

REPUBLICAN REVIEW

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER THE NEW HAMPSHIRE HOUSE MAJORITY OFFICE

House Passes Constitutional Carry

SB12 SAILS THROUGH HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 200-97

CONCORD - House Majority Leader Richard "Dick" Hinch (R-Merrimack) offered the following statement relative to passage of SB12, repealing the licensing requirement for carrying a concealed pistol or revolver. "Republicans were proud to lead the fight for the passage of this important and long overdue bill. Law abiding gun owners deserve that their rights be fully upheld and this bill reverses current law creating unnecessary barriers. We look forward to having Governor Sununu sign this bill and for New Hampshire to join our neighbors, Maine and Vermont, as a Constitutional Carry state."



Rep. John Burt speaking in favor of SB12
(Photo courtesy of Rep. Jeanine Notter)

CAUCUS NOTICE

There will be a Republican caucus on **Wednesday, February 15th at 9:00 a.m.** in Representatives Hall.

There will be a Republican caucus on **Thursday, February 16th at 9:00 a.m.** in Representatives Hall.

HOUSE CONTINUING EDUCATION

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2017

TOPIC: Tools Every Legislator Needs

Parliamentary Procedure; Parliamentary Inquiries; Decorum and Debate

TIME: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

PLACE: Representatives Hall

COORDINATORS: Representatives Dick Hinch and Stephen Shurtleff

REP. THEBERGE JOINS GOP

LONG TIME STATE REP. CHANGES PARTY AFFILIATION FROM DEMOCRAT TO REPUBLICAN

The House Republican Caucus is excited to welcome Rep. Robert Theberge as its newest member.

Rep. Theberge, from Berlin, is currently serving his 8th term in the New Hampshire House of Representatives. He is a U.S. Navy veteran having served from 1966-70 where he was a Russian interpreter/translator in Naval Intelligence. Rep. Theberge holds a PH.D from Pennsylvania State University, served as the Berlin City Manager, and was a staff member in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Please take time to welcome Rep. Theberge to the House Republican Team!

WHAT IS THE REPUBLICAN REVIEW?

The Republican Review is a newsletter published weekly (or as needed) by the Republican Leadership Team and House Majority Office Staff and circulated to members of the Republican House Caucus, and Republican activists across the state. We publish legislative and government news and analysis, provide weekly recaps of legislative activity, press releases and op-eds from members of the Caucus, educational information on legislative matters, events, and much more. Content ideas? Email info@nhhousegop.com.

WHO ARE YOUR MAJORITY OFFICE STAFF?

Aaron Goulette - Senior Legislative Aide

Aaron began working in the House Majority Office in 2011. This is his 4th term and 7th session year working in the Republican leadership office. Aaron earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from the University of New Hampshire. Prior to joining the staff of the New Hampshire General Court, Aaron held various positions in Republican campaigns including the Republican National Committee (2004), the Presidential Inaugural Committee (2005) and John McCain for President (2007-2008). Aaron also spent 5 years working at a Concord law firm, and has held other positions/consultancies in the area of public affairs and issue advocacy.

Aaron can be reached at 603-271-3665, or by email at aaron.goulette@leg.state.nh.us

Megan Stone - Legislative Aide

Megan began working in the House Majority Office in 2013. This is her 3rd term and 5th session year working in the Republican leadership office. Megan earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from Keene State College. Prior to joining the staff of the New Hampshire General Court, Megan held communications and field positions with the New Hampshire Republican State Committee and Mitt Romney for President (2012).

Megan can be reached at 603-271-3665, or by email at megan.stone@leg.state.nh.us

Elliot Gault - Legislative Aide

Elliot just began working in the House Majority Office and has completed his first week with us. Elliot earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from the University of New Hampshire. Prior to joining the staff of the New Hampshire General Court, Elliot worked in the Official Office of U.S. Senator Kelly Ayotte and then on her 2016 campaign.

Elliot can be reached at 603-271-3665, or by email at elliot.gault@leg.state.nh.us

The Majority Leader sets policy and provides direction for the Republican members of the House. The staff of the Republican/Majority office provide a variety of services for members of the Republican Caucus and Republican Leadership, including partisan, talking points, news statements, legislative research and analysis, constituent services and general staff support.

