

Republican Review

A Publication of the New Hampshire House Majority Office

HOUSE TO VOTE ON 3 GOP AGENDA RELATED BILLS

DIVESTITURE BILL HEADS TO FULL HOUSE VOTE

On Tuesday morning, the House Science, Technology & Energy Committee voted 18-1 to recommend SB221 ought to pass with amendment. House Republicans on the committee voted unanimously to support OTP/A. SB221, as amended, seeks to reduce the total costs paid by electricity ratepayers related to the generation portion of their bill.

The House held a continuing education seminar on SB221 for House members on Wednesday. Video of the session can be viewed online here: [video link](#). At the session there were several handouts that explain in detail several aspects of the bill, and attempt to answer several frequently asked questions.

The documents can be viewed by clicking the following links:

- [SB221 FAQ \(Bradley - Feltes\)](#)
- [SB221 FAQ \(Office of Consumer Advocate\)](#)
- [SB221 Facts and Figures \(Vose\)](#)

The bill will be before the full House on Wednesday.

For more on the content and context of the bill, turn to page 6.

WORKERS' COMP REFORM BILL MOVES FORWARD

Many in the New Hampshire business community will tell you workers' compensation insurance is costly. When Republicans took back the majority in the House in 2014, among many of our initiatives one was to make NH more business friendly. Many lawmakers signed on to efforts to reform the system in an effort to bring down the cost of workers' comp insurance and bring down the cost of doing business in New Hampshire.

After months of work, SB133 was amended and passed by the House Labor committee with language that many hope will set the parameters a more reasonable approach to workers' comp care. SB133 attempts to do this without imposing a fee schedule on providers, while utilizing insurance industry data to ensure costs for procedures are monitored and compared to state and thereby justifiable.

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ELECTION LAW REVAMPS SB179 FOLLOWING SUPCO RULING

Following the Supreme Court ruling that upheld a previous lower court ruling on *Guare v. State of New Hampshire* that struck down part of the voter registration the House Election Law committee voted on Wednesday to reconsider their previous vote on SB179. By a party line vote, they adopted a new amendment that helps target issues addressed by the court. *For more on the content and context of the bill, turn to page 4.*

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

<p>STAT OF THE WEEK</p> <p>The Senate's proposed budget is</p> <p>\$66 MILLION</p> <p>less than the Governor's proposed budget and</p> <p>\$99 MILLION</p> <p>more than the House passed budget</p>	<p>INDEX</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>PG</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>IMPORTANT DATES</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ANDREWS-AHEARN'S VOTING RECORD</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>UNH POLL: ISSUES, BUDGET & LEG.</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SB179 DETAIL & CONTEXT</td> <td>4-5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SB221 DETAIL & CONTEXT</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SB133 DETAIL & CONTEXT</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2016 FILING PERIOD</td> <td>7</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		PG	IMPORTANT DATES	2	ANDREWS-AHEARN'S VOTING RECORD	2	UNH POLL: ISSUES, BUDGET & LEG.	3	SB179 DETAIL & CONTEXT	4-5	SB221 DETAIL & CONTEXT	6	SB133 DETAIL & CONTEXT	7	2016 FILING PERIOD	7
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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 is a student at Great Bay Community college and an honors graduate of Winnacunnet High School. He is an employee at Brown’s Lobster Pound in Seabrook and involved in his church and other community efforts.

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.



ROCKINGHAM 20 SPECIAL ELECTION

ANDREWS-AHEARN’S VOTING RECORD: ANTI-GUN, ANTI-BUSINESS

One-Term Rep made her mark as activist legislator for liberal causes, unrepresentative of Rock. 20 voters

Rockingham 20’s Democrat candidate, former House member Elaine Andrews-Ahearn, has quite the record for her short legislative career. We have taken a look back at some of the key votes she made during the 2013-2014 session.

