

Republican Review

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House and Senate Majority Leaders' Statements on Governor's Veto of HB582

Bill would have repealed the license requirement for carrying a concealed pistol or revolver

CONCORD - House Majority Leader Richard "Dick" Hinch (R-Merrimack) and Senate Majority Leader Jeb Bradley (R-Wolfeboro) offered the following statements relative to the veto of HB582, repealing the license requirement for carrying a concealed pistol or revolver. The bill passed the House with a bipartisan majority in January, and passed the Senate on a party line vote earlier this month.

House Majority Leader Dick Hinch (R-Merrimack):

"By vetoing this bill, for the second time in two years, Governor Hassan has denied law abiding gun owners this much needed reform of our laws concerning concealed carry. House and Senate members have been working on this bill for over two years to achieve this important balance that enhanced the rights of citizens, clarified existing laws to prevent misinterpretation, and preserve public safety. The governor has once again demonstrated her unwillingness to compromise and work in a bipartisan fashion on second amendment issues."

Senate Majority Leader Jeb Bradley (R-Wolfeboro):

"I am disappointed the Governor has vetoed yet again another piece of common sense legislation that allows people to protect their lives liberties and loved ones by exercising their 2nd Amendment rights under the Constitution. In New Hampshire people can openly carry any firearm but Governor Hassan believes law abiding citizens should be required to obtain a special permit to carry a legal weapon on a concealed basis. Vermont has never required a special permit for concealed carry and is the safest state in the nation. New Hampshire should follow suit. I am disappointed Governor Hassan has yet again vetoed legislation that protects the 2nd Amendment."

House Majority Leader Reacts to Governor's Lack of Leadership, Defeat of SB485

CONCORD - House Majority Leader Richard "Dick" Hinch (R-Merrimack) offered the following statement relative to the defeat of the committee of conference report on SB485, establishing a state grant program to assist state and local law enforcement agencies in addressing the opioid crisis, and relative to the health care premium contribution for retired state employees. The committee of conference report failed in the House by a 159-160 vote on Wednesday. A procedural vote to reconsider that vote was also defeated 157-187, with a majority of House Democrats voting against revisiting the issue.

"Had the governor put any amount of effort into getting members of her own party to support this very important piece of legislation, it would have passed and reached her desk for signature," said Rep. Hinch. "Retiree health care shortfalls would have been addressed, and law enforcement would have had additional resources to fight our state's drug crisis."

"When 107 out of 146 members of her own party voted against reconsideration of SB485, Gov. Hassan has only herself to blame for its failure," Hinch continued. "If the governor would have done her job and participated in the policy discussion these last few weeks, rather than spend time out of state for campaign purposes, she would have a bill to sign. Due to the governor's lack of leadership and neglect of her basic responsibilities, law enforcement will not have the additional resources prescribed in this legislation."

REMINDER:

Candidate filing period is June 1st - 10th

House candidates must file at their town or city clerk's office during normal business hours. Filings for all offices are published at sos.nh.gov

NOTICES:

The next House session will be Thursday, June 16th at 10:00 am.

The House will be taking up a bill to fund "Granite Hammer" and the Governor's vetoes.

The regular House session may have come to an end, but the work of the House Majority Office continues throughout the summer months.

Have questions?
Need information?
Call 603-271-3665.

**THANK YOU,
HOUSE GOP,
for your hard
work and
commitment to
serving your
communities.**

Senate, House leaders call members to session for vote on Granite Hammer

VETO WATCH

As of Friday at Noon, the governor has vetoed the following bills:

HB528 - repealing the license requirement for carrying a concealed pistol or revolver.

HB1208 - relative to administration of the tobacco tax.

HB1266 - legalizing firecrackers.

SB446 - relative to requirements of the state building code.

These vetoes and any others will be taken up on June 16th.

Concord, NH - Senate Majority Leader Jeb Bradley (R-Wolfeboro) and House Majority Leader Richard Hinch (R-Merrimack) issued the following statements addressing yesterday's vote to kill the Granite Hammer program.

"Yesterday, nearly 75% of House Democrats voted against SB 485, a bill that would have expanded law enforcement interdiction measures to address the opioid crisis in New Hampshire," said Senate Majority Leader Jeb Bradley (R-Wolfeboro). "Throughout this session, the Legislature has worked in a bi-partisan manner and has been fully committed to addressing the heroin and opioid crisis by increasing our ability to diminish the supply of these deadly drugs in our communities, while considering stronger prevention, treatment and recovery measures. Yesterday's vote to kill Granite Hammer was an unexpected move that killed a program proven to be extremely effective in removing heroin and drug traffickers from the streets in cities and towns in New Hampshire."

"While it is extremely disappointing that this bill was killed by House Democrats, it further proves that Governor Hassan is missing in action on critical issues facing this state and is focused on nothing more than political posturing and campaigning for the U.S. Senate, and not the issues the citizens of New Hampshire are dealing with every day," added Bradley.

"The House and Senate believe it is critically important to ensure that this tried and tested program is available to cities and towns in the state of New Hampshire. Therefore, the Senate and House have taken the lead, calling our members in to Session on June 16 to again take up this measure," said Bradley.

"The Governor had a path forward yesterday when she could have put in the effort to get the members of her own party to support SB 485," said House Majority Leader Richard Hinch. "She failed to do that, and now she is asking the legislature to double back and try again, due to her own shortcomings."

"The legislature worked tirelessly for the last eight months to come forward with a comprehensive package of legislation to address the opioid crisis, including SB 485, which would have aided law-enforcement effort and given them additional resources to fight our state's drug crisis," said Hinch. "The fact that the Governor chose to be absent from the discussion at this point in the legislative process is unfortunate. Had she not checked out of the state for numerous absences and neglected her basic responsibilities, she would have a bill to sign."

