

Republican Review

A Publication of the New Hampshire House Majority Office

SENATE REVENUE ESTIMATES: HOW THEY GET A BIGGER PIE

On Tuesday, the Senate Ways & Means committee finalized their best guess of what incoming revenue will be for the next biennium, information that will provide the final set of parameters the Senate Finance committee will have to work in as their budget negotiations continue.

The Senate has the ability to review updated tax filings and economic data that includes what are often referred to as “big tax months” of March and April. In some cases, like this year, their estimates are notably higher than the House’s, which will allow them to spend more money in their version of the state budget.

When looking at general and education fund revenue, the Senate Ways & Means figures exceed the House Ways & Means estimates by \$118.5 million, an increase of \$47.2 in FY16 (+2.11%) and \$71.2 million in FY17 (+3.15%).

Included in these figures is a \$28.5 million bump in business tax revenue over the biennium, a \$21.5 million boost in Interest & Dividends tax revenue and a \$16.7 million hike in Meals & Rooms tax revenue.

The Senate Finance Committee is using this new revenue bandwidth to increase spending in certain areas of the budget including HHS. The House Finance committee put forward the best product available with the revenue estimates they had at the time. Characterizations that the Senate is restoring House “cuts” are unfair since Senate has a bigger pie to work with. Final spending proposals will be worked out in committee of conference.

DEAN-BAILEY VICTORIOUS

Republican Yvonne Dean-Bailey was victorious on Tuesday’s special election in Rockingham Dist. 32, which includes the towns of Candia, Deerfield, Northwood, and Nottingham, after weeks of tireless campaigning.

Dean-Bailey won with approximately 52% of the vote, a 129 vote margin of victory, despite relentless and unfounded attacks on her by her opponent and the NH Democrat Party.

When the results came in Tuesday evening, New Hampshire Democrats immediately began their ineffective blame game as to why they couldn’t come up with the votes for their candidate, a well-known former House member. Meanwhile Republicans attributed Dean-Bailey’s victory to her work ethic, positive message, and solid fiscal conservative positions that resonate with voters.

The Republican caucus of the NH House looks forward to having Rep-Elect Dean-Bailey sworn in as soon as possible.



Dean-Bailey will be the 239th House Republican, and the youngest member of the caucus.

The next House session will be June 3, 2015 at 10am
There will be a Republican Caucus June 3rd at 9am in Reps Hall

STAT OF THE WEEK

717,870

The number of people employed in April 2015 in the State of NH, seasonally adjusted. [According to NHES](#), this is an increase of 9360 from April 2014.

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ROCKINGHAM 20 SPECIAL ELECTION**RIO TILTON WORKING
TOWARDS VICTORY**

Rio Tilton is the Republican candidate for the Special Election in Rockingham District 20 (Seabrook, Hampton Falls) and will need your help for the general election on July 7th.

Rio's opponent is former House member Elaine Andrews-Ahearn, who sponsored legislation such as universal background checks on private firearm sales, which was strongly opposed by House Republicans in 2013.

The NHGOP will be coordinating grassroots voter outreach efforts. To learn more about volunteer opportunities, call Todd at 603-225-9341 or via email at todd@nhgop.org.

**Mark Your Calendars:
Hot Dogs & Ice Cream!**

The Speaker's Annual Ice Cream Social will be June 3rd during the lunch recess on the State House Plaza.

Rep. John Burt's 4th Annual Hot Dog Day will also be June 3rd during lunch on the State House Plaza. Hot Dog Day will be sponsored by The Cochecho Valley Humane Society.

Be sure to stop by for both events!

WHAT IS DIVESTITURE?**WHAT WILL IT MEAN FOR NH RATEPAYERS?**

JOIN US FOR AN IMPORTANT CONTINUING EDUCATION SESSION

Wednesday, May 27, 2015

11:00 am to 1:00 pm

Representatives Hall, State House, Concord, NH

Briefing on SB 221

(relative to electric rate reduction financing.)

IMPORTANT DATES

May 28	Last day to report all remaining 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

NH Supreme Court Upholds Court Ruling on Voter ID

Last week we reported to you about legislation preserving the integrity of our elections. Along the same lines, last Friday the NH Supreme Court upheld a ruling from a lower court that struck down provisions of the 2012 Voter ID law, SB 318.

The part of the law that was in question was a section that would appear on a voter registration form that said if they are domiciled in New Hampshire, they would be subject to NH laws that pertain to all NH residents, including registering their car in NH and obtaining a NH driver's license within 60 days of becoming a resident.

Citing the reasons of confusion and placing an undue burden on the voter, the unanimous NH Supreme Court's opinion said in part, "Accordingly, because the challenged language unreasonably burdens the fundamental right to vote, and because, even if we assume that the burden is not severe, the State has failed to advance a sufficiently weighty interest to justify the language, we affirm the trial court's determination that the challenged language violates Part I, Article 11 of the State Constitution."

[The full opinion can be found here.](#)

House Rules Committee Unanimously Approves Deadlines

On Tuesday the House Rules Committee unanimously approved filing deadlines for next session. The approved deadlines are in line with the dates and deadlines of previous years. The proposed dates will come before the full House as an amendment to House Rules.

