under her proposed budget, vehicle registration fees would go up 35 percent.
- The Governor is reintroducing "reasonable compensation" business tax language that will result in a **\$44 million tax increase on businesses.**
- The Governor is including **\$12 million** to be able to cover Medicaid Expansion costs through 2017.
- **The Governor's revenue estimates are \$229 million higher than the bi-partisan estimates adopted by the House Ways & Means committee.**
- The increase is in part due to these tax and fee hikes, but we need to be sure they aren't over-inflated like we've seen in previous Democratic budget proposals.
- Republicans have pledged to build a budget based on sound revenue estimates that does not raise taxes or fees. The Governor's proposal appears to be a stark departure from these goals.
- The people of New Hampshire should expect a much different approach from the House of Representatives. We look forward to discussing how we will move New Hampshire forward while living within our means, without overspending and without burdensome tax and fee increases.

House Majority Leader Comments on Minimum Wage Bills

CONCORD – House Majority Leader Jack Flanagan (R-Brookline) offered the following comments relative to the four House Bills dealing with raising the minimum wage in New Hampshire that had a public hearing before the House Labor Committee.

House Majority Leader Jack Flanagan (R-Brookline)

“These proposals have the potential to negatively affect our job climate in New Hampshire and could threaten the viability of many small and medium sized businesses especially in the hospitality industry, which many workers in our state depend on. For many small employers, a government mandated wage increase of up to 114% is just not affordable, and they may have to reduce their overall number of employees or raise prices to compensate. In an economy that is still in recovery, this is not a viable option.”

“Raising the minimum wage could also reduce or eliminate job opportunities for our young workers who rely on entry level, part time, or seasonal jobs for valuable work experience.”

“The New Hampshire business community is compassionate and more than capable of making reasonable decisions that best suits the needs of their employees and the viability of their businesses. They know what it takes to attract and retain employees.”

“Republicans aren’t against higher wages. We are proponents of creating the economic conditions for businesses to thrive to ensure everyone has the opportunity to find a good paying job. Government mandates do exactly the opposite.”

UPCOMING BILL HEARINGS

Here are some of the bill hearings coming up next week:

HB672, establishing a state bank.

HA1, for the removal of certain state officials in the department of education.

HB500, repealing the prohibition on the use of silencing devices for taking wildlife.

HB402, establishing the Franklin Partin right-to-work act.

HB673, establishing a sales and use tax.

HB681, increasing the marriage license fees.

HB650, requiring background checks for commercial firearms sales.

HB582, repealing the license requirement for carrying a concealed pistol or revolver.

COMING UP IN SESSION

HB686, establishing a single payer health care system and making an appropriation therefor.

HB215, relative to school building aid grant payments.

HB675, relative to eligibility for in-state tuition rates at the university system of New Hampshire and the community college system of New Hampshire.

HB677, prohibiting the use of public funds for abortion services.

HB407, prohibiting the state and political subdivisions from acquiring military-equipped vehicles or equipment which are not readily available in an open national commercial market.

HB208, repealing the New Hampshire regional greenhouse gas initiative program.

HB387, relative to motor vehicle inspections.