House Majority Leader Reacts to State Revenue Report for May

CONCORD - House Majority Leader Richard "Dick" Hinch (R-Merrimack) offered the following statement relative to the [monthly revenue report](#) issued by the Department of Administrative Services. According to the report, "Business Taxes for May totaled \$13.1 million, which were \$3.8 million below plan and \$4.0 million below prior year." However, "YTD business tax collections, net of revenue identified as tax amnesty, were above plan by \$57.1 million (12.1%) and \$61.4 million (13.1%) above the prior year."

"Last month, when revenues looked a bit rosier, the governor came to us with a shopping cart of proposals, spending millions of dollars of the potential surplus funds. The legislature pushed back, realizing that we shouldn't make spending decisions based on partial-year data. We are cognizant that we need to look at revenues over the biennium, and this is a great example of why the governor's rush to spend would have been a problem. " said House Majority Leader Dick Hinch. "Year-to-date, business tax revenue is still ahead of plan by \$57 million, or roughly 12%. We're hopeful that even if there are less-than-stellar months, we will maintain a positive position on business tax and other revenue."

June 16th Session Frequently Asked Questions

When will the House and Senate meet?

Thursday, June 16th, 2016.

Is this a “special session”?

No. As the Speaker stated in the House chamber on Wednesday June 1st, the House is constitutionally required to return to address the governor’s vetoes as some point before the end of the term. Rather than wait until September or October, the decision was made to address the known vetoes now, in June, in addition to considering legislation which failed, in part, due to some House members’ objections to an amendment dealing with state retiree health care added during the legislative process.

(SB 485, as amended, originally passed the House by a 213-95 division vote. There were at least 8 other bills with similar unrelated subject matter attached that passed the House on Wednesday, June 1st.)

Unlike a special session, the House will still be operating under the same set of House rules adopted over the course of the current session (special sessions require new rules).

What will likely be in the proposed legislation?

The bill will be drafted to include only the language pertaining to Granite Hammer that originally appeared in SB485 as it passed the House and Senate. It will NOT include any other subject matter. Any subject matter that dealt with state retiree health care will be omitted.

The legislation pertaining specifically to Granite Hammer has had a public hearing in the House and Senate, and previously passed the House and Senate.

What is “Granite Hammer”?

Granite Hammer is a multi-agency effort targeting drug dealers in high-risk areas through Increased information sharing, more visible police presence, and intensive investigations intended on cutting off the supply of drugs, apprehension of drug dealers, reduction in crimes correlated with drugs (property crime, armed robberies), and a reduction deaths associated with drug use.

How much money was allocated to “Granite Hammer” in SB485?

\$1.5 million.

What is this money intended for?

*Overtime costs for officers performing law enforcement activities under the program.
Overtime, supplies, and other costs of the state forensic science laboratory.*

What other conditions are provided in the bill pertaining to how these funds can be used?

SB485 stated the following:

The commissioner shall establish protocols and conditions for increased state police patrols and conditions for eligibility for grants to local and county law enforcement agencies. The protocols and conditions shall be based on the principles of intelligence-driven, problem-oriented policing, using statistics and information to place additional police patrol and investigative presence at the locations, times, and places where there have been a significant convergence of motor vehicle crashes, crimes, and drug use, or in corridors known to be used by drug dealers for shipments of illegal drugs into the state.

The protocols and conditions shall:

(a) Require dedicated patrol units relieved of taking calls for service absent an emergency.

(b) Insure that the officers assigned to such patrol units have been trained in the concept of data-driven policing and have an appropriate knowledge of the requirements of the state and federal constitutions.

III. The commissioner shall give equal consideration to all local and county law enforcement agencies and the division of state police when allocating available program funding.

What can't the money be spent on?

IV. The program shall include the following prohibitions on allowable uses of funds:

(a) No funds shall be granted for "purchase of evidence" or for "confidential funds."

(b) No funds shall be used for the purchase of operational equipment, except for direct supply costs for state forensic science laboratory testing.

(c) No funds shall be used for supplanting locally budgeted and approved funds for routine law enforcement.

What are some examples of Granite Hammer making a difference?

WMUR did an extended news piece on Granite Hammer in March. You can view the video here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H9Nv9d7OQnc>

According to the report, between October 2015 and March 2016, Granite Hammer resulted in the arrest of 95 of drug dealers and traffickers in multiple communities across New Hampshire.

Why is this program and additional grant funding necessary?

From 2010 through October 21, 2015 drug overdoses in New Hampshire have claimed 1,322 lives, of which 315 were related to heroin and 377 to fentanyl. Heroin-related hospital emergency department visits in New Hampshire during the first 9 months of 2015 increased by 70.4 percent over the same period the previous year; and between July and September 2015, the anti-opioid drug Naloxone was administered by emergency responders to prevent an opioid death 866 times.

The crisis is affecting and/or endangering citizens in every community in New Hampshire.

Armed robberies and burglaries and other street crimes involving drugs have become a weekly if not daily occurrence and every county in the state has been affected.

Increased information sharing and more visible police presence on the streets and highways along with intensive enforcement of the traffic laws is strongly correlated to the deterrence of crime, cutting off the supply of drugs, apprehension of criminals, and a reduction in deaths.

This legislation is intended to make additional resources available to provide for more, better, and smarter law enforcement approaches to the current crisis.

"Not only is it taking lives, it's deteriorating communities, devastating families, and leaving children without parents," Manchester police Chief Nick Willard testified before Congress. "We are dealing with the throws of human tragedy every day, but it's still a wonderful state."