



REPUBLICAN REVIEW

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER THE NEW HAMPSHIRE HOUSE MAJORITY OFFICE

PROPERTY TAX RELIEF, INFRASTRUCTURE AID PROPOSED IN HOUSE BUDGET

CONCORD – Last week, House Speaker Shawn Jasper and leaders of the House Finance Committee announced details of two initiatives to be included in the House version of the state budget bills that will focus on returning money back to cities and towns. In addition to existing programs directing funds to municipalities for education funding, meals and rooms tax revenue distribution, and road betterment funds, these House budget provisions propose to increase state aid.

They include:

- \$25 million per year in direct aid to cities and towns to assist with property tax relief.
- Up to \$50 million from FY 2017 will be set aside to assist municipalities with infrastructure improvements, which may include roads, bridges, schools and other core projects essential to communities.

“We are committed to increasing aid to cities and towns in an effort to provide some relief to property taxpayers. With an aging population, we need to protect our seniors’ ability to stay in their homes,” said House Speaker Shawn Jasper (R-Hudson), “We also need to keep home ownership affordable for the workers and young families we need to retain in our state in order to sustain our economy. These programs will offset costs that our municipalities incur, and we hope they are the driving force in local decisions to ease the burden on local property taxpayers.”

“House members will not only be voting on a fiscally responsible budget that meets the needs of our state. This will be a vote for or against sending more money back to the communities they represent,” said House Finance committee chairman Rep. Neal Kurk (R-Weare), “Our job is to provide essential state services while keeping government affordable. The House is moving forward on the governor’s call to assist cities and towns, protect property taxpayers, and make cost effective investments in infrastructure at the local level.”

Background:

Division I of the House Finance committee will review formulas and methods for distributing the \$25 million annual aid package. The proposed infrastructure program will likely utilize distribution formulas already in statute, such as those prescribed in RSA 235:23, Construction and Reconstruction Aid. These programs are in addition to municipal grant and aid funding already in place, including education aid, highway block grant aid, meals and rooms tax distribution, and other state aid programs.

Bill Adding More Troopers Passes Senate

On Thursday the Senate passed SB131 as amended 22-1 during a roll call vote. The bill which has support from the Governor, Senate President, and the Speaker of the House was introduced last week during a press conference held in the executive council chambers. SB131 will appropriate \$4.6 million in order to hire 5 more Troopers who will focus specifically on drug interdiction and allow them to expand their coverage of highway drug routes. The House still has to vote on SB131 before it is sent to the Governor’s desk.

What is a Committee of Conference?

A Committee of Conference is a small group of legislators, usually four House and three Senate members, selected by their respective presiding officers and charged with the reconciling of differences on the content of a bill which has passed both chambers. Conference Committees are formed when the non-originating body amends a bill passed by the originating body and the originating body doesn’t concur with the amendment. The CC is used to reconcile the differences and their resolution must be unanimous. Finally each body must adopt the report by a majority vote.

Historical Happenings



Sgt. Charles Phelps courtesy of the
Lancaster Historical Society

Following up on last issues feature regarding Col. Edward H. Cross of the 5th NH Volunteer Regiment (whose portrait can be found on the first floor outside of SH103) Rep. Reed Panasiti of Amherst let us know of another hero of the Battle of Gettysburg who served under Col. Cross, Sargent Charles Phelps of Amherst. As written in our previous feature on July 2nd, 1863 during the early hours of the Battle of Gettysburg Col. Cross was shot by a Confederate sniper through the abdomen exiting near his spine mortally wounding him. After seeing his commander fall to a confederate snipers bullet Sgt. Charles Phelps took careful aim and shot the sniper as he stood up from behind a stone wall killing him. Shortly after however, as the "Fightin' Fifth" retreated to the cover of the woods Sgt. Phelps was shot in the back and died later that evening. Sgt. Phelps' remains were sent back to Amherst where he was interred at the Meadowview Cemetery. To this date there is a large marble headstone marking Sgt. Phelps' grave with inscriptions of the 10 battles that he served in during the war. We thank Rep. Panasiti for sharing this interesting piece of NH Civil War history with us and helping us expand upon last weeks "Historical Happenings" segment.

