

# Republican Review

A Publication of the New Hampshire House Majority Office

## SPEAKER JASPER STATEMENT ON PASSAGE OF HOUSE BUDGET

"I was confident from the first day that I became speaker that Republicans would coalesce and come together on the important issues and today is a good example of that. When it came to issues that matter the most to Republicans and their constituents we were able to work together and successfully come up with a budget that we can now send over to the Senate. In the 11 budgets that I have voted on during my time in the legislature I have never seen one that is perfect and today's budget is no different. We look forward to what the Senate now does with this budget and will be ready to work with them during the committees of conference."

## MAJORITY LEADER STATEMENT ON PASSAGE OF HOUSE BUDGET

"The House Finance committee did a tremendous job working through the intricacies of state government to identify what we could afford with the revenues we have. In the end we have a fiscally responsible budget that will ensure state government continues to meet the needs of our population, and provide services to those most in need. Republicans were elected to majorities in the legislature, in part, to hold the line on spending, slow the growth of government, and stop new or increased taxes. This House budget achieves those objectives. House Republicans stood united in support of our core principles."

## NHGOP CHAIRMAN HORN STATEMENT ON PASSAGE OF HOUSE BUDGET

"House Republicans deserve credit for crafting a responsible budget that funds core services, lives within our means and doesn't raise taxes on working families. This plan relies on realistic revenue estimates and offers a serious start to the budget process.

"For the second straight budget cycle, Governor Hassan has presented a flawed and unworkable proposal that increases state spending by \$1 billion and crushes small businesses with painful tax increases. Hassan continues to prove that she is unable to provide fiscal leadership for our state and incapable of balancing the state budget.

"Without any leadership coming from the corner office, House and Senate Republicans are solely responsible for preserving New Hampshire's fiscal integrity. The plan passed today by House Republicans is a responsible first step toward finalizing a sound budget that will protect our low tax environment from Governor Hassan's reckless agenda."

### STATS OF THE WEEK

**96%** of Republicans voted for HB1.  
**88%** of Republicans voted for HB2.

Year-to-date, state unrestricted revenue is above plan by **\$33.4 million (2%)**.

In HB1, appropriations for USNH remain at **100% of their current level.**

In HB1, appropriations for Community Colleges are **increased by 1.55% vs. current level.**

The next House session will be **Wednesday, April 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.**

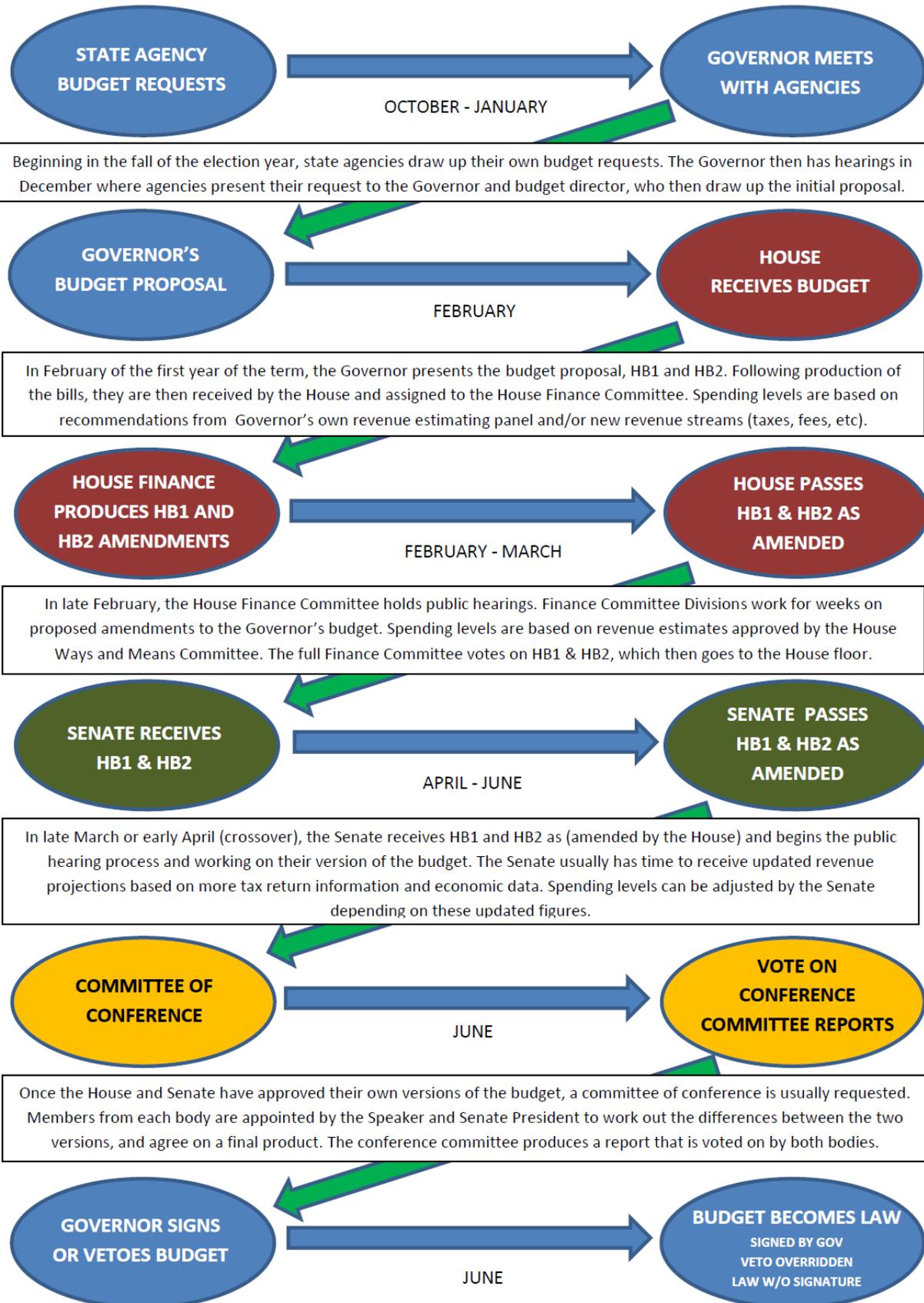
There will be a Republican Caucus **Wednesday, April 15<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.**

