

Republican Review

A Publication of the New Hampshire House Majority Office

House Majority Leader Responds to Governor's Requests for New Spending

CONCORD - House Majority Leader Richard "Dick" Hinch (R-Merrimack) offered the following comments in response to correspondence from Governor Hassan to Speaker Shawn Jasper and Senate President Chuck Morse outlining proposals on how to allocate potential surplus revenue.

"Let's remember that the governor vetoed the legislature's budget last year which delayed deployment of much needed resources to help combat the drug crisis. We need to be reassured that there is a management plan in place to make sure the currently allocated resources are being fully utilized and are producing positive outcomes before we commit to a laundry list of other spending," said Rep. Hinch, "Our Ways and Means and Finance committees are actively reviewing the merits of several legislative proposals dealing with issues the governor discusses in her letter, but our revenue position for the entire biennium remains to be seen. That is why we are not committed to rolling out the rubber stamp until we weigh some important factors."

"We are fully committed to allocating the necessary resources to continue to combat the drug crisis, but we shouldn't play shell games in how we pay for them. We believe the legislature's role is to be stalwart stewards of state finances. In that role we'll continue to look towards those items we believe will have the greatest impact and produce positive outcomes," Hinch added, "We'd like to believe the governor in that bipartisanship led us to our current economic outlook, but her record shows otherwise. Less than one year ago, the governor admonished and vetoed the legislature's budget that contained no new taxes or fees, doubled the balance of the Rainy Day Fund, and provided the first business tax relief in 20 years. We believe this tax relief will play a major role in keeping New Hampshire more economically competitive and keeping our economy growing."

Rep. Steve Smith on House Accomplishments

We recently came across a message sent to the Sullivan County Republican Committee from Rep. Steven Smith that we thought was an excellent summary of some of the great legislation we have been passing (or bad legislation we have killed) in Concord, and we wanted to be sure to share that with you all. Thank you, Rep. Smith!

"There is a myth floating around that there is some grand conspiracy among House Republicans to support Democrat positions. I guess because we aren't making a big deal about the good work we are doing, because we are not being vilified in the press, some may think nothing is getting done. Nothing can be further from the truth. Some examples:

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UNH Spends \$17,570 on LED Table

When USNH came to the legislature last year requesting more money than the previous budget, the legislature obliged. The budget that passed included increased funding to USNH by 5.8% for a total of \$162 million, and fully funded the Community College System.

However, in June USNH announced that this was not enough and claimed to have a \$9 million shortfall that would cause them to raise tuition for in-state students by 2.75% and 2.5% for out of state students.

But UNH has left us scratching our heads once again as we see what they are spending their money on, rather than focusing on keeping tuition down.

... Continued on page 2

Smith message continued...

The Transportation Committee and full House passed a bill finally ending the requirement that you unload your rifle when putting it back in your vehicle when hunting. We repealed the suppressor ban. We repealed the buffer zone law. We reduced the BET despite the Governor's veto. We codified a municipality's right to send tuition to private schools (in support of Croydon) I'd posit it all, but I'm sure there is a space limit here.

CACR17, a constitutional amendment that sought to protect the votes of all legitimate residents of our state from being diluted by the votes of people who are not residents of NH, received a vote of 188-135, but needed a 2/3 majority to move on to the Senate. 99% of House Republicans supported the measure.

HB 1313, a bill that requires that a voter be a resident of the state for at least 10 days passed on a voice vote. We got Democrats to stand down on this issue.

The House also killed Democrat sponsored bills that would have enacted "mail-in voting" and allowed state/county prisoners to vote by absentee ballot.

Remember the Democrats' LLC Tax debacle of 2009? Well, HB 1443 sought to reintroduce similar rules and squeeze out additional tax revenue from our small business owners. House Republicans stopped the bill and retained the reform enacted in a bipartisan vote in 2011. The measure was defeated 180-131. 97% of House Republicans voted to kill the bill.

In addition, Democrats continued their pursuit of interfering with the free market and imposing increased mandates by pushing a bill that would have raised the state minimum wage by up to 31%, hurting businesses and killing entry level job opportunities. The bill died by a House vote of 184-143. 95% of House Republicans supported the committee recommendation to kill the bill.

