



# REPUBLICAN REVIEW

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER THE NEW HAMPSHIRE HOUSE MAJORITY OFFICE



Gov. Chris Sununu's press conference with members of law enforcement held on Tuesday in the Executive Council Chambers regarding SB131.

## SB131 Looks to Add Troopers to Ramp Up Drug Interdiction

On a snowy Tuesday morning Governor Chris Sununu, joined by Speaker Jasper, Senate President Morse and members of state and local law enforcement held a press conference on the introduction of legislation that will add troopers to the State Police in order to ramp up drug interdiction. Senate Bill 131, an act establishing a cross border drug interdiction program and making appropriation therefor is sponsored by Senate Majority Leader Jeb Bradley and House Majority Leader Richard "Dick" Hinch among many others. The bill passed unanimously as amended out of Senate Finance Committee on Wednesday.

Senate Bill 131 appropriates nearly \$5 million dollars to the State Police in order for them to expand their Mobile Enforcement Team (MET), a division within the state police that deals specifically with stemming the flow of drugs into NH by working with area partners including the Massachusetts State Police. The funding will help build upon the cross border collaborative effort with Massachusetts and will allow troopers to expand their coverage of other highway drug routes.

Specifics on the funding in the bill include \$1,155,000 appropriated for the hiring of 5 new troopers who will work exclusively on drug interdiction. Another \$940,000 will be appropriated to the Department of Safety to fund overtime for the state police MET unit, the state police narcotics and investigations unit, as well as the state forensic lab which will be dealing with an increase in caseloads due to increased border interdictions. Finally \$2,400,000 will be appropriated to the Department of Safety for use as grants to be disbursed to local and county law enforcement for activities attributable to substance abuse enforcement.

### SESSION NOTICE:

The next House session will be **Thursday, March 23rd, 2017, at 10:00 a.m.**

There will be a Republican Caucus on **Wednesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 9:00 a.m.** in Representatives Hall

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## Historical Happenings



If you ever walk the hallway near the south stairwell you'll likely notice a number of portraits of individuals from the Civil War. Among those immortalized on the wall is Col. Edward E. Cross of Lancaster, NH whose portrait is located right outside of SH 103. Before joining the army Col. Cross was a reporter for the Coos Democrat, the Cincinnati Times and even started one of the first papers in the Territory of Arizona.

Col. Cross served as the commander of the 5<sup>th</sup> New Hampshire Volunteer Regiment for three years during the Civil War. Under his command the NH "Fightin 5<sup>th</sup>" served with distinction in battle at Fair Oaks, Antietam, and Fredericksburg. The 5<sup>th</sup> NH Vols. were always "first to fight" and earned the unfortunate distinction of losing more soldiers in battle than any other regiment. It was during the battle at Fredericksburg that an artillery shell "burst in front of Col. Cross, and he fell, apparently lifeless". Col. Cross was escorted off the battlefield and later recovered in an army hospital. To commend him for his bravery the men of his unit purchased him a sword and pair of spurs from Tiffany's in New York.

Col. Cross returned to command the NH 5<sup>th</sup> Volunteer Regiment during the Battle of Gettysburg where he was mortally wounded on July 2, 1863. Just before the fighting he reportedly yelled to Confederate General Winfield Scott "this is my last battle" as if he knew what was to come of his fate.



## Fiscal Note v. Fiscal Impact

Fiscal notes are a description of how a particular piece of legislation will affect the finances of the state. RSA 14:44 provides that all bills and resolutions having an effect on the revenues, expenditures or fiscal liability of the state or a city, town or county shall be accompanied by a fiscal statement which sets forth the estimated fiscal impact. The intent of a fiscal note is to inform individuals of the increases or decreases in spending by the government that is the result of a particular piece of legislation, if determinable. All fiscal notes are created by the Legislative Budget Assistant, in consultation with the departments, agencies, or other entities who will be impacted.

Fiscal impacts require the state, county, or municipality to appropriate or expend funds or both; which would otherwise change the revenues of the state, county or municipality. Fiscal impacts are the direct financial effect on a government body. Not all fiscal impacts are determinable, and often times, a bill may have a fiscal note, but with no dollar amount indicated.

In short the fiscal note lists out the dollar amount and methodology used to determine the fiscal impact.