2013 Roll Call Vote #36 OTP on HB370- Rep. Andrews-Ahearn voted Yea

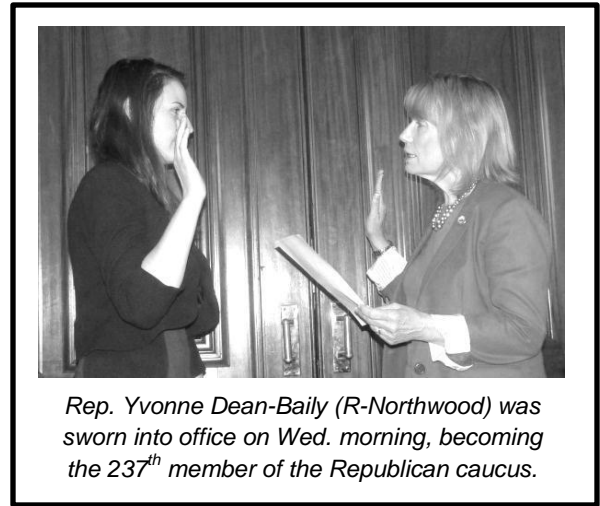
A vote of Yea indicates support to repeal the education choice scholarship program that allows businesses to make donations deductible from their business enterprise taxes that help provide scholarships to students to attend private and/or alternative schools. Choice and innovation in education allows for better education outcomes for our children. This program has helped dozens of families send their children to different schools that may better fit their aptitude or interests. While a court ruling has limited scholarships to just nonreligious schools, the scholarships help families who would otherwise not be able to afford private schools.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

<p>Mark Your Calendars: Hot Dogs & Ice Cream! WEDNESDAY JUNE 3rd</p>	<p>IMPORTANT DATES</p>
<p>The Speaker’s Annual Ice Cream Social will be June 3rd during the lunch recess on the State House Plaza.</p>	<p>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 July 7 Rockingham District 20 Special Election</p>
<p>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 Cocheco Valley Humane Society.</p> <p>Be sure to stop by for both events!</p>	<p><i>The following dates are proposed by the House Rules committee and will take effect when adopted by the full House.</i></p> <p>Sept 2 Proposed - First day to file LSRs for 2016 Sept 18 Proposed - Last day to file LSRs (4:00 pm) Oct 30 Proposed - Last day to sign off LSRs (4:00 pm) Nov 12 Proposed - Last day to report retained bills Jan 6 Proposed - Last day to introduce House legislation</p>

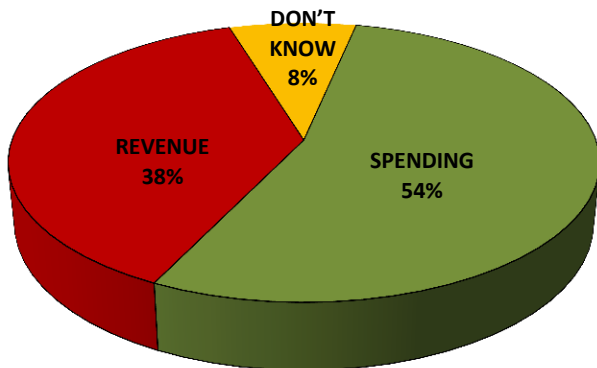
POLL: “JOBS JOBS JOBS”

According to the UNH Survey Center’s recently released Granite State Poll, although the New Hampshire economy continues to recover from the recession, the state’s economy and unemployment are still seen as the most important problem facing the state. Currently, 23% of New Hampshire adults say that jobs and the economy is the most important issue facing the state, followed by education (13%), the state budget (9%), health care (7%), and taxes (7%). Nine percent (9%) of Granite Staters also cited drug use as the most important problem facing the state.



Rep. Yvonne Dean-Baily (R-Northwood) was sworn into office on Wed. morning, becoming the 237th member of the Republican caucus.