We are working as hard as we can to get things done despite having a Democrat Governor, and not enough of a majority to easily override a veto. I think we are winning."

LED table continued...

The UNH student newspaper, *The New Hampshire*, made some news recently reporting on the \$10.5 million renovation to the Holloway Commons dining hall that capped off with an LED table that cost a whopping \$17,570.

It's important to note that since the extravagant table made news, UNH has admitted the purchase was a mistake, but that doesn't mitigate their obvious out of control spending. (Let us not forget they recently spent \$100,000 on a new logo.)

A recent [report](#) noted that UNH applications hit 20,000. In the report, the vice president of enrollment management noted several reasons applications have been up: hosting a nationally televised presidential primary debate, high post grad employment, and the success of its nationally ranked football team.

There's no mention of an LED table leading to its enrollment success...

[Side note: According to [The New Hampshire](#), as of April 20th, the lavish table doesn't even work properly.]

Please join

The Committee to Elect House Republicans

for our

Spring into Elections Fundraiser

Wednesday, May 18th
5:00 PM

Makris Lobster
354 Sheep Davis Road
Concord, NH 03301

Cash Bar and Hors d'oevres

\$100/person
\$10/Legislator

RSVP to Kerry Marsh at
Kerry@spectrummarketing.com
or (603) 582-0119

Or RSVP online at
www.electhouserepublicans.com/may18/

UL Editorial: Feeding a lame duck: Hassan asks for more money, again

In case you missed it, the [Union Leader ran an editorial](#) on Thursday blasting Gov. Hassan for asking the legislature to spend quickly spend an anticipated surplus that she is trying to take credit for.

“Less than a year ago, Hassan vetoed a state budget that would have lowered business taxes, doubled the Rainy Day Fund, and increased funding for substance abuse treatment programs by 75 percent. After a pointless three-month standoff, she ended up signing a budget little different from the one she vetoed.”

Senate passes bill to make absentee ballot requests more accessible

If you ever worked on a campaign or helped out the state party get absentee ballot lists from the town clerks, you know this is an incredibly time consuming task, especially sending staff up to the small towns to get the absentee ballot requests.

The Senate passed an amendment to HB1377, which will allow state wide candidates access to the state wide database of absentee ballot requests and returns administered by the Secretary of State. The underlying bill also requires absentee ballots be delivered to the town clerk by 5pm on Election Day.

There will be House Session on Wednesday, May 11th at 10:00 am
There will be a Republican caucus on Wednesday, May 11th at 9:00 am in Reps Hall

Senate passes property forfeiture bill

The Senate passed HB636, relative to forfeiture of property, however not without some debate.

HB636 originally intended, as passed by the House, that any property seized would go directly into the general fund, rather than put into the drug forfeiture fund. The Senate divided the question on Thursday and voted 18-5 to strike the provision that would send the money to the general fund. They did, however, leave in the provision that a conviction is necessary before any property is seized.

The bill will now move on to Senate Finance.

Joint Economic & Fiscal Briefing

Monday, May 2nd there will be a joint economic and fiscal briefing in LOB room 210-211 starting at 9am.

Presentations include: Economic and Labor Market Information Bureau, Applied Economic Research, Inc., Carsey School of Public Policy, Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, NH Center of Public Policy, and Community College System of New Hampshire.

This briefing will be streamed [online](#), you can access the agenda and see any of the documents from presenters [here](#).

House Continuing Education: A Primary Physician’s Perspective on the Opioid Crisis.

From the calendar notice from Rep. Lynne Ober and Rep. Dick Hinch, there will be a House continuing education on **Monday, May 2nd at 10:00 a.m.** in Reps Hall.

The topic is "A Primary Physician’s Perspective on the Opioid Crisis." Dr. Zavod is an internal medicine physician who is well known and respected. Dr. Zavod not only serves as an expert witness for Massachusetts and Rhode Island in malpractice cases, but has worked with the NH Board of Medicine in an advisory role regarding opioid prescriptions.

The presentation will be an hour long and Dr. Zavod will take questions from the audience. All representatives are encouraged to attend and invite their town selectmen or school boards, since this information is applicable to the towns as well. Please plan to attend. **This even will be live streamed on the General Court website, or [at this link](#).**