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During calls and emails regarding the proposed House budget, many members had questions about the budget process, including whether or not what we voted on will be in the final budget. We designed the below flow chart to illustrate the budget process as it usually plays out from October through June. There are several more steps in the process before we vote on the budget that will become law.





You're invited!

**Committee to Elect House  
Republicans Fundraising Reception**  
With Special Guest  
**U.S. Senator Kelly Ayotte (R-NH)**



**Wednesday, April 8, 2015  
5:00pm – 8:00pm**

**Makris Lobster**  
354 Sheep Davis Road,  
Concord, NH 03301

**\$75 per person  
(\$25 for current State Representatives)**

Bronze Sponsor – \$250 (2 tickets)  
Silver Sponsor – \$500 (4 tickets)  
Gold Sponsor – \$1,000 (8 tickets)

Cash Bar  
Hors d'oeuvres & Appetizers

RSVP's are appreciated to  
Kerry Marsh

[kerry@spectrummarketing.com](mailto:kerry@spectrummarketing.com)  
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to pay securely online.](#)

## FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN NEAL KURK ON HB1

Below is an excerpt from Rep. Neal Kurk's floor speech on the *Ought to Pass as Amended* motion on HB1.

*"Like most of us in our personal lives, we don't have the option of doing everything we would like to do; we are forced to do those things that we can afford to do."*

*"I made the decision along with the rest of you that we would not raise taxes on the citizens of this state. Given that constraint, we had to decide how best to allocate the funds that were available."*

*"This budget does that. It is balanced. It is balanced within our existing revenues. It provides reasonably, not as adequately or generously as one might have liked, but reasonably for the needs of the people in this state, including our most vulnerable populations."*

*"It is the kind of budget, which I think, at this stage in New Hampshire's economy, is the kind of budget that the people of this state expect from us. I believe we have delivered."*

Come and meet our State Representative Republican nominee in Rockingham District 32 who will be joining us at our upcoming fundraising reception in Concord on April 8th with Sen. Kelly Ayotte.

**Yvonne Dean – Bailey**



Your contribution to this event will go to help Yvonne win on May 19 and keep Maureen Mann's liberal agenda out of Concord!

