

# Republican Review

A Publication of the New Hampshire House Majority Office

## HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADERS’ STATEMENTS ON PASSAGE OF SB179

CONCORD - House Majority Leader Jack Flanagan (R-Brookline) and House Election Law Committee Chair Kathleen Hoelzel (R-Raymond) offered the following statements on the passage of SB179, relative to eligibility to vote in New Hampshire. The bill passed as amended by a vote of 211-145.

### House Election Law Committee Chair Kathleen Hoelzel (R-Raymond)

“The requirement that a person have established his or her domicile in New Hampshire for at least 30 days before voting makes our election laws more easily understood, so all who are qualified have an equal opportunity to register and vote. Election officials will now more easily be able to answer the question: “what does domicile mean?” Unclear laws invite those not qualified to try to take advantage of the lack of clarity and may discourage those who are qualified from exercising their right. Our government has a duty to make the election laws clear and easily understood. This bill will make clear that a person must have established his or her domicile here at least 30 days before the election.”

### House Majority Leader Jack Flanagan (R-Brookline)

“In the 2014 election cycle there were 9 recounts for state representative races that were decided by single digit margins. 3 of those recounts were for elections that were initially tied. If we know that there are thousands of voters registering with out of state IDs, and we know our elections are decided by such slim margins, isn’t it fair to have a clearer definition of domicile in our statutes to ensure the votes that are deciding our elections are cast by duly qualified voters?”

### IMPORTANT NOTICE TO HOUSE MEMBERS:

**There will be a presentation by the Legislative Budget Assistant on the Senate Budget to the full House Tuesday June 9<sup>th</sup> at 10am in LOB 210-211.**

**THERE WILL BE A REPUBLICAN CAUCUS IN LOB ROOMS 210-211 DIRECTLY FOLLOWING THAT PRESENTATION.**

**The next House session will be THURSDAY June 11, 2015 at 10am. There will be a Republican Caucus June 11<sup>th</sup> at 9am in Reps Hall.**

#### STAT OF THE WEEK

**97%**

The percentage of House Republicans who voted for SB179 to clarify our laws relative to domicile and eligibility to vote and preserve the integrity of our state elections.

#### INDEX

#### PG

SB 221 PRESS RELEASE	2
REP BURT'S HOT DOG DAY	2
ANDREWS-AHEARN'S VOTING RECORD	3
GOOD MONTH FOR STATE REVENUE	4
IMPORTANT DATES	4

## House Majority Leader Statement on Passage of SB221

CONCORD - House Majority Leader Jack Flanagan (R-Brookline) offered the following statement on the passage of SB221, relative to electric rate reduction financing. The bill passed as amended by a vote of 308-43.

### House Majority Leader Jack Flanagan (R-Brookline)

“Many of us made a campaign promise to do what we could to control electric costs in the state. This is a proactive measure that will save New Hampshire electric ratepayers millions of dollars. Allowing the energy market to move forward as-is would have resulted in an increase in electric rates, making us less competitive in attracting and retaining jobs in our state, and hurting family budgets. As a result of SB 221, we have a framework in place to make New Hampshire’s energy market more competitive, to drive down costs and ensure long term stability and affordability.”



### Rep. Burt’s Hot Dog Day Repeats as a Huge Success

CONCORD - Rep. Burt’s Annual Hot Dog Day was held on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Started in 2012, Hot Dog Day is now one of the State House’s most beloved events.

For those who may not have been here in 2012, we wanted to share how this event all started.

In 2012, now former Rep. Cliff Newton filed a bill, HB1711, which would have exempted

cooking fires of less than 2ft by 2ft in size on personal property from requiring permits.

The bill was referred to the committee on Municipal & County Government, of which, Rep. Burt was a member. The committee recommended the bill be ITL’d by a vote of 17-1. Rep. Burt was the lone vote against the ITL and authored the minority blurb, which said in part, “You have a right to a small cooking fire to cook chicken or hot dogs without breaking a law.”

He later led the floor fight against the committee recommendation and at the end of his speech, “If you... help me overturn this ITL and vote for Ought to Pass, I am going to have a small cooking fire on my property, without a permit, for you all to stop by and have a hot dog with me.”

In the end, the bill was defeated 186-135. This didn’t stop Rep. Burt from pursuing his goal of having hot dogs (and cooking fires) with his House colleagues. Not more than 2 months later, a notice appeared in the House Calendar that read, “*All are welcomed to Representative Burt’s Hot Dog Day, Wednesday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at lunch break. All Representatives, Senators, staff at the State House, Annex and LOB are welcome to join Rep Burt for a relaxing lunch in front of the State House near the arch. There will be plenty of free Hot Dogs with all the fixings and two 24 inch camp fires “with the proper permits” for smores.*”

Rep. Burt has held Hot Dog Day every year since then, raising money for local charities and organizing volunteers to make it all run smoothly, which when serving hundreds of people is not easy.

Thank you, Rep. Burt, for your commitment to the House and for putting on this great event each year - with the proper permits, of course.

**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.

**2014 Roll Call Vote #11 OTP/A on HB544- Rep. Andrews-Ahearn voted Yea**

A vote of Yea indicates support for Medicaid expansion, as part of Obamacare that 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 #68 Floor Amendment to HB1589- Rep. Andrews-Ahearn 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, sponsored by Andrews-Ahearn 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. Andrews-Ahearn 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.

**2014 Roll Call Vote #129 OTP/A on HB1409- Rep. Andrews-Ahearn 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.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

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**2014 Roll Call Vote #147 OTP/A on HB1101- Rep. Andrews-Ahearn 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. Andrews-Ahearn 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 #180 OTP/A on SB413- Rep. Andrews-Ahearn 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.

**MAY '15 A GOOD MONTH FOR STATE REVENUES**

Total unrestricted revenue of the General and Education Funds for May totaled \$95.9 million, \$9.9 million above plan and bringing the fiscal year to date (YTD) revenue total to \$2,032.5 million, \$39.2 million above plan, about 2%. Business Tax collections for May totaled \$17.1 million, above the plan and prior year by \$7.4 million and \$7.7 million, respectively. Net Meals and Rentals Tax (M&R) receipts for May came in above plan by \$1.4 million (7%) and above prior year by \$1.8 million (10%).

**IMPORTANT DATES**

<b>June 11</b>	Last day to form Committees of Conference
<b>June 18</b>	Last day to sign Com. of Conf. Reports
<b>June 25</b>	Last day to act on Com. of Conf. Reports
<b>July 7</b>	Rockingham District 20 Special Election
<b>Sept 2</b>	First day to file LSRs for 2016

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