REP. BURT'S FLOOR SPEECH IN SUPPORT OF SB 12

Mr. Speaker, SB 12 is a simple bill. It does three things:

- It restores the right of all law-abiding NH citizens to discretely carry a firearm loaded;
- It ends 100 years of confusion over the term "suitable"
- It returns the current pistol license term of 4 years to 5 years.

It will expand the reciprocal rights of law-abiding NH citizens by making licenses optional and by urging the Department of Safety to seek reciprocity with even more states. I believe we have reciprocity with 22 states now.

This body has voted TWICE before to pass the same language; the Senate, THREE times.

Mr. Speaker, Vermont has had Constitutional Carry before there was a Constitution. Maine's Constitutional Carry bill became law October 2015 and there are a total of 12 states that have Constitutional Carry. And guess what Mr. Speaker. Everything is fine in those states.

Lastly Mr. Speaker, I would be shocked if someone did not holler, "Roll Call, Mr. Speaker." So, if that happens Mr. Speaker I ask you to press the Bright Shiny Green Button and pass "constitutional carry".

Ruger VP: NH Was Dismissed Due to Right to Work Status

The following is a partial transcript of the testimony of the Thomas P. Sullivan North Sutton, NH VP at Sturm, Ruger & Company, Inc, given during the Labor committee's public hearing on SB11 in Representatives Hall:

My name is Tom Sullivan. I am a resident of North Sutton, New Hampshire, and I am also the vice president of Newport operations for Sturm Ruger. We're the world's leading manufacturer of firearms and we employ 1,200 people at our Newport, NH campus, and we are the largest employer in Sullivan County.

I am here today to voice my support for [SB 11], the Right to Work Act. I believe this is good law and makes good sense for a number of reasons. First of all, if signed into law, this bill would promote and enhance the personal freedoms that are the hallmark of our state. We have a rich heritage here of valuing and promoting personal freedoms. In fact, this is embodied in our state motto, "Live Free or Die."

The bill itself is designed to maximize individual freedom of choice, and I couldn't agree with that more. Secondly, and probably more importantly this bill will help NH attract business and workers and promote itself as a good place to do business. No other state in New England has such a law, so this law would really distinguish us from our neighboring states.

As you are undoubtedly aware, New England states are hemorrhaging manufacturing jobs to states that are more friendly to conducting business. There's a lot of work to do, but this law would provide a solid foundation for New Hampshire to start building that reputation as a state that welcomes companies, along with those jobs, economic stability, and growth that come with them.

Up until 4 years ago, Ruger had 2 primary manufacturing operations, Newport, NH and Prescott, AZ. As we grew, we ran out of space to house our manufacturing operations and started looking for a suitable location. We developed a list of criteria for expansion, a decision matrix if you will, one of which is the new place would have to be in a right to work state.

Given that requirement, NH was automatically dismissed out of hand.

We are not unique. Based on some of the things I've read, up to 75% of companies looking to expand cite right to work as an important consideration and typically half these companies will not even consider moving to a state that does not have right to work guarantees. So if we want to be a serious contender for new jobs passing this law will move us one step closer to that goal.

House Receives Governor Sununu's Budget

House Majority Leader Richard "Dick" Hinch (R-Merrimack) offered the following statement relative to Governor Chris Sununu's budget address and proposed budget, which was received Thursday.

"There are several major themes in the governor's address that House Republicans will embrace, and will continue the important provisions established in the Republican budget passed by the legislature in 2015. We agree that state government should be kept lean and efficient, taxes and fees should not be raised, business tax reductions should be maintained, and our opioid crisis continue to be in focus."

"Governor Sununu had a tall order to clean out the stable after years of budget mismanagement by his predecessor, and we applaud his ability to put forward this budget with an open and honest look at our fiscal situation, both good and bad."