Cause of Budget Concerns Among Registered Republicans & Independents



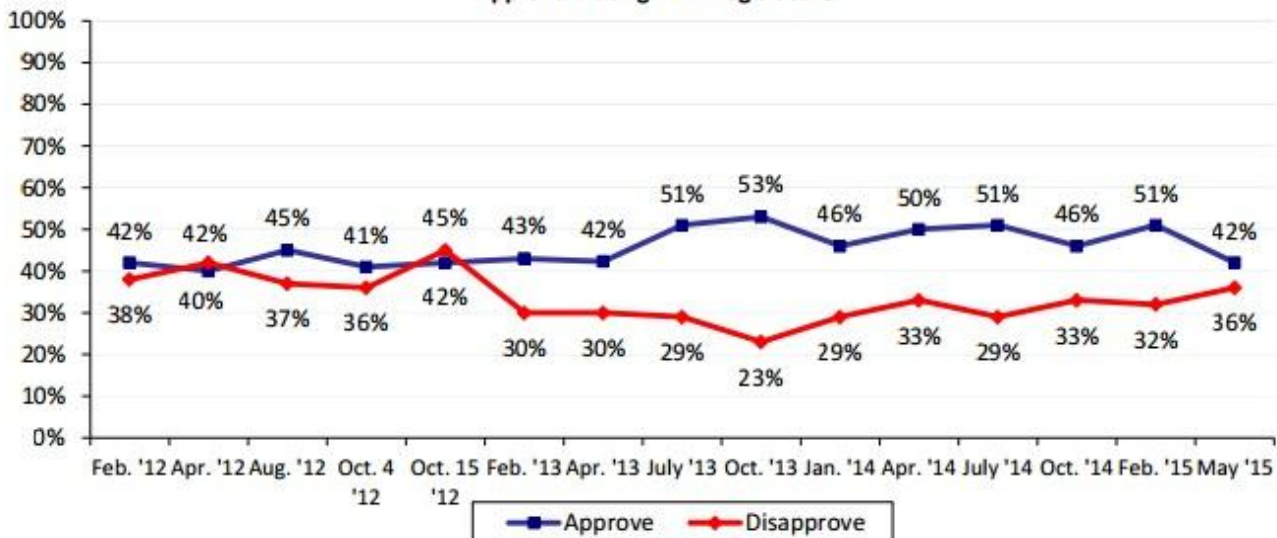
POLL: MOST NON-DEMS THINK SPENDING IS THE PROBLEM

According to the UNH Survey Center’s recently released Granite State Poll, 47% think the state’s budget problems are because of too much spending, 42% think it is due to a lack of revenue, and 11% say it’s a mix of both or are unsure. Republicans are most likely to think it is due to too much spending (65%), Democrats are most likely to cite a lack of revenues (58%), and Independents are evenly split (46% cite too much spending and 43% cite not enough revenue).

POLL: LEGISLATURE DOING OK

According to the UNH Survey Center’s recently released Granite State Poll, 42% of New Hampshire adults approve of how the State Legislature is doing its job, 36% disapprove, and 22% are neutral or don’t know enough to say. Approval is bi-partisan as 44% of Independents, 44% of Republicans and 35% of Democrats approve of the job the legislature is doing.

Approval Rating – NH Legislature



ANDREWS-AHEARN'S VOTING RECORD - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

2013 Roll Call Vote #36 OTP on HB370- Rep. Andrews-Ahearn voted Yea

A vote of Yea indicates support to repeal the education choice scholarship program that allows businesses to make donations deductible from their business enterprise taxes that help provide scholarships to students to attend private and/or alternative schools. Choice and innovation in education allows for better education outcomes for our children. This program has helped dozens of families send their children to different schools that may better fit their aptitude or interests. While a court ruling has limited scholarships to just nonreligious schools, the scholarships help families who would otherwise not be able to afford private schools.

2013 Roll Call Vote #71 OTP/A on HB659- Rep. Andrews-Ahearn voted Yea

A vote of Yea indicates support for increasing the tobacco tax. Cigarettes are bad, but sales of tobacco contribute a significant amount of revenue to the state, especially in our border communities. Raising the tax on tobacco would decrease the volume of crossborder sales, thereby decreasing the revenue the state gets from those sales. Keeping New Hampshire's tobacco tax the lowest in New England helps give us this advantage.

2013 Roll Call Vote #100 OTP/A ON HB135- Rep. Andrews-Ahearn voted Yea

A vote of Yea indicates support to repeal New Hampshire's "Stand Your Ground" law that enables citizens to defend themselves wherever they have a legal right to be. Had HB135 passed in the Senate, New Hampshire would have had to revert to laws that required citizens being threatened to make an effort to retreat prior to protecting themselves. May Republicans (and some Democrats) agreed that the rights and protections granted by the SYG law were needed and reasonable. Thankfully, this bill to repeal those protections did not pass.

2013 Roll Call Vote #104 OTP/A on HB617- Rep. Andrews-Ahearn voted Yea

A vote of Yea indicates support to raise the gas tax by 12 cents per gallon. HB617 would have been the largest tax increase in New Hampshire history. While many people believe our roads and bridges need work, many Republicans believe this was a bad bill simply due to the spike in the tax rate. HB617's tax increase was almost quadruple the increase in SB367, which passed the House and Senate in 2014.

2013 Roll Call Vote #113 & #130 OTP/A on HB1 & HB2 (Budget) - Rep. Andrews-Ahearn voted Yea

A Yea vote indicates support for the House Democrats' budget proposal that raised spending by over 10%, increased taxes by \$263 million (gas tax, tobacco tax, and business taxes), and was built precariously on inflated revenue estimates. In addition, the Democrat budget allowed the Governor to raid dedicated funds, downshifted \$7 million in nursing home costs to county governments, expanded Medicaid, placed a moratorium on new school building aid and new charter schools and repealed the education choice scholarship.

SB179 INFORMATION AND CONTEXT - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Rather than attempt to rewrite an explanation of SB179 and the importance of moving this bill forward, and for the benefit of our readers who may not always read the committee reports in the House Calendar, we decided to reprint the very informative and thorough majority report from the committee as published in the House Calendar.

