

Republican Review

A Publication of the New Hampshire House Majority Office

REPUBLICAN AGENDA ITEMS APPROVED BY HOUSE

Democrat Agenda Bills Soundly Defeated

CONCORD - House Republicans scored many valuable wins this week after two marathon session days on Wednesday and Thursday. On issues ranging from education to the second amendment, the Republican majority remained focused and united on agenda items - and even drew over some votes from reasonable Democrats.

Taxation

House Democrat sponsored HB673, a bill that would have established a sales tax in New Hampshire was defeated by an overwhelming majority, 355-15. In reaction House Republican Whip, Rep. Dick Hinch said, "Good riddance. A large part of the New Hampshire economy depends on our unique tax environment. Removing incentives for consumers to choose to spend their money here would hurt our border communities, our tourism industry and countless other businesses that engage in commerce that would have been taxable under this bill. The New Hampshire Advantage, our lack of a sales or income tax, is something House Republicans cherish and will fight to preserve. This bill would have only grown government on the backs of consumers." The only votes for the bill were cast by Democrats.

Second Amendment

House Democrat sponsored HB650, a bill that would have made commercial sales of firearms without a background check illegal and punishable by law. In reaction Deputy Speaker Gene Chandler said, "New Hampshire ranks among the safest states in America and the vast majority of gun owners in New Hampshire are honest, law abiding citizens. This bill was an unnecessary attempt to solve a non-existent problem in our state. Those with criminal intent already circumvent existing laws to obtain firearms. Placing new restrictions and mandates on certain firearms sales will only impede the rights of law abiding gun owners and dealers."

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<p style="text-align: center;">STATS OF THE WEEK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 100% of House Republicans voted against a sales tax (HB673) ● 97% of House Republicans voted against more firearms regulation (HB650) ● 100% of House Republicans voted to support local control of education standards (HB276) ● 98% of House Republicans voted to increase charter school funding (HB653) 	<p>The next House session will be Wednesday, March 25th at 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>The House will hold a continuing education seminar Wednesday, March 18th at 1:00 p.m. in Reps Hall.</p> <p>The House Finance Committee will hold a budget briefing Monday, March 30th from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. in Reps Hall.</p>											
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Education

Several major pieces of legislation we passed by the House this week that enabled school choice and local control, two key points in the House Republican agenda.

HB563 increased funding for public charter schools by \$4.7million. The bill passed by a vote of 222-116. Of the 222 votes in favor, several were Democrats.

In reaction to the victory, on behalf of the Republican Office, Rep. Hinch said, "Public charter schools deserve our support and investment. These schools are an important part of the education landscape in New Hampshire, and this increase in funding will ensure they continue to be an option for New Hampshire families."

We want to ensure that parents have the opportunity to send their children to a school that best suits their individual needs. This bill provides a modest increase in funding and would indexes future increases which will keep our promise to promote innovation in education."

There were also a number of bills dealing with curriculum, standards and testing, including HB276, a bill that provides that school districts shall not be required to adopt the common core standards. The bill passed by a vote of 225-130.

"House Republicans will always support greater local control of education curriculum and standards. If a local district decides to adopt a different or better set of guidelines for their students, this bill protects their ability to do that. This is truly an effort to preserve local control from the ever-encroaching federal department of education's controlling footprint. Parents and local school boards should be empowered to make decisions to best suit the needs of their students and children," said Rep. Rick Ladd (R-Haverhill), chairman of the House Education Committee.

Related to federal mandates, the House also passed HB578, a bill that prohibits the state board of education from adopting rules that require a school district to comply with a federally mandated curriculum, method of instruction, or statewide assessment program which is not fully paid by federal funds. HB578 passed by a vote of 204-136

Business & Labor Issues

The House Labor Committee had its hands full this week with several bills on the regular calendar dealing with mandates on businesses, including bills that would have raised the minimum wage (HB392, HB648), mandated paid sick leave (HB600), and mandated what criteria can be used in the hiring process (HB365, HB496). House Republican Dick Hinch, on behalf of the Majority Office said:

"Employers in New Hampshire should be able to use any reasonable criteria they see fit when reviewing qualifications of employees. A prohibition on using certain important measures in reviewing the qualifications of job applicants would take a valuable tool away from employers and open the door for costly litigation."

"These types of 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. 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."