Wednesday, September 2 – First day to file LSRs for 2016

Friday, September 18 – Last day to file LSRs (4:00pm)

Friday, October 30 – Last day to sign off LSRs (4:00pm)

Thursday, November 12 – Last day to report retained bills

Wednesday, January 6 – Last day to introduce House legislation

Senate Republicans Dip into Renewable Energy Fund to Fund More Critical Services

On Wednesday the Senate Republicans, voted to dip into the Renewable Energy Fund and use \$1.5 million to fund the NH division of Homeland Security.

The House version of the budget redirected \$50.8 million from the Renewable Energy Fund to the General Fund in order to help fund the Department of Transportation. The Renewable Energy Fund, under the Public Utilities Commission, distributes financial incentives to residents and businesses who install renewable technologies.

Important to note is that at the time the House Finance Committee was considering how to fund certain aspects of the state budget, including education funding, revenue estimates for the Renewable Energy Fund were much higher. Due to the ever changing electricity supply, by the time the Senate looked at the fund, the PUC determined that revenue to the fund would only be about \$24 million. Characterizations that the Senate restored the fund are misleading, because they could only rely on half of what the House could at the time.

According to [NHPR](#), Senate President Chuck Morse said, "You would like to create a new tax I would suppose but I am not supporting that. I am supporting money the state already has and living within our means. I will not support putting a new tax in place and the only alternative to this block is reducing homeland security."

Like the House, the Senate opted to use these funds, paid for indirectly by NH ratepayers, rather than institute a new tax or fee. Whether or not you agree with using dedicated funds for purposes other than their intended cause, most would agree that when prioritizing budget items, the House and Senate were justified. The House and Senate both realized that if they weren't able to use the REF, it may have required cuts to other areas. The House and Senate both realized there was a greater need to fund education grants, HHS programs and/or Homeland Security operations than to fund renewable energy projects at this period in time.

House Committee Passes EBT Reform Bill

On Tuesday the House HHS committee unanimously approved Senate Bill 169 as amended.

The committee amendment changes SB 169 to the House position, HB 219, which was passed by the full House in February on a voice vote, which expands restrictions on the use of EBT cards, and directs the department of health and human services to report on the adoption and implementation of restrictions on the use of EBT cards.

SB 169, as amended, will now go to a vote of the full House in June.

Memorial Day Message from Speaker Jasper

For those of you who may not know, Memorial Day was established as Decoration Day on May 5, 1868, by Major General John A. Logan, head of the Grand Army of the Republic, an organization of Union veterans.

According to the Office of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, this observance was to be on the 30th of May each year to decorate the graves of those who perished in the Civil War. The first large observance took place that year at Arlington National Cemetery where small American flags were placed on each grave.

The first large observance took place that year at Arlington National Cemetery where small American flags were placed on each grave. By the end of the 19th century, Memorial Day ceremonies were being held throughout the nation, and after World War I, the holiday was expanded to include the war dead from all American wars. Memorial Day, still often called "Decoration Day," was declared a national holiday by an Act of Congress which took effect in 1971, placing the holiday on the last Monday in May. In 2000, *The National Moment of Remembrance Act* was passed by Congress. As a result, all Americans are encouraged to pause at 3:00 p.m. on Memorial Day for a minute of silence "to remember and honor those who have died in service to the nation." I urge all of us to do the same.

SENATE: SPEAKER & SENATE PRESIDENT SHOULD BE ON USNH BOARD OF TRUSTEES

On Tuesday, members of the Senate Finance committee voted 4-2 to change the make-up of the USNH Board of Trustees, adding the Speaker of the House and Senate President as members.

According to their website:

“The USNH Board of Trustees is comprised of twenty-seven members, including eleven (11) appointed by the Governor and Council; six (6) elected by alumni; two (2) elected by students; and eight (8) who are members by virtue of their office (specifically, the Governor; the Commissioners of Education and Agriculture; the USNH Chancellor; and the four USNH Presidents – one from each of the component institutions).”

“The Board composition is stipulated by State law and is detailed in the USNH Charter, section 187-A: 13. State statute, RSA 187-A: 16, specifically defines the authority of the trustees stating in part that trustees shall have the management and control of all the property and affairs of the University System, Granite State College, Keene State College, Plymouth State University and the University of New Hampshire. Further, it is the intent of the general court that the trustees recognize and foster the unique character and educational mission of each institution.”

Disagreements between the legislature and the University System have been well publicized over the years, including disputes over funding, tuition, and capital projects, like using \$2.5 million in tax payer dollars to build lights at the UNH football stadium.

The USNH board may not embrace the proposal to add the Senate President and Speaker to their board, but many agree it may add a greater level of transparency and accountability to the board and how they utilize taxpayer dollars.

Legislative input on board membership is nothing out of the ordinary. In our neighboring state of Vermont, the legislature elects 9 of the 25 board members. In Maine, the legislature must approve the Governor's appointments. Currently in New Hampshire, the legislature has no real role in the process.

As it turns out, both the current Speaker and Senate President hold degrees from USNH institutions; UNH and Plymouth State, respectively.

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We want to highlight the great things our Republican legislators are doing in their home districts and communities.

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