## **ROCKINGHAM DIST 32 DEMOCRAT MAUREEN MANN HAS A FRIGHTENING VOTING RECORD [PART 2]**

The special election in Rockingham District 32, which comprises the towns of Candia, Deerfield, Northwood and Nottingham, is scheduled for May 19, 2015. In a previous Republican Review, we informed you of Maureen Mann's frightening voting record during the 2013 session. This week, in light of the primary results on Tuesday, we wanted to bring you her voting record from the 2014 session.

### **2014 Roll Call Vote #11 OTP/A on HB544 – Rep. Mann voted Yea**

A vote of Yea indicates support for Medicaid expansion, as part of Obamacare, which would eventually lead to tens of millions of dollars in costs to the state each year, and could result in the need for a sales or income tax to pay for it. On the first session day of 2014, House Democrats offered a surprise amendment to HB544, a bill that originally dealt with health insurance exchanges. The amendment contained language to add on to the bill a full Medicaid expansion package, as part of Obamacare. Not only did most Republicans object to the policy, we objected to the improper method by which they brought it forward in the form of an amendment unrelated to the underlying bill. This was an attempt to ram this legislation through without proper process.

### **2014 Roll Call Vote #16 ITL on HB350 – Rep. Mann voted Yea**

A vote of Yea indicates support for increasing mandates on New Hampshire job creators by making it illegal to discriminate against the unemployed. Nothing scares away businesses or creates more opportunity for trial lawyers than laws like HB350. This bill creates a new protected class; unemployed people. It prohibits employers from making reasonable decisions as they see appropriate for their businesses and opens up the door for litigation. Our business community is fair and the majority of our business owners are compassionate. This bills would unfairly put them in a defensive position if they chose not to hire someone who happened to be unemployed.

### **2014 Roll Call Vote #23 OTP/A on HB562 – Rep. Mann voted Yea**

A vote of Yea indicates support for excessive restrictions on the practice of title loans and could cost jobs and drive companies that provide this service out of the state. On the 15th of January, the House voted on a bill that would severely curtail the ability of certain lenders to provide credit to New Hampshire citizens. Last term, the House passed a bill that repealed the prohibition on automobile title loans and overrode a veto by Governor Lynch. This allowed businesses to reopen, recreating real jobs, and allowed some New Hampshire consumers to receive credit and/or rebuild their credit using loans using their vehicle titles. This term, under Democrat control, opponents of this business practice introduced HB562 to again clamp down on title loans.

### **2014 Roll Call Vote #30 OTP/A on HB474 – Rep. Mann voted Yea**

A vote of Yea indicates support for expanding eligibility for instate tuition for children of illegal immigrants. This bill would allow children of illegal immigrants in New Hampshire to receive instate tuition at the university system of NH.

### **2014 Roll Call Vote #68 Floor Amendment to HB1589 – Rep. Mann voted Nay**

A vote of Nay indicates support for excessive restrictions on otherwise law abiding gun owners and instituted a universal background check system for firearms transfers. HB1589 was originally a bill that would have placed excessive restrictions on otherwise law abiding gun owners and instituted a universal background check system for firearms transfers. The floor amendment sought to change the bill to a study committee to take a look at whether or not our State's low crime rate was a result of our current, less restrictive gun laws.

### **2014 Roll Call Vote #84 OTP on HB1403 – Rep. Mann voted Yea**

A vote of Yea indicates support to raise the minimum wage, and tie future increases to the CPI, tying the hands of employers and costing jobs. HB1403 is a bill that reestablishes a state minimum wage right now we just follow the federal rate as well as ties future increases of the minimum wage to the unpredictable consumer price index. We respectfully disagree that mandating a higher minimum wage would result in economic prosperity. Business owners should be able to set wages they believe is in the best interests of their business, and is sufficient to attract and retain qualified employees. This bill could have the effect of employers eliminating jobs and more specifically, eliminating opportunity for part time and entry level positions that many of our citizens and young people utilize to learn important job skills. Lastly, tying future increases to the CPI is unsafe. Even in a down economy, the CPI can rise. This sets a dangerous precedent and unfair mandate on employers.

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#### **2014 Roll Call Vote #129 OTP/ A on HB1409 – Rep. Mann voted Yea**

A vote of Yea indicates support forcing rental property owners to accept recipients of rental assistance and other tenants whose situations could endanger the wellbeing of other tenants. This law expands the law against discrimination to prohibit housing discrimination against recipients of rental assistance and victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking. While we have the highest hopes for folks who do receive assistance, and we have the deepest of concern for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking, we believe landlords should be able to make their best decisions based on individual cases, without government mandates that could leave the door open for litigation.

