

Republican Review

A Publication of the New Hampshire House Majority Office

HOUSE DEMS SHY AWAY FROM SOME RADICAL BILLS, MOVE FORWARD WITH OTHERS

Here they go again! House Democrats are lining up to file legislation for the 2016 session that will send New Hampshire in the wrong direction, and thwart the positive progress Republicans have provided in the 2015 legislative session.

Here is just a small list of their radical proposals we may see come before the House in 2016:

- Repealing the education tax credit - Rep. Susan Ford (D-Easton)
- Implementing a bottle deposit program - Rep. Travis Bennett (D-Plymouth)
- Requiring firearms owners to have liability insurance - Rep. Katherine Rogers (D-Concord)

Other Democrat proposals include several measures that would create more regulations for our small businesses, chip away privacy rights and personal liberties.

There were even more radical LSRs filed that have since been withdrawn, including:

- Establishing an Income Tax - Rep. Paul Henle (D-Concord)
- Establishing a commission to study single payer health care - Rep. Richard McNamara (D-Hillsborough)

2016 should prove to be an opportunity to further highlight the advantages of a responsible Republican majority in the House as we debate and defeat these proposals, and work on continuing the positive steps to help our economy and job creation.

RETIREMENT SYSTEM, HEALTH CARE SEE STRAINS

POOR RETURNS

The New Hampshire Retirement System this week took on additional pressure after the release of less than satisfactory returns of investments. According NHRS, the entity that manages the state pension fund and investments, the fund saw a return of just 3.5% for the fiscal year ending June 30th, a far cry from the assumed rate return of 7.75%. However, higher returns in prior years help to offset this year's poor performance. The three-year, five-year, 10-year, and 20-year returns for the periods ended June 30 were 11.7%, 11.6%, 6.9%, and 7.8%, respectively. Regardless, better returns will/would help solve the system's \$4 billion unfunded liability.

RETIREE HEALTH CARE

In addition to retirement fund investment returns woes, current retirees have been closely watching action from the Fiscal Committee relative to potential changes to retiree healthcare and prescription benefits. As a result of extensive changes to healthcare costs and how services are delivered, the benefits system was facing a large looming deficit, if no changes to retiree contributions were made.

The Fiscal Committee is currently working towards finding a solution that will keep the health benefit system funded, and work to avoid these types of problems in the future. [Solutions proposed by the Department of Administrative Services \(DAS\)](#), the entity that administers the benefits, include changes to premium contributions, co-payments, deductibles and maximum out-of-pocket payments, however, the Fiscal Committee will likely have their own set of recommendations and proposed legislation early next week. We will keep you updated on this issue as details emerge.

10.25.2015

COMMITTEE TO ELECT HOUSE REPUBLICANS

OKTOBERFEST

Join us for an afternoon of fun, food and football.

WHEN: Sunday, Oct. 25, 1pm**WHERE:** Murphy's Tap Room
494 Elm St. Manchester**TICKETS:** \$25 per legislator (and spouse)
\$35 per attendeeBRATWURST + SIDES
+ 1 BEER TICKET (21 AND OLDER)PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT CTEHR'S ONGOING EFFORTS TO
RECRUIT, TRAIN, AND ELECT REPUBLICANS TO THE NH HOUSE.

RSVP to Noel Lyons Baker 603-369-7654 or

nlyombsbaker@gmail.comPurchase tickets online at electhouserepublicans.com**Department of Homeland Security Grants Extension**

CONCORD - [On Friday October 9th](#), the United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS) notified state officials that as a result of ongoing legislative efforts to bring the state into compliance with federal REAL ID standards, New Hampshire had been granted an extension through June 1, 2016. During the extension period federal agencies, including the Transportation Safety Administration (TSA), will continue to accept New Hampshire issued identification cards and driver's licenses for official purposes.

The extension comes as a result of efforts lead by New Hampshire House Speaker Pro Tempore Sherman Packard (R-Londonderry) who recently filed a bill that would bring New Hampshire into compliance. The legislation will come before the House in January.

"I'm grateful for DHS's flexibility as the legislature works to get this enhanced ID bill processed as quickly as we can. Our goal is to have a bill passed, and a process in place, well before the June 1st deadline," said Packard. "I'm also grateful that our early action on this issue has demonstrated to DHS our willingness to work toward a solution, avoiding unnecessary difficulty for our citizens."

