

Republican Review

A Publication of the New Hampshire House Majority Office

THURSDAY, JUNE 16TH SESSION TO TACKLE GOVERNOR'S VETOS, LEGISLATION ASSISTING LAW ENFORCEMENT

As provided in House Rule 35, the House Rules Committee convened this week to act on a request by Rep. Hinch for approval of late drafting and introduction of a bill establishing a state grant program to assist state and local law enforcement agencies in addressing the opioid crisis.

[A draft of the proposed legislation is printed House Calendar 34A.](#)

After a brief introduction to the proposed legislation by Rep. Hinch, the committee heard testimony from Colonel Quinn of the New Hampshire State Police and Captain Sanclemente of the Manchester Police Department in addition to James Vara, Governor's Advisor on Addiction and Behavioral Health. All provided information as to the success and results of law enforcement and interdiction programs that would benefit from a state grant program to assist state and local law enforcement agencies in addressing the opioid crisis, and the urgent and compelling nature of the crisis our state faces. There was no testimony in opposition to the proposed action.

Having been presented with evidence of the urgent and compelling need for the legislature to act on this matter, the committee voted unanimously to allow for late drafting and introduction of the bill.

For explanation of the bill and the circumstances necessitating its passage, please see our Frequently Asked Questions on page 2

HOUSE MAJORITY LEADER RESPONDS TO GOVERNOR'S VETO OF HB1637

Today House Majority Leader Rep. Richard Hinch (R-Merrimack) released the following statement in response to the governor's veto of HB1637, relative to school attendance in towns with no public schools. HB1637 committee of conference report passed the House 190-132.

"I am deeply disappointed that the governor is once again playing politics and vetoed this important legislation that would have given local control to towns and parents," said Rep. Hinch. "There are many small towns in New Hampshire, like Croydon, that don't have their own school systems, and parents should have the choice of where they believe their child fits best and can thrive."

"Maybe if the governor remained in the state to do her job, she would see how signing this bill would have helped our small towns rather than obstructing them. This continued absence from her commitments and responsibilities amounts to having a part-time governor. The people of New Hampshire deserve better."

REMINDER:

**Candidate
filing period
ends TODAY.**

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.

There will be a Republican caucus at **9:30 a.m.** in Representatives Hall

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.**

Frequently Asked Questions on Legislation for June 16th

What will this legislation do?

Establish a state grant program to assist state and local law enforcement agencies in addressing the opioid crisis and making an appropriation therefor.

Will there be any unrelated legislation attached to the bill?

No. As introduced, the bill will deal only with the law enforcement grant program. Members are encouraged to vote AGAINST any amendment with unrelated subject matter if they are offered.

Why is this bill necessary at this time?

State and local police have produced real results in their enhanced enforcement and investigation efforts. Often times, these operations go beyond the scope of "regular time". In order to continue to produce results, the state can provide assistance to cities, towns and regional task forces who apply for grants in order for them to conduct the operations that may incur costs/time in excess of normal shift work.

As an example, Captain Sanclemente of the Manchester PD [testified](#) that their department has been funding overtime for their officers by using previously budgeted funds for positions that they have yet to fill. Those funds are running dry. Colonel Quinn of the NH State Police testified that about \$150,000 in similar grants that law enforcement have received for similar operations so far this year have also been utilized.

Grants are available to ANY city or town in New Hampshire whose grant application and is approved based on need.

439 people lost their lives in New Hampshire, in 2015 alone, due to a drug overdose. That is over one death for every seat in Representatives Hall. Over 2700 doses of NARCAN were administered in 2015 alone to bring people back from overdose, potentially preventing countless other instances of loss of life. Families are being torn apart, lives and livelihoods are being ruined and neighborhoods and communities are being ravaged by drug related crime.

What is the cost of the program and where does the money come from?

The bill appropriates \$1.5 million to the program. The \$1.5 million would come from reallocation of already budgeted funds in other areas of government. This is not new spending. This is a reallocation of previously budgeted funds. This is a one-time funding program. Future grant programs will need to be approved as part of the budget process next year.

Does this bill contain any provisions that could be characterized as downshifting?

No. This is a grant program administered by the department of safety that will reduce the financial burden on local budgets by contributing to the cost of these investigations and operations.

Can these funds be used for non-drug related routine law enforcement?

Language in the bill states that, "No funds shall be used for supplanting locally budgeted and approved funds for routine law enforcement." These funds will be directed to agencies that demonstrate a need based on their ongoing focused operations dealing with taking drugs off the street, and putting dealers behind bars.

Is there evidence that programs that this grant program would support have been successful?

Yes. In the sample of programs State Police Colonel Quinn outlined to the House Rules committee on Thursday, he testified that in an 8 day program, law enforcement was able to take over 25,000 dosage units of heroin, and a multitude of other drugs off of the streets of Manchester alone. Other programs have resulted in the seizure of another 30,000 dosage units of heroin, hundreds of narcotic pills, and hundreds of grams of cocaine.

This grant program may not be the silver bullet to end the drug crisis, but if we can take these drugs off the street, and that prevents any amount of death and despair in our communities, and if we put dealers and traffickers behind bars, and that prevents them from distributing any amount of those deadly, addictive doses, isn't it our responsibility to make this happen?

I've been told that since the House "killed" the original bill and that similar language could not be introduced. Is that accurate?

House Rule 35 states, "...legislation may be drafted and introduced upon receiving approval of a majority vote of the House Rules Committee on the request of any member based on urgent or compelling need..."

House Rule 35 states that in the second year of the session, "no bill or resolution shall be introduced if it is substantially similar to any legislation that was indefinitely postponed or voted inexpedient to legislate by the House in the first-year session, unless it has been approved by a majority of the House Rules Committee..." and, "a request shall not be accepted to draft any bill that is the same, or essentially the same, as any bill voted inexpedient to legislate, indefinitely postponed, made the subject of a statutory study committee in the first-year session, or retained in committee for action, unless approved for drafting and introduction by a majority vote of the House Rules Committee..."

Since the language in SB485 was part of a second year bill, the restriction of similar language does not apply. Even if it did, the rule also provides that by a majority vote of the House Rules committee, any bill can be introduced regardless of its content based on urgent and compelling need.

Having been presented with evidence of the urgent and compelling need for the legislature to act on this matter, the committee voted unanimously to allow for late drafting and introduction of the bill.

STARTLING MANCHESTER OPIOID STATISTICS

The Manchester Fire Department sends out monthly reports on suspected overdose cases in the city. We thought this information might be of interest to you.

Year-to-date, here are some Manchester-specific statistics:

- Total Suspected Overdoses/Calls for Service in 2016: **327**
- Total Narcan Administered in 2016: **820.5 mg**
- Patients treated with Narcan: **227**
- Total suspected fatalities related to Opioids: **51** (1:6.4 is fatal)
- Youngest suspected OD treated: **15** (youngest on record)
- Oldest suspected OD treated: **89** (oldest recorded)
- Found in Hotels, Public Buildings, Restaurants: **42**
- Found in Parked Vehicles: **14**
- Found while operating vehicles: **12**
- Youngest Suspected OD Fatality: **22**
- Oldest Suspected OD Fatality: **57**

VETOED BILLS

HB512, prohibiting the confiscation of firearms, ammunition, or firearms accessories during a state of emergency.

HB533, relative to installation requirements for arc-fault circuit interrupters.

HB582, repealing the license requirement for carrying a concealed pistol or revolver.

HB1208, relative to administration of the tobacco tax.

HB1266, relative to legalizing firecrackers.

HB1637, relative to school attendance in towns with no public schools.