In addition to these victories, the House also passed HB658, a bill prohibits collective bargaining agreements that require employees to join a labor union, commonly referred to as Right to Work.

AYOTTE TO HEADLINE HOUSE REPUBLICAN FUNDRAISER

CONCORD - The Committee to Elect House Republicans PAC announced this week that Senator Kelly Ayotte would be the featured guest at a fundraising reception to be held Wednesday, April 8th.

Tickets for the event are \$75 and are available on the Committee to Elect House Republicans website, ElectHouseRepublicans.com.

The event will be held from 5:00pm-8:00pm at Makris Lobster and Steak House in Concord, NH.

The PAC, chaired by Deputy Speaker Gene Chandler, is the official political action committee of the NH House Republicans with the purpose of promoting the NH House Republican agenda and raise money for the benefit of helping GOP House candidates in upcoming special elections and in November 2016.

"We're honored that Senator Ayotte is willing to take time out of her busy schedule to discuss the important issues she is working on in Washington," said Chandler, "With her help we plan on building a base of funds we can draw upon to help our candidates in upcoming special elections and lay the foundation of our campaign for 2016 to retain the majority in the New Hampshire House."

IMPORTANT DATES

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

March 31 - Rockingham Dist. 32 Special Election - Primary Election Day

April 2- Crossover

April 28 - Rockingham Dist. 13 Special Election - General Election Day

April 30- Last day to report on Senate Bills going to a second committee

May 7- Last day to act on Senate Bills going to a second committee

May 19 - Rockingham Dist. 32 Special Election - General Election Day

May 28 - Last day to report all remaining SBs. Last day to report list of retained SBs

June 4 - Last day to act on SBs

OBAMACARE MANDATES BACKFIRING ON STATE EMPLOYEES

This week, the Union Leader pointed out an unfortunate situation unfolding within state government. Several dozen state employees may lose their job as a result of the Affordable Care Act's mandated employer sponsored health care coverage if an employee works more than 30 hours a week.

According to the article, as of January, the state now acts as a single employer, rather than individual agencies acting as separate employers. As a result, people who may work part time for two agencies would now have their time aggregated, and in some cases their aggregate total exceeds the ACA threshold. These positions are not funded to provide benefits, and as a result, employees are being laid off in favor of new part-time employees without this conflict.

The change to single-employer status also affects consideration for overtime pay. No longer can an hourly employee work 25 hours for one agency and 20 for another without qualifying for overtime. As a result, agencies are asking employees to limit hours or chose one job over another.

[For more information see UL article: "Two paydays backfire for NH workers", published 3/10/2015](#)

SESSION RECAP

HB547 - reestablishing the exemption from property taxation for telecommunications poles and conduits. (Passed 205-162)

HB551 - relative to preventing diversion of business income to tax havens. (Tabled)

HB 548 - establishing the federally-facilitated health exchange as the health exchange for New Hampshire. (Killed 237-131)

HB403 - repealing the law relative to providing certain parameters for access to reproductive health care facilities. (Passed 170-159)

HB299 - prohibiting voting by the House of Representatives for the speaker of the house on organizational convening day to be by secret ballot. (Killed 271-69)

HB609 - prohibiting hydraulic fracturing for natural gas and oil production. (Killed 254-81)

HB618 - relative to penalties for the possession of marijuana and relative to the cultivation of marijuana plants (Passed 297-67)

HB 560 - including a fetus in the definition of "another" for the purpose of certain criminal offenses. (Passed 208-155)

HB426 - relative to the prohibition on the use of mobile electronic devices while driving. (Killed 214-136)

HB646 - allowing public bodies or agencies to charge for the costs of retrieval of public records under the right-to-know law. (Tabled)

HB349 - relative to state buffers for projects requiring wetland permits. (Tabled)



Rep. Don LeBrun (R-Nashua), Vice Chair of the House HHS committee, stopped by the Majority Office on Friday donning his St. Patrick's Day attire - every shade of green including clover leaf eyeglasses.

Happy St. Patrick's Day, Everyone!

HOUSE BILL STATUS COUNTS*

PASSED (NO AMENDMENT)

88

PASSED WITH AMENDMENT

115

INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE

275

TABLED

22

RETAINED

100

INDEFINITELY POSTPONED

1

*THROUGH 3/12/2015

GOT NEWS?

We want to highlight the great things our Republican legislators are doing in their districts and communities. If you spot a story, or have an idea for us to cover, please call or email!

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