Packard continued, "With successful passage of the enhanced ID bill, our understanding is that we will then have a five year transition window during which time our current IDs will remain an acceptable form of identification for official purposes through 2020. This phased-in approach will ensure that no one has to rush out to renew their license. And if people choose not to get one, they will have the option to do that."

PACKARD: ENHANCED ID BILL WILL BRING NH INTO COMPLIANCE, PROVIDE OPT-OUT

This editorial page recently provided an analysis of federal REAL ID requirements and whether New Hampshire should engage in efforts to comply. Unfortunately, the editorial rushed to conclusions based on outdated information, and did not take into account our ongoing efforts to protect citizens' privacy and mitigate potential costs.

The suggestion that we can tell the federal government to "buzz off," as was implied in the editorial, is not how our constituents expect us to govern. We are one of only four states whose driver's licenses and ID cards do not comply with REAL ID standards. If we fail to take a minimum level of action now, we are setting ourselves up for unnecessary difficulty in the future. The perception that the federal government will cede to our request after 10 years of delays is not realistic. Taking action now is the right thing to do.

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Our first consideration was to give our citizens a choice. If the legislation we anticipate debating becomes law, a resident could choose whether to participate in the enhanced ID program that meets federal guidelines, with the understanding that if they choose not to, their traditional ID may not be accepted for certain activities.

Those who choose to get an enhanced driver's license would have to provide their birth certificates and other documents that would be held by the state for seven years, allowing the state to retain the social security numbers and license photograph. However, the federal government has changed its REAL ID requirements. It no longer requires access to state motor vehicle databases, so any concern about a national driver's database or ID card are no longer issues.

Those who exercise their right not to obtain an enhanced ID could simply carry a passport for certain activities, including boarding a domestic flight, or be subject to an enhanced screening. These residents may choose to carry a traditional ID and pay \$110 for a passport every 10 years. However, obtaining a US passport requires as much, if not more, personal information than would be required to get an enhanced ID. We believe most residents will opt to carry just one form of ID that would be acceptable for all official purposes.

Other non-compliant states were granted conditional extensions because of their efforts to comply. If we adopt this proposed legislation, we could receive a similar extension that would serve as a five- year transition window during which existing state-issued IDs would remain an acceptable form of ID for travel and other purposes. During that period, residents would have the option of getting a new enhanced ID, or obtaining a traditional, but non-compliant ID. The good news is that every current ID is good for five years from its date of issuance. If someone wants to get a new enhanced ID prior to the expiration date on their old ID, they would have that option.

There will always be purveyors of doubt as to whether complying with REAL ID requirements will make our country safer. Remember that the federal REAL ID Act was originally passed by Congress because of the 9/11 Commission Report. It is a somber but poignant reminder that we are still in the process of strengthening our otherwise outdated procedures as part of a comprehensive effort to improve security.

Prior legislation dealing with REAL ID compliance did not have the benefit of incorporating recent changes that allow us greater flexibility and privacy provisions, while allowing us to put our own unique safeguards in place. Comparisons to bills from the prior decade are simply uninformed.

If we do nothing and do not have a compliance plan in place beginning some time in 2016, New Hampshire issued IDs may not be accepted for domestic air travel, federal government building access or other important activities. By passing this type of opt-in, privacy- sensitive bill, we avoid causing that difficulty for our residents.

Whether or not you agree with the concept of an enhanced ID, we can all agree that having an "opt-in" approach provides our citizens with the ability to exclude themselves, or have the ability to obtain an enhanced ID that will provide them with an added level of convenience when traveling or for other official purposes. Our New Hampshire-specific enhanced ID legislation is an effort to provide our own unique approach to how we issue IDs in the 21st century and gives our citizens the ability to choose the ID that best suits their individual needs.



RARE PHOTOS OF HALL OF FLAGS ARTIFACTS PRIOR TO ENCASEMENT

Among the materials made available to the Joint Historical Committee as they explore ways to preserve and protect the historical artifacts contained in the Hall of Flags at the State House, was a restored copy of a 1901 publication with photographs of many of the flags that are now displayed in the cases.

Pictured left are flags belonging to the [13th Regiment of the NH Volunteer Infantry](#).

The 50+ page book was restored and scanned by a historian at the New Hampshire National Guard in 2009. We've uploaded a PDF of the book to our website. You can view it here: [Kimball & Sons Battle Flags & Report of General Court 1901](#).