Per House Rule 51, "No bill shall be on a Consent Calendar if it has a fiscal *impact* or appropriation." House Rules do not preclude a bill with a fiscal *note* from being on the consent calendar. Any bill with a fiscal note that has an Ought to Pass or Out to Pass with Amendment recommendation can be placed on the consent calendar if the fiscal impact is indeterminable. Also, any bill, regardless of its fiscal impact, can be placed on the consent calendar if the bill received an Inexpedient to Legislate recommendation.

The sword and spurs on display here at the State House are the very set that was purchased for Colonel Cross by his unit unfortunately, he was killed at Gettysburg before they could be presented to him. Next time you find yourself by the south stairwell take pause to look at the portrait of Col. Cross and read more about the life of this incredible Granite Stater.



The Capitol Dome engulfed in snow during Tuesday's winter storm.

## SB10: Mooving New Hampshire's Dairy Industry Forward

SB 10, relative to dairy farmer relief, will be voted on by the full House of Representatives on Thursday, March 23. In an effort to provide more detail on the bill, why it's necessary, and what it seeks to do, we've included some background information below.

Rep. Howard Pearl (R-Loudon) for Environment & Agriculture:

The committee found that New Hampshire dairy farmers have suffered significant financial loss as a result of diminished crops due to the drought of 2016. These farms enhance our natural landscape through their pastures, forests and agricultural structures. This bill will provide up to \$2 million to be distributed - by need - through a formula based on homegrown feed loss due to the drought. The estimated impact of the dairy industry on the New Hampshire economy is estimated to be \$225 million.

(The House Environment & Agriculture committee voted 18-0 to recommend the bill pass. Republicans on the committee voted unanimously in support of the recommendation that the bill pass.)

Additional Information:

- The losses the dairy industry has suffered have been compounded as a result of severe drought along with several years of unreasonably low federally-mandated milk prices. As a result of those factors, several permitted or licensed milk producers have ceased milk production.
- Locally produced milk is important to the state's ability to feed itself and the farms on which milk is produced help maintain vital agricultural services in our communities.
- The amendment to SB10 states that in order to qualify for the New Hampshire dairy relief program, a producer shall complete and submit an application in which the department shall be provided proof of homegrown feed loss due to drought, along with records of milk production for the 2016 calendar year.
- The calculation of payment is need based. The cost of feed (\$6.10 per hundredweight of milk produced) shall be multiplied by the percentage of homegrown feed loss in 2016 over 2015 due to drought and that product shall be multiplied further by the producers total milk production in hundredweight of milk produced in 2016.
- Any drought related payments received by the producer from the federal government, excluding crop insurance payments, shall be subtracted from that amount.
- Any unexpected funds, after final distribution, shall be returned to the general fund.
- Should a producer cease to be a producer for any reason on or before December 31, 2020, the producer shall reimburse the state the entire amount paid to the producer under the program.

The New Hampshire Republican Party Platform "Application of Principles" states the following:

Jobs & the Economy:

- "Foster an attitude of **assistance and cooperation** with business and **increase responsiveness.**"
- "**Support** cost-efficient **means to protect**, develop and market **agricultural**, forest and high value natural resource products."

Government Structure:

- "Justify expenditures against **measurable benefits.**"
  - Note: The estimated impact of the dairy industry on the New Hampshire economy is estimated to be \$225 million.

### SB7 Attempts to Cut Down on Fraud in Food Stamp Program

SB7, an act relative to food stamps, sponsored by Sen. Kevin Avard and Speaker Jasper among others, looks to cut down on the increase in food stamp recipients while saving it for those that are truly in need of it. The bill encourages all able-bodied childless adults to do what they can to return to work while protecting children, and ensuring that child support payments are made to families. If enacted SB7 will allow DHHS to approve work waivers for families with children only after individuals are pre-approved by the joint House and Senate HHS Oversight Committee. The bill also requires food stamp recipients to cooperate with the Division of Child Support Services in enforcing child support orders. SB7 hopes to reinforce that food stamps are only a temporary program with the ultimate goal of helping individuals get back into the workforce. SB7 passed the Senate on Thursday by a vote of 14-9 and was referred to Senate Finance. The Senate Finance committee will have a hearing on the bill Tuesday, March 21, at 1:00pm.