

Republican Review

A Publication of the New Hampshire House Majority Office

DISPELLING RUMORS ON HOUSE BUDGET HHS SPENDING

Despite what our partisan opponents may like the public to believe, the House budget proposal passed on April 1 maintains reasonable levels of spending for our state’s Department of Health and Human Services and the critical services they provide.

38.6% of the House budget goes to HHS

Over one third of all state spending (\$4.314 billion out of \$11.159 billion) is dedicated to HHS programs and services. This is consistent with prior biennia, which have spent between 35 and 39% of the total budget on HHS. The Governor’s proposed budget for FY16-17 spends 39.17% on HHS.

The House budget spends over 5% more on HHS than our current budget

Some of the increase is attributable to federal changes in Medicaid eligibility and increases in care as a result of the mental health settlement, but overall, total dollars being spent on HHS programs and services are up by a respectable amount.

The House budget spends an avg. of \$24,000 per benefit recipient

Using the latest caseload numbers available from the Department, there were 174,235 unduplicated persons receiving benefits from one or more HHS programs. The average is roughly \$24,000 per recipient, or roughly \$12,000 per year.

The House budget spends \$545 million more on HHS than the Dem FY08-09 budget

Just 8 years ago, the Democrat majority in the House and Senate passed a budget that spent more than half a billion dollars less on HHS than the House Republican budget proposes to spend.

STATS OF THE WEEK

AA+

NH’s bond credit rating with Fitch. Out of the 37 states the agency rates, 13 have higher ratings, 13 have the same rating and 11 have a lower rating.

Aa1

NH’s bond credit rating with Moody’s. Out of the 39 states the agency rates, 13 have higher ratings, 12 have the same rating and 14 have a lower rating.

AA

NH’s bond credit rating with Moody’s. Out of the 39 states the agency rates, 21 have higher ratings, 13 have the same rating and 5 have a lower rating.

The next House session will be Wednesday, April 29th at 10:00 a.m.

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SB30 HEADS TO HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Adjustments to Current Law Aim to Benefit Balsams Development, Coos County

Senate Bill 30 will have a public hearing before the House Finance Committee on Tuesday, April 21 at 1:00pm. SB30 proposes to modify several areas of existing law in order to better facilitate the Balsams redevelopment project.

The first phase of the Balsams project is expected to cost \$140 million. The developers, Dixville Capital, LLC, are seeking \$28 million from the state in the form of bond financing. The balance of the funding would be through private loans and investors. State commitments would not be final until private investments are secured.

Currently the Business Finance Authority (BFA) has the authority to issue only a finite dollar amount of bond guarantees. In order to meet the needs of the project, the bond financing level would be raised to \$115 million (an increase of \$20 million), and increasing the amount per guarantee to \$28 million (an increase of \$3 million). The last time the levels were adjusted was in 1994.

The amendment to SB30 (1352h), which is sponsored by the bi-partisan Coos County Delegation, would replace the existing bill in order to achieve the goals this project, and possibly facilitate future similar opportunities.

In addition to modifications to BFA capacities, the bill (as amended) also permits for redevelopment districts in unincorporated places, like those in the Dixville area, that lack the ability to set up betterment districts on their own. Property within the district will be subject to an assessment that will pay the debt service related to the bond, thereby minimizing exposure to the State.

The Department of Employment Security reports that as of February, Coos County's unemployment rate stands at 6.4%, compared to the statewide rate of 3.9%.

Economic studies estimate that the redevelopment project would create over 500 jobs and the developers hope to create over 500 permanent jobs at the facilities once the first phase of development is complete and as many as 1700 permanent jobs once the fully developed \$320 million facility is complete in 2024.

SB30 is enabling legislation that would open the door for the BFA and its board of directors to receive and review an application by Dixville Capital. There are many levels of scrutiny the project would need to go through before final approval.

WHAT IS THE “BFA”?

“The [Business Finance Authority](#) (BFA) was created in 1992 to foster economic development and create employment in New Hampshire. The BFA accomplishes these objectives by working with New Hampshire's banking, business, and economic development sectors to develop and implement programs which expand the availability of credit in the state. Our customers include manufacturers, small and medium-sized businesses, health providers, and non-profit educational and cultural organizations.”

(From the BFA website)

WHAT IS “THE BALSAMS”?

The Balsams Grand Resort, located in [Dixville, NH](#), originated as guest house in the mid-19th century. By 1914, its capacity had grown to 400 guests and was renowned as one of the area's Grand Hotels. The facility, which included the hotel, ski area and 2 golf courses, closed in 2011.

The Ballot Room of The Balsams is where Dixville Notch's presidential primary votes are cast just after midnight on the day of the New Hampshire primaries. These votes are the first to be cast, counted, and reported nationally.

The Balsams was added to the National Register of Historic places in 2002.

SESSION RECAP

SB 101 – prohibiting the state from requiring implementation of common core standards.

This bill prohibits the department of education and the state board of education from implementing the common core standards in any school or school district in this state.

Passed 202-138

SB 195 – encouraging instruction in cursive handwriting and memorization of multiplication tables.

This bill encourages schools to provide instruction in cursive handwriting and the memorization of multiplication tables.

Passed 186-155

SB 181 – relative to registration fees for hunter education programs of the fish and game department.

This bill allows the fish and game department to establish a registration fee paid by applicants to a hunter education program. This bill is a request of the fish and game department.

Tabled 188-155

SB 149 – relative to nonpublic sessions under the right-to-know law.

This bill allows a school board to consider certain contracts in nonpublic session under the right-to-know law under certain circumstances.

Killed - voice vote

For a complete list of Majority Office Press Releases and back issues of the Republican Review, visit NHHouseGOP.com

IMPORTANT DATES

April 28 - Rockingham Dist. 13 Special Election

April 30- Last day to report on Senate Bills going to a 2nd committee

May 7- Last day to act on Senate Bills going to a 2nd committee

May 19 - Rockingham Dist. 32 Special Election

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

June 4 - Last day to act on Senate Bills

June 11 – Last day to form Committees of Conference

June 18 – Last day to sign Committee of Conference Reports

June 25 – Last day to act on Committee of Conference Reports

#FITN Fun Facts

The last time NH voted for Vice Presidential candidates as part of the Presidential Primary was in the 2008 election.

The winner of the Republican 2008 primary for Vice President was former NH State Senator Jack Barnes.

We no longer vote for Vice President because in 2009, Sen. Barnes [co-sponsored HB35, a bill](#) that would eliminate the vice president preference on the ballot. It passed both the House and Senate by a voice vote and was signed by the Governor.

IN MEMORIUM

Today, Rockingham County Sheriff Michael Downing (R-Salem) passed away after an illness. He served as state representative from 1996-2002 and state senator from 2006-2010.

We extend our thoughts and prayers to the Downing family. We will keep you updated as more information on services becomes available.

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