SB 179, relative to eligibility to vote. MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. Rep. James P. Gray for the Majority of Election Law. This bill, as amended, is the result of many hearings and meetings with the public, the secretary of state and his deputy, and groups concerned with the election process. Everyone believes that each citizen should have an equal right to vote and have his vote count equally, and that each candidate should have an equal right to be elected through a fair voting process. The purpose of this bill is to better serve those goals, and to ensure our elections are as open and fair as possible. Increasingly, allegations are being made that our voter registration laws are not sufficient to protect the integrity of the vote, and SB 179 resulted from a serious look at our RSA's.

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SB179 INFORMATION AND CONTEXT - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

In recent years, the secretary of state has undertaken measures to investigate these claims, to try to ensure that each person that votes in New Hampshire is entitled to vote in New Hampshire. During the last presidential election, persons without identification, or known to election officials, were asked to sign affidavits affirming their ability to vote in N.H. The secretary of state then followed up on each of these affidavits with a letter to the address given. 1,786 such letters were returned as undeliverable. The attorney general now has the task of trying to locate these individuals to ascertain the legitimacy of their votes. This is an example of the efforts our state has made to ensure the integrity of our voting. If only a small percentage of these undeliverable letters turn out to represent illegitimate votes, that is still too many.

The perception of voter fraud is real in New Hampshire, and this diminishes the importance of voting to our citizens. Indeed, the election law committee heard stories of constituents who did not feel their vote counted for much in their own home towns, their vote being nullified by those they felt were not N.H. residents. We heard stories of campaign workers coming to our state for a few weeks, voting on election day, and leaving for their home states.

Our own secretary of state personally encountered non-N.H. residents voting in N.H., but, under the wording of our current statutes, could not prevent this abuse from taking place. A contributor to this situation is the ambiguity of the word "domicile," as used in our RSA's. "Domicile," the criteria for legal voting, is not well defined in our election laws. It is vague and unenforceable. SB 179 seeks to cure this deficiency by defining "domicile" as "the principal or primary home or place of abode of a person." It is further defined as "that home or place in which his or her habitation is fixed and to which a person, whenever he or she is temporarily absent, has the intention of returning after a departure or absence there from, including when the person is absent because of military service or temporarily absent as described in RSA 654:2."

SB 179 provides guidelines to determine - for the benefit of the voter and the benefit of the election worker - the principal place of abode. Without limitation, such factors are: civic and community participation, the place where a person spends most nights of the year, the location from which a person would apply for a passport or other federal identification, residence for income or other tax pursuits, eligibility for a resident hunting and fishing license, and a New Hampshire's driver's license.

These, and possibly other, factors apply to every person and no one person or class or persons would be treated differently from any other person or class of persons. Further, SB 179 establishes a 30-day domicile requirement for voting in New Hampshire. Guidelines for those moving away from or to New Hampshire, as well as those moving within the state are provided, to ensure that every person who has been domiciled in the state for 30 days will be able to vote. For example, a person moving from one locale in the state to another locale within 30 days of an election, may transfer his or her voting registration to ensure his or her right to vote at the polling place of his new home. Similar provisions are made to protect the voting rights of citizens who move out of state.

Also, SB 179 revises the voter registration forms to reflect the substance of this bill. It adds clarity to the language requiring the use of standard forms by reflecting that the state has two voter registration forms: one to be used prior to election day and one to be used on election day at the polling place. SB 179 also removes the paragraph which was struck down by the supreme court in the Guare decision and adds a paragraph which ensures that those who do not meet the 30 day domicile requirement will be able to vote in their previous domicile.

Lastly, SB 179 adds a provision to RSA 654:31-a to ensure that the legislature can gain access to statistical data pertaining to registration forms and affidavits. This provision will make sure that individual identities are protected while offering more transparency and the ability of the legislature to make better informed decisions going forward.

SB221 INFORMATION AND CONTEXT - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Again, rather than attempt to rewrite an explanation of SB221 and the importance of moving this bill forward, and for the benefit of our readers who may not always read the committee reports in the House Calendar, we decided to reprint the very informative and thorough majority report from the committee as published in the House Calendar.

SB 221-FN, relative to electric rate reduction financing. OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. Rep. Michael Vose for Science, Technology and Energy. This bill sets up a framework to allow the public utilities commission (PUC) to streamline the process of divestiture for PSNH, now Eversource, and to secure low-interest bonds to recover any resulting stranded costs. Divestiture (the selling of generation plants) moves the state's electricity market closer to full competition in the sale of power. The value of competition over the next five (5) years is about \$35 million in reduced costs.