The Governor's budget documents and summary are available online at:

<https://das.nh.gov/budget/>

Please Join

**Governor Chris Sununu
& Speaker Shawn Jasper**

For a Reception to Benefit
The Committee To Elect House Republicans

Wednesday, February 15, 2017
Grappone Conference Center
70 Constitution Ave ~ Concord, NH

VIP Reception ~ 4:30pm
Cocktail Reception ~ 5:00pm

Individual Tickets ~ \$100
(Just \$20 for current elected state legislators)

For more information, RSVP info and online ticket purchase, please visit

<http://electhouserepublicans.com/feb15/>

In case you missed it: On Thursday, the Union Leader published an editorial by Publisher Joe McQuaid and an op-ed by Rep. Laurie Sanborn (R-Bedford) both in favor of Right to Work legislation. Read them in their entirety via these links:

[Joseph W. McQuaid, Publisher: NH can be a standout again](#)
[Laurie Sanborn: End forced unionism in NH](#)

The following is a partial transcript of the testimony of House Majority Leader Dick Hinch, given during the Labor committee's public hearing on SB11 in Representatives Hall:

I am honored to be here before you to respectfully urge you to support this proposal which would expand worker rights and help our state become even more attractive to new and innovative businesses. I appear before you as a colleague, but also as someone who has several family members who have been proud union members and dues payers. I have seen first-hand the positive impacts that union membership can offer workers. But I also believe that this legislation, by making participation voluntary, can help unions be better, more responsive to the workers they seek to represent.

In that regard, I appear before you to endorse this policy. This is not what some have described as a "union busting" bill. Unions can and will continue to play a role in our workforce. And just as we afford certain freedoms to citizens in their daily lives, this gives individuals the choice to participate, or not, based on their own best judgment. There is no evidence in the 28 states where Right to Work has been enacted that this policy has effectively shut down unions or mitigated their role in the negotiating on behalf of workers. In fact, even after we pass this legislation, anyone who wants to join a union can still do so.

The majority of states in our great country, with the strongest economy in the world, has passed Right to Work. Why? The answer is quite simple. This is about balance. Whereas unions play an important role in serving the collective voice of workers in any given workplace, this proposal also lends a voice to individual workers to have the power to speak for themselves. This proposal is about personal choice. In our Live Free or Die state, personal choice is a part of our cultural DNA. Individuals should be allowed to apply for and retain a job without being required to pay union dues if they choose not to join the union. This is about choice. Do I believe this will erode and eliminate the positive impact and influence of labor representation? No. It can and will improve the representation offered by these organizations with an understanding that they will need to demonstrate that they deserve the dues of their members, which in turn will attract and retain members – this is a simple example of how in a free market, competition can improve products and services. In this case, a more responsive organization can grow with more effective representation.

In New Hampshire, we have heard from business groups such as the BIA and other business leaders who say Right to Work will make our state even more attractive to potential businesses. We could attract new companies and open our workforce up to even greater options. We have a low unemployment rate, and for that we should all be pleased, but that should never be a deterrent to this proposal: we should never be satisfied until every possible worker can find the job that he or she seeks... and every employer can find a well-qualified and well-trained worker to fill any and all vacancies. There is no one thing we can do to create the perfect economic environment, but this is a step towards empowering workers and preserving their sacred right to make individual choices.

Many other states have taken this step and have seen the positive benefits of Right to Work. And there is evidence that companies are watching. Businesses have shifted their work and workers to states that have Right to Work laws on the books. In this competitive environment, wouldn't we want to give our citizens every possible advantage in creating a labor force with a wide variety of career paths and job options? This bill is a step in that exact direction. Critics may say that this bill isn't necessary because of our comparatively strong state economy. I would again say – why would we ever rest on our laurels? What about the thousands of manufacturing jobs that have disappeared in recent decades? Why stop when we have momentum to improve and keep growing stronger? Of course there are other things we can do to improve our economy and help businesses grow and thrive, and we will do those things. We are not a "one at a time" legislature", we have the capabilities to move forward on multiple policy fronts to achieve success.

I urge you to support Right to Work. Our Governor has strongly endorsed the idea, and he needs every tool in the toolbox to grow and diversify our economy. Our business leaders are asking us to do this. Citizens support it in large majority numbers. Please pass Senate Bill 11 and HB 520 and let's take a step towards a stronger and more independent tomorrow.