Dairy Farmer Relief bill passes House

On Thursday, SB 10, the dairy farmer relief program, passed the House on a vote of 257-96. The losses the dairy industry has suffered have been compounded as a result of the 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.

The amendments to SB10, that passed on voice votes, state 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 either 2015 or 2014 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 will be subtracted from that amount.

The bill will now go back to the Senate for concurrence on the House amendments.

Is it permissible to record video in a House committee room?

Yes. Any public meeting can be recorded. This includes work sessions, hearings, and executive sessions. Videographers are held to the same decorum standards as public attendees, and must not be disruptive to the proceedings. Any person who is perceived to be disorderly is subject to removal.

The State House Complex public conduct notice can be viewed here: http://gencourt.state.nh.us/misc/public_Conduct.pdf.

RSA644:22 states that a person is disorderly if they are, "Disrupting the orderly conduct of business in any public or governmental facility," and several other criteria that could occur in or around the State House Complex.

Plastow News — Thursday, January 16, 1969



NORMAN L. MAJOR

Norman L. Major of Kingston Road, Plastow, is announcing his candidacy for Selectman. Norm says, "I have made this decision after being persuaded to run for this office by many prominent citizens of this town."

Norm brings with him the knowledge of local government on various levels plus the experience of serving on the town Budget Committee for

the past two years. He is presently vice chairman of his committee.

He graduated from high school in Keene, N. H., in 1952 and from Devry Technical Institute in Chicago, Ill., in 1954. This was followed by three years of service with the United States Army Security Agency. He graduated from UNH in 1961 with a B. S. in Electrical Engineering and received his Master of Science in Electrical Engineering in 1963 from Northeastern University.

Norm has been employed as a member of the Technical Staff for Bell Telephone Laboratories in North Andover since 1961.

He is married to the former Brenda Eastman of Springfield, Vt., and has four sons, Kevin, Jeffrey, Brian, and Jimmy.

Norm is an active member of the Plastow Lions Club, Holy Name Society, the Timberlane Boosters and the Institute of Electrical Engineers. He is also a member of the Title III District Advisory Board and the Timberlane Vocational and Rehabilitation Committee.

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Ways & Means Chair, Rep. Norm Major, Celebrates 50 Years of Public Service

The article to the left is a cool piece of House member history. The Plastow News published this article of Rep. Norm Major during his first run for selectman back in 1969. Rep. Major went on to win the seat. He had already served a term on the town budget committee, which would make this year his 50th year since entering public service.

Three Fifths or Two Thirds?

How many votes are required to pass a veto override or a constitutional amendment?

Once a bill has passed both branches of the legislature it heads to the governor where he can either sign it or veto it with his objections. If he veto's the bill, it then heads back to the originating body where if they so choose can attempt to override the veto. A veto override must get a *two thirds* majority for the bill to become law.

When it comes to amending the state constitution amendments may be proposed by the general court or if a majority of voters vote to hold a constitutional convention. Amendments proposed by the general court must pass a *three fifths* vote in both chambers as well as amendments proposed during a convention which must be approved by *three fifths* of the delegates. Any amendments that clear either body by a *three fifths* vote must then be put on the ballot for voters to decide at the next biennial November election.

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KI TOW** NEWTON,
NEW HAMPSHIRE

Sat. and Sun. afternoons
Saturday Ski Lessons
Ski Tow.

Bought **GROCERIES**

Committee of Conference Report on HB368 Passes

Last year, Concord Steam announced they were going out of business. Because Concord Steam is responsible for heating 26 state buildings, this became an immediate concern for the state. Last year there was a joint task force formed to come up with a fix to the problem. The result of the task force was HB368, sponsored by House and Senate leaders, which was fast tracked through the legislature and passed both bodies on Thursday.

Taking the place of Concord Steam will be temporary boilers until the department of Administrative Services puts the project out to bid and can get a permanent replacement up and running. This will ensure the State House, state offices and New Hampshire Hospital won't be without heat or hot water when Concord Steam closes its doors at the end of May.

The bill appropriates \$18 million, in Fiscal Year '17, the effect of which will reduce the Rainy Day Fund. There will be \$7 million appropriated in HB25, the capital budget. HB25 will be voted on by the House on April 5th.