#### **2014 Roll Call Vote #140 OTP/ A on HB1411 – Rep. Mann voted Yea**

A Yea vote indicates support to spend more and save less, grow government versus help our state's financial security. This bill spends some the 2013 budget surplus by appropriating \$7m to the HHS department. This is bad for 2 reasons. First, the bill reopens the budget to give more money to one department. This is highly uncustomary and sets bad precedent. Second, the Republican position is to deposit ALL of the surplus funds in to the Rainy Day fund. Our rainy day fund is dreadfully low and according to Standard & Poor's, was one reason why they downgraded out bond rating. With just \$9.3 million in reserves, New Hampshire ranks lowest in New England.

#### **2014 Roll Call Vote #147 OTP/ A on HB1101 – Rep. Mann voted Yea**

A Yea vote indicates a vote to **kill** the effort to reform retirement system overpayments, protect taxpayers and protect the pension system for future retirees. This bill would have examined the recovery of overpayments by the retirement system and establishing a committee to study the policies and procedures of the retirement system for benefits wrongfully paid. Recently, it was discovered that some NHRS beneficiaries were receiving excess payments. Somehow, the resolution was not only that these beneficiaries could keep these overpayments, but that the state had to pay them more. This is unacceptable. Our pension fund is dangerously underfunded as it is. We cannot continue to be in the position of not being able to recover overpayments and should be able to examine mechanisms by which we can protect taxpayers AND future pensioners.

#### **2014 Roll Call Vote #157 OTP/A on HB1570 – Rep. Mann voted Yea**

A Yea vote indicates support for a new fee on paint that will increase costs for homeowners and contractors. This bill establishes a paint stewardship program, which imposes a new per gallon fee on paint. Not only will this increase the cost of paint and home improvement, the bill should have gone to the House's tax review committee, Ways & Means, before the final vote. It did not, and was passed without further public hearing.

#### **2014 Roll Call Vote #159 OTP/ A on HB1635 – Rep. Mann voted Yea**

A Yea vote indicates support to reopen the budget to spend a surplus we're not sure we'll have. HB1635 not only opens up the budget once again, but this time we're spending money we don't have yet by proposing to use funds from the current budget surplus, which is only anticipated, not guaranteed. This is a disturbing trend that most New Hampshire citizens wouldn't consider for their own household budgets.

#### **2014 Roll Call Vote #180 OTP/ A on SB413 – Rep. Mann voted Yea**

A vote of Yea indicates support for a version Medicaid expansion, as part of Obamacare. This bill, although an improvement from what House Democrats attached to HB544 (above) uses Obamacare Medicaid dollars to provide private health insurance to low income citizens. The majority of House Republicans weren'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 which can't seem to keep many promises.

**UPCOMING HEARINGS**

**SB169 – relative to permissible uses of electronic benefit transfer (EBT) cards**

April 8, 11:00am, LOB 205

This bill expands restrictions on the use of EBT cards. The bill also directs the department of health and human services to report on the adoption and implementation of restrictions on the use of EBT cards.

**SB 179, relative to eligibility to vote**

April 7, 10:30am, LOB 308

This bill expands the definition of domicile for voting purposes and requires that a voter be a resident of the state for at least 30 days. This bill also modifies the voter registration form.

**SB 113 - relative to video lottery and table gaming**

April 7, 10:00am, LOB 202.

Allows for the selection and operation of 2 casinos in New Hampshire, including the operation of video slot machines and table games.

**SB 232 - exempting certain leases from the real estate transfer tax.**

April 9, 11:00am, LOB 202.

This bill exempts ground leases from the real estate transfer tax.

**SB 227, relative to calculating the cost of an adequate education.**

April 7, 11:00am, LOB 207.

This bill makes various changes to the method of calculating, distributing, and reporting education grants to municipalities, and repeals the provisions relating to differentiated aid.

**IMPORTANT DATES**

**April 8** – Committee to Elect House Republicans Fundraiser with Sen. Kelly Ayotte

**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

**HOUSE BILL STATUS COUNTS\***

PASSED (NO AMENDMENT)

**102**

PASSED WITH AMENDMENT

**119**

INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE

**276**

TABLED

**23**

RETAINED

**102**

INDEFINITELY POSTPONED

**1**

\*THROUGH 4/1/2015

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