A proposed settlement with PSNH will see a shareholder reduction of about \$50 million per year in lost earnings on those generation assets. The settlement also provides that PSNH shareholders will write off \$25 million of scrubber costs and forego \$69 million of revenue by delaying a rate case for two years. The construction of the mercury scrubber at Merrimack station in response to passage of HB 1673 in 2006 constitutes the major portion of PSNH's stranded costs. Stranded costs occur when plants are sold below their book value. This bill takes advantage of low interest rates by providing a mechanism, called securitization, to allow PSNH to recover stranded costs spread over a 15-year period through the bond market. This is not a state backed bond. Recovering stranded costs through securitized bonds at 2.5-3% interest will be cheaper than paying those costs in regular rates, which are subject to a 9.81% profit margin under existing law. These low interest rates are secured through a small, non-avoidable charge on all PSNH distribution customers. Securitization was used successfully to lower customer costs in the settlement reached with PSNH in 2000.

The amendment by the house science, technology and energy committee makes it clear that the legislature is not approving the 2015 settlement between state negotiators and PSNH. Further, it instructs the PUC to take into account the impact of the settlement on all PSNH customer classes, and to consider the impacts on the economy in PSNH's service territory, the ability to attract and retain employment across industries, and whether the proposed rate design fairly allocates the costs of divestiture among customer classes. As compared to standard divestiture, the 2015 settlement and proposed rate design results in rates significantly less across all customer classes, and it mitigates the rate impact of the non-by passable charge on PSNH customers who purchase energy service from a competitive supplier.

Should this bill not pass, the PUC will order the recovery of all or some of the scrubber costs through regular rates, and those rates will climb as PSNH receives its 9.81% profit and as large deferral of costs becomes reflected in rates in January. Should PSNH disagree with the PUC's decision, years of litigation would ensue, with PSNH getting about \$50 million more in earnings each year, and ratepayers losing out on customer savings from securitization.

Inaction or delay will result in higher rates, especially for many residential households. The state's consumer advocate, representing residential ratepayers, supports this bill as do several local chambers of commerce, and the Business and Industry Association.

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

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SB133 INFORMATION AND CONTEXT - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Again, rather than attempt to rewrite an explanation of SB133 and the importance of moving this bill forward, and for the benefit of our readers who may not always read the committee reports in the House Calendar, we decided to reprint the very informative and thorough majority report from the committee as published in the House Calendar.

Rep. Tammy A. Simmons for the Majority of Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services. This bill, as amended, removes language that requires workers compensation insurance carriers to pay the full amount billed by a provider, regardless of how inflated that bill may be and instead only requires that the carrier pay the 'reasonable value' of medical services.

The amended version of the bill puts in place the criteria the department of labor is to consider when determining the reasonableness of the charge being disputed. The criteria the department of labor is to consider includes: a guideline range of reasonable charges developed and published by the NH insurance department of 85 of the most common worker's compensation medical services, compiled using the average payments of NH general healthcare, NH workers' compensation, New England region workers' compensation, and national workers' compensation; catastrophic injury; practice type, and geographic location of the provider.

While the majority of the committee would prefer that the market address the rising cost of workers' compensation services, they agreed that many years have been spent on data collection and studying the issue and that now is the time to do something to reduce the rising worker's compensation costs on employers.

NH mandates that the employer purchase insurance for its employees, mandates that the injured worker choose which provider they go to, and mandates that the carrier pay whatever they are charged. This is NOT the free market.

The NH insurance department worked with the amendment sponsor at length to insure that the guidelines would not adversely affect access to care for the injured worker. Protocols were added to allow the insurance commissioner to amend the guidelines if there was evidence of access issues. The bill also includes a study committee to review administrative procedures for worker's compensation claims in hopes of reducing the burden on providers.

THE 2016 ELECTION FILING PERIOD IS ONE YEAR AWAY!

Here in New Hampshire, it's never too early to start thinking about the next election. As we approach the first Wednesday in June, we would like to take this time to remind you all that the 2016 candidates will begin to file to run for State and Federal races a year from now, and right now would be a good time to start to think about whether or not you would like to run for re-election.

Whenever you decide, we would appreciate it if you let the office know at your earliest convenience. Ultimately, if you decide not to seek reelection, please start thinking about someone who would be willing to run in your place in 2016.

Our ability to keep the majority depends on our ability to recruit strong candidates and run effective campaigns in 2016. We look forward to your teamwork and cooperation over the next year to ensure that we fill all seats in all districts and